

Ravalli County Open Lands Bond Program

A voter approved voluntary program to preserve open lands

In 2006, 58% of Ravalli County voters approved a \$10 million bond to support the purchase of conservation easements that preserve and protect agricultural land, open space, and access to public lands. Since then, the Open Lands Bond Program has been a voluntary tool for landowners to conserve land with value for agriculture, as wildlife habitat, and as scenic open space, while respecting private property rights and maintaining valuable land on the tax rolls. In 2022, 71% of voters approved another \$10 million bond to renew and continue funding the program.

Current Open Lands Bond Accomplishments

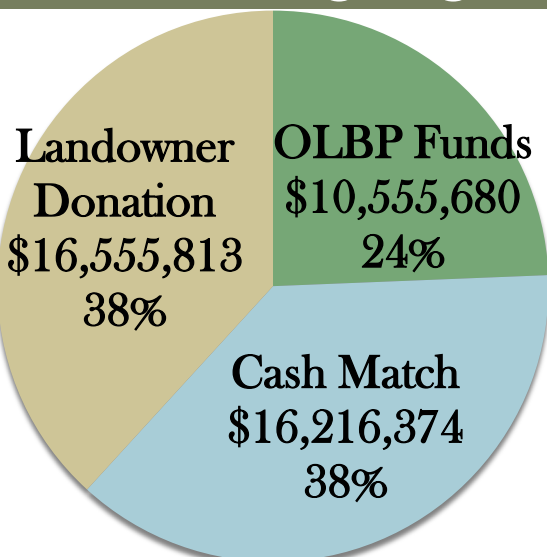
51 projects totaling
13,317 acres, including:

- 11,833 acres working farms
- 1,620 acres publicly accessible private land
- 210 acres public access/recreation



Acreeage data provided by Bitter Root Land Trust

Leveraging Tax Payer's Dollars 2009-2025



Every \$1 of Open Lands Bond money spent has been leveraged with \$3 from other sources.

Average cost per acre for Open Lands projects is \$1,150.



Project approval is a collaborative effort between property owners, an appointed board of citizens and the County Commissioners.

Data provided by Ravalli County Finance Office

To learn more, visit: ravalli.us/181/Open-Lands-Board