

Lake Five

Project Description: Once the summer home of the Pfister-Vogel family, in 1959 this secluded lakeside property was donated to and continues to be carefully stewarded by the Midwest Jesuits. The main house and a series of cottages and other historical structures serve as a spiritual retreat center for the Jesuit community. Due to its ongoing care, the surrounding land remains an extremely valuable, high-quality ecosystem, and serves as an important buffer to protect the water quality and wildlife habitat associated with Lake Five.

Why: The Midwest Jesuits preserved this property and donated the development rights to:

- 1.) Continue their legacy of serving as good stewards of the land and water resources entrusted in their care.
- 2.) Serve as an example to our lake property owners within the community.
- 3.) Safeguard the ecological health of Lake Five and its surrounding watershed by maintaining natural buffers and reducing runoff impacts.
- 4.) Protect diverse habitats, including wetlands, forests, and open spaces that support native plant and wildlife species.

Where: Town of Richfield, Washington County

Size: Approximately 82-acres through donation of property owner

Owners: USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits)

Easement Holder: Tall Pines Conservancy

Year: 2025

“The Midwest Province of the Jesuits has decided to permanently protect the Lake Five property in keeping with our desire to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. We hope to honor the call of the late Pope Francis who encouraged us to Care for God’s Creation, and his successor Pope Leo XIV. Pope Leo has said, “Care for creation is truly a vocation for every human being. We are creatures among creatures, entrusted with the responsibility to care for all that the Creator has made.” In that spirit, we hope to lift up the property at Lake Five and let it remind us of the harmony meant for in God’s plan.”

*—James Erler, Provincial Assistant for Justice,
 Ecology, and Reconciliation of the
 USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus*

