



THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN MISSOURI

Who We Are

Our Origins

The Nature Conservancy emerged from a professional association of ecologists seeking to turn their knowledge of nature into positive action for conservation. Incorporated in 1951 as a nonprofit organization, the Conservancy completed its first land acquisition with a modest 60-acre purchase in New York. The Missouri program was founded in 1958 and began its protection efforts that same year with the purchase of the 160-acre Tucker Prairie Research Area near Columbia, Missouri.

Where We Work

Since the establishment of the first program in New York in 1954, the Conservancy has expanded to encompass 50 states and 28 countries around the world. With more than a million members throughout the world, including 10,000 members in Missouri, the Conservancy has influenced the conservation of more than 100 million acres worldwide, including 14 million acres of critical landscapes in the United States and more than 138,000 acres in Missouri.

Setting Priorities

The Conservancy protects places where unique plant and animal species can survive in their natural communities for generations to come. Scientific analyses are used to identify places large enough in scale and rich enough in plant and animal species to ensure meaningful conservation results. By employing this scientific planning approach—called Conservation by Design—blueprints for action are being developed to preserve the areas most crucial to maintaining global biodiversity.

How We Work

The Conservancy employs a range of methods tailored to meet local needs. The Conservancy buys land, helps other landowners manage their properties and facilitates public-private partnerships. It also collaborates with likeminded organizations and seeks pragmatic solutions.

The Conservancy is committed to working with businesses, communities and individuals to meet conservation challenges using non-confrontational, market-based strategies. In the United States, working with only willing sellers and donors, the Conservancy protects

habitat through gifts, exchanges, purchases, conservation easements and management agreements.

Globally, the Conservancy works with government agencies and partner organizations to provide scientific expertise, infrastructure, community development, professional training and long-term funding for legally protected but currently underfunded areas.

The mission of the Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

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