

Oklahoma

2025 IMPACT REPORT



The Nature
Conservancy



Friends,

As 2025 draws to a close, we have much to celebrate! On behalf of our team, please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support of Oklahoma's lands, waters and wildlife. Thanks to your dedication, we've protected thousands of additional acres, deepened our commitment to volunteerism and community outreach and expanded our capacity for priority projects like prescribed fire, preserve infrastructure and critical partnerships.

This year, we said goodbye to two titans of conservation who made a forever impact in our great state: Neal McCaleb and John Nickel. A longtime public servant, family man and fierce advocate for the Chickasaw Nation, Neal McCaleb served as a TNC trustee from 2007-2024, during which time he helped establish the robust partnership between TNC and the Chickasaws, now focused on water, fire and land. This partnership has inspired other tribal partnerships across the state and beyond.

Lifetime trustee John Nickel and his family donated 14,000 acres of land overlooking the Illinois River. Dedicated in 2000, the J.T. Nickel Family Nature and Wildlife Preserve remains the largest privately protected conservation area in the Ozarks. In 2005, elk were reintroduced to the property, fulfilling a lifelong dream of John's and further solidifying the preserve's status as a haven for wildlife and accessible outdoor escape for visitors of all ages. The lives and legacies of these stalwart conservationists inspire us daily and will inspire others for generations. It was an honor to know them, and I hope you'll join me in celebrating their myriad contributions here in Oklahoma and beyond.

Our Conservation team made major strides toward our ambitious 2030 goals, with the addition of Sand Creek Ranch—a 5,000-acre property in the Red Hills of Harper County—to our conservation portfolio in December of 2024. Located within the Southern High Plains, Sand Creek encompasses vast, untilled grasslands, and a perennial stream. We look forward to identifying species

present and protecting this incredible place in perpetuity through a land protection agreement. Read more on page 4.

This was a year of novel discoveries and meaningful progress at Pearl Jackson Crosstimbers Preserve. In the spring of 2025, staff confirmed the presence of *Geocarpon minimum*—commonly known as Tiny Tim—on preserve grounds. This fragile forb represents a major discovery due to its federally protected status. Momentum is building on the Crosstimbers Preserve through a stewardship partnership with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and through a growing number of volunteer opportunities.

I'm so pleased to share with you just how far your passion for nature has taken us over the past year through these and other successes. Thank you for your investment in Oklahoma's wild places through your contributions to our work. You made the world a better place. We couldn't do it without you!

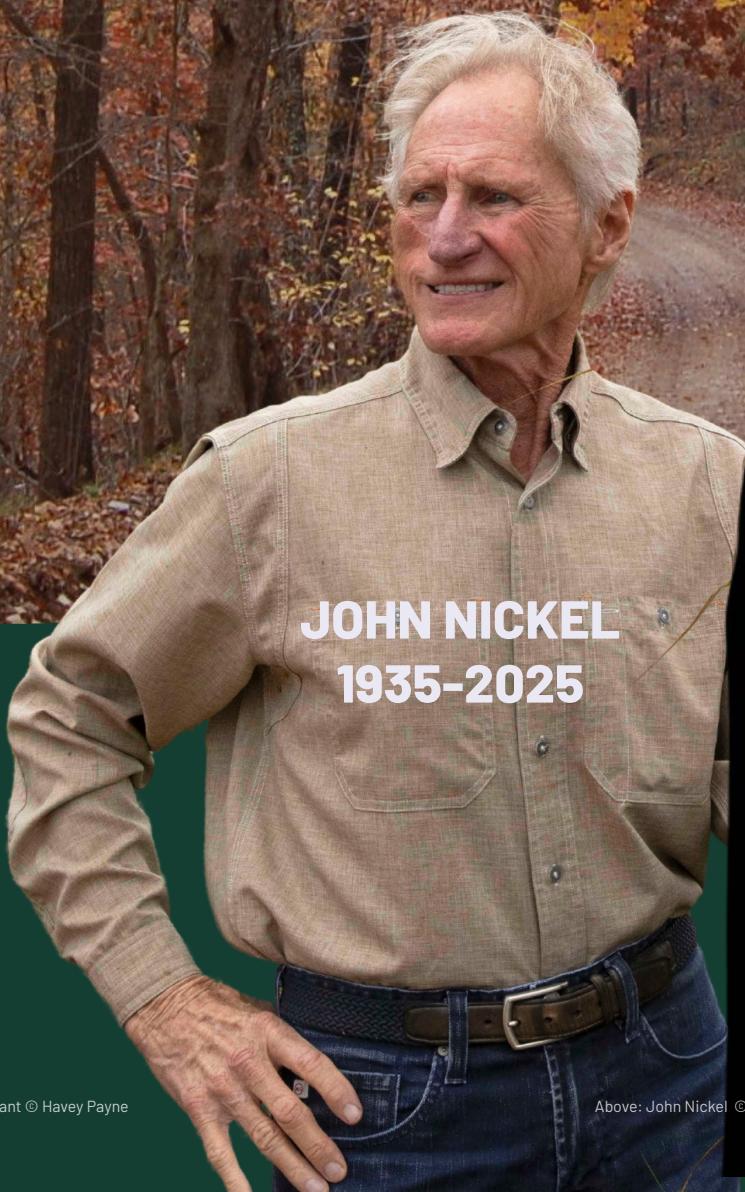


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Fuhr".

MIKE FUHR
State Director

"This year, we said goodbye to two titans of conservation who made a forever impact in our great state: Neal McCaleb and John Nickel."

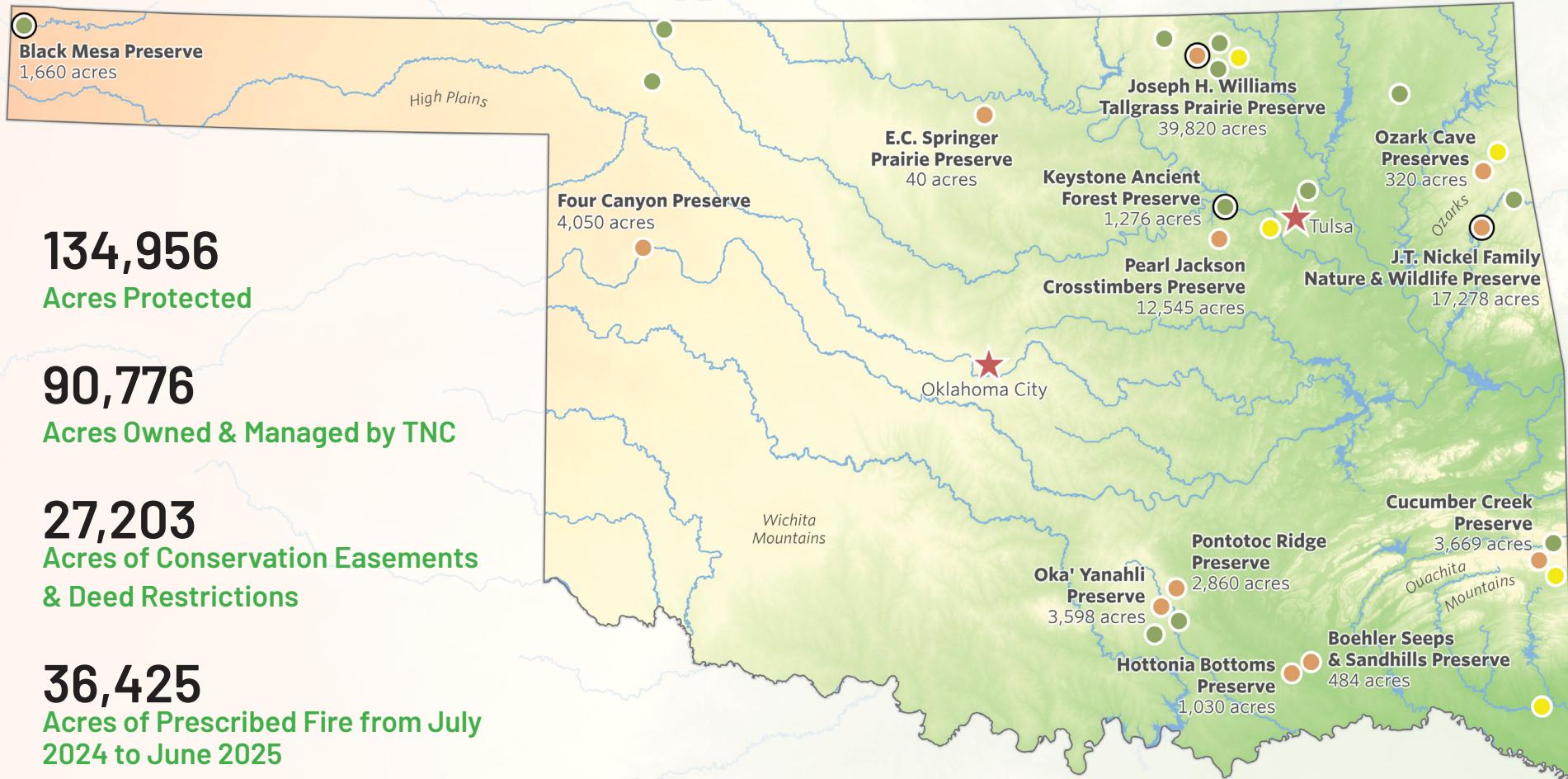
- MIKE FUHR, STATE DIRECTOR



Left: Compassplant © Havey Payne

Above: John Nickel © Harvey Payne / TNC | Neal McCaleb © OSU Alumni Association

By the Numbers: Our Work in Oklahoma



● Conservancy Preserve ○ Open to the Public ▲ Conservancy Priority Watershed ● Conservation Easement ● Cooperative Land Projects ★ Conservancy Office

WELCOME TO SAND CREEK RANCH

5,000-acre property in the Southern High Plains of Oklahoma joins The Nature Conservancy's conservation portfolio

The Nature Conservancy in Oklahoma closed on the acquisition of Sand Creek Ranch in December 2024, a 5,000-acre property in the Red Hills of Harper County. A focal landscape within the Southern High Plains, a 71-million-acre region connecting five Great Plains states, Sand Creek Ranch encompasses untilled grasslands and perennial streams, providing habitat for a variety of species. With rolling hills, shallow canyons and gypsum outcrops—much like TNC's Four Canyon Preserve—it provides an important linkage to other protected lands nearby.

The purchase of Sand Creek Ranch represents an opportunity to support our land protection goal of two million acres while securing an intact network of grasslands across the Southern High Plains. The region is rich in biodiversity and home to six endangered species, 10 threatened species and several grassland bird species experiencing population decline. Species observed on the property include Texas horned lizard, black-tailed jackrabbit, northern bobwhite, northern harrier, upland sandpiper and more.

"The Southern High Plains is one of the least protected, but most intact, regions of North America. These windy, short grass prairies are home to grassland birds, horned lizards, bears, and butterflies. Protecting the Sand Creek Ranch is a conservation milestone for Oklahoma, ensuring a home for creatures of the high plains."

- KATIE GILLIES, DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION

When it comes to natural climate solutions, this property represents a major victory for people and nature alike. Sand Creek Ranch has the potential to effectively capture and store tons of carbon underground, thanks to its vast and interconnected system of untilled native grasses. The Southern High Plains region is a carbon storage powerhouse, with an estimated sequestration potential of 12.5 million tons.

TNC intends to resell Sand Creek Ranch with a retained conservation easement where continued agricultural use of the property for grazing coexists with long-term conservation of the native plant habitat. This is what we refer to as a "Conservation Buyer Transaction" project.

Collaborating for Conservation

For The Nature Conservancy in Oklahoma, volunteers are a force multiplier, enabling the organization to do more with limited resources while deepening community ties. Outreach helps us build bridges and is the key to transforming passive supporters into active protectors of Oklahoma's natural resources.

Oklahoma's biodiverse ecoregions require constant stewardship—from prairie restoration to bat and butterfly monitoring. Volunteers help maintain trails, remove invasive species, support biological surveys and so much more! A volunteer program tailored to Oklahoma's unique landscapes fosters local pride and deepens conservation efforts. Similarly, local outreach creates new and meaningful relationships with individuals, TNC constituents and corporations – ultimately building more allies for nature.

Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator Bridget Wunsch is excited to expand and enhance volunteer and outreach programs for TNC in Oklahoma. Her experience in nonprofit management, coordination and outreach has served well, and she's excited to expand and enhance volunteer and outreach programs, use data collection and system building to guide strategy, and develop activation processes that foster community engagement.



Making an Impact: 2025 by the Numbers

139 Volunteers

2,131 Hours Worked

8 Workdays

\$65,272 in Donated Labor Value



TNC in Oklahoma Volunteer Program Goals

- Cost-effective support: volunteers provide critical manpower and reduce operational costs, allowing funds to be allocated elsewhere.
- Expanded capacity: with more hands in the field, we can scale up restoration projects, trail maintenance, species monitoring and preserve management.
- Skill diversification: volunteers bring expertise in everything from ecology to photography to carpentry, enriching the organization's capabilities.
- Community ownership and bonds: when people contribute their time, they feel invested in the mission. Volunteers often become long-term advocates and donors.

If you're interested in volunteering or partnership at outreach events, please contact Bridget at bridget.wunsch@tnc.org.

You Can Help Us Achieve Our Mission

- When your employer partners with TNC Oklahoma or when you volunteer with us, you are helping us build a broad support base and increasing awareness of our work.
- You can drive policy change: By engaging with and educating your community, you can help build support for conservation-friendly legislation. Volunteers like you turn awareness into action!
- You help shape our message: Volunteers from diverse backgrounds bring unique perspectives and feedback that make our outreach more inclusive and impactful. With your insights, we're able to ensure that our message resonates from tribal nations to urban youth.
- Your story is powerful: When you share photos, experiences, successes, and challenges, you're building trust and emotional connection with your audience that helps drive a deeper commitment to conservation. So many of our dedicated volunteers learned about our work through stories like yours!



Staff from The Oklahoma City Zoo with State Director Mike Fuhr © Sarah McCall/ TNC

2025 Conservation Champions

Honoring those who have made a forever impact

In September The Nature Conservancy in Oklahoma hosted its 2025 **Partners in Conservation** luncheons in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, celebrating the year's successes and recognizing those who have gone above and beyond in support of our mission. State Director Mike Fuhr presented an overview of the last 40 years, from the preserves we've established and the individuals who made it happen to a glimpse ahead at future plans for Pearl Jackson Crosstimbers Preserve.

This year, we were pleased to recognize four Conservation Champions: **The Oklahoma City Zoo, State Representative Mike Dobrinski, David and Betty Turner and Bill Alexander**. These individuals and organizations share a steadfast commitment to conservation in our great state that is consistent and unmatched. Get to know this group of extraordinary Oklahomans and the work they've supported!

The Oklahoma City Zoo

The Oklahoma City Zoo was recognized for its unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation across Oklahoma and beyond. Through impactful partnerships, innovative research and generous support, the Zoo has championed species protection and inspired millions of people to care for nature. We're grateful to the

Zoo and its team for their continued support and efforts to conserve Oklahoma's unique biodiversity, from endangered bats and butterflies to bees and black bears. Their consistent leadership has catalyzed powerful partnerships and conserved species big and small across the state.

State Representative Mike Dobrinski

State Representative Mike Dobrinski's commitment to advancing natural resource conservation and responsible renewable energy development in our state is second to none. The leadership he has shown in championing transformative policies will shape the future of our landscapes and communities. Rep. Dobrinski's insight, dedication and ability to elevate natural resource protection through legislative action makes him a true champion for conservation in Oklahoma. Though Representative Dobrinski was unable to attend, his Legislative Aide, Karla Monjaraz, graciously accepted on his behalf.

David and Betty Turner

David and Betty Turner have contributed decades of exemplary service to Oklahoma's lands, waters and wildlife. The Turners have been devoted volunteers at the Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve for 30 years, educating



David and Betty Turner with State Director Mike Fuhr © Sarah McCall/ TNC



Bill Alexander with State Director Mike Fuhr © Sarah McCall/ TNC

generations through the docent program and leading the way on countless projects over the years. Through their unwavering dedication, leadership and generosity, they have transformed the docent program and the Visitor Center into lasting legacies of conservation, education and wonder!

Bill Alexander

Bill Alexander was honored for his 12 years of service to the Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve docent program, including serving as program coordinator. Bill's outstanding leadership and dedication have made a lasting impact on the preserve, our guests and our staff. His tireless efforts as program coordinator, mentor and innovator have elevated the docent experience and shaped the program's continued success for years to come. His passion and vision have left an enduring legacy on the Pawhuska prairie and across the state.

Simply put, our work wouldn't be possible without the contributions of this outstanding group. They've graciously volunteered their time and resources in support of Oklahoma's lands, waters and wildlife, and we couldn't be more thankful. Thank you, Conservation Champions!

"I'm grateful to The Nature Conservancy for its work and guidance in Oklahoma to educate and advocate for responsibly addressing our invasive woody species. The long term threat to our water supply and the immediate public safety hazard of Red Cedar in many parts of our state can no longer be ignored."

REP. MIKE DOBRINSKI



Loggerhead shrike © Mike Fuhr/ TNC

A Lasting Legacy on the Prairie

Tucked away in northern Oklahoma, and surprisingly unknown to many people, sits the largest protected piece of tallgrass prairie left on earth.

In 1989, a fledgling chapter of The Nature Conservancy took a gigantic leap of faith and turned a dream to conserve a significant piece of tallgrass prairie into concrete reality. "It's pretty amazing that this happened," recalled Harvey Payne, Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Community Relations Coordinator. "A lot of people never thought we'd get to see something like this. And now we have a 40,000 acre preserve with nearly 2,500 bison and a restored tallgrass prairie ecosystem."

The significance and unique landscape of the Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve have continued to inspire others. Ten years ago, Delores and Jerry Etter were reintroduced to the magic of the prairie while on a tour with Harvey. Growing up in nearby Shidler, Delores knew the history of the area and small surrounding towns, but it wasn't until that tour and subsequent visits that it began to hold new meaning. "I never really appreciated the beauty of the prairie until I went back and spent some time on the preserve," says Delores. "At first glance, you may not see it, but as you spend time, you begin to see all the uniqueness."

"Delores and Jerry are truly conservation champions of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Their generosity and love of the prairie have enabled us to purchase a critical inholding, make much needed improvements to the Preserve's infrastructure and much more."

- HARVEY PAYNE, TALLGRASS COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Growing up in Tulsa, Jerry got to know the prairie through Delores. It's the only place he's ever seen that has returned to its original state. Combined with the bison, cultural significance and the natural beauty of the land itself, the preserve is one of a kind. All of this uniqueness makes the Etters passionate about being part of the preserve and ensuring its stewarded for generations to come. "We want to be part of the preserve, not only because of our physical connection to the area but also because the cultural story the land tells, you really feel that sense of history – it takes you back in time," said Jerry.

Since that initial visit, the Etters have shown unwavering dedication to the Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and supported a variety of projects, including fencing upgrades, critical pond cleanup and a new multi-use drone for aerial imagery. They often ask Harvey and Bob Hamilton to send a list of what projects they'd like to see funding for. After the annual bison roundup in November 2025, work begins on the Etter's new funding project, which will focus on corral and pen upgrades to ensure more safety for both the cowboys and bison.





Left: Prairie cone flowers © Harvey Payne | Right: Delores and Jerry Etter © Harvey Payne

Preserving Tallgrass Prairie Research for Future Generations

As one of the world's most valuable ecosystems, the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve has long been an excellent area for research. With this in mind, and as a former professor, Delores began to think about how to connect their funding work with research projects. Five years ago, they established the Delores and Jerry Etter Graduate Research Scholarship Fund to support students seeking master's and doctoral degrees while working on research related to the preserve. Most recently, they developed a faculty fellowship for long-term tallgrass prairie research. This combination of support for graduate and faculty research ensures future generations will know and love the prairie for decades to come.

"We wanted to provide a faculty member with four years of funding to really help with their research, including a salary stipend and discretionary funds. What can be done in one year is important but to see true trends four years of research is necessary. Dr. Chris Zou at Oklahoma State University is our first recipient of the faculty fellowship, and we're looking forward to meeting him."

- DELORES AND JERRY ETTER

The Etters enjoy funding projects with visible, direct impacts. The scholarship and faculty fellowship programs do just that and showcase nearly everything the prairie ecosystem has to offer—from range and fire management projects, to research on dung beetles, grasshoppers and butterflies. Through these myriad projects, Delores and Jerry have seen and learned so much about flora and fauna on the preserve. True champions of the prairie, their active support and dedication to ongoing research make them strong ambassadors of meaningful conservation and TNC's mission.

Sunrise at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve © Harvey Payne

There's more to explore.

Visit nature.org/tallgrass to get familiar with our work in the Flint Hills of Oklahoma!



Handsome Blazing Star © Harvey Payne

GRANT BUMGARNER ON LEAVING A LEGACY FOR NATURE IN OKLAHOMA



© Grant Bumgarner

Grant Bumgarner currently serves as the director of Experience Tulsa, a local hub for engagement and connection in and around the Tulsa metro. He's also a Legacy Club donor, having made the impactful decision to support The Nature Conservancy in Oklahoma by designating TNC as a beneficiary in his retirement account. Grant's commitment secures a bright future for Oklahoma's lands, waters and wildlife—and yours could, too!

Every summer of my childhood my cousins and I would get shipped out to Northern New Mexico to a spot called Ghost Ranch. Once we arrived at the Ranch we would essentially be 'free range', roaming the mesas and arroyos of the landscape, stumbling into cactus, and encountering critters of all kinds. Being such a small kid in such an awe inspiring and all encompassing landscape left an incredible impression on me. It made me feel small, but part of something much bigger. It gave me peace, silence, and endless adventure.

I get those same feelings when I visit the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, or the J.T. Nickel Preserve, or any of the wonderful wild places in our great state. These places are critical refuges for our natural world in times that feel less and less natural. Most of all these places give me hope. Hope for the world, hope for posterity, and hope for myself. There is no greater responsibility I feel we have as humans, than to look after one another and protect the wild places that surround us. Joining the Legacy Club was an easy and impactful step that I could take to safeguard these bastions of hope for generations to come. I hope you'll join me.



Bison calves at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve © Mike Fuhr / TNC

THANK YOU, DONORS AND LEGACY CLUB MEMBERS!

We are honored to recognize the following donors who made contributions of \$500 or more from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Everyone listed here has ties to Oklahoma. Some live here, others live elsewhere and prefer their gifts be used for projects in Oklahoma. We deeply appreciate every gift and regret that space constraints prevent us from listing all donors. **Legacy Club Members** (names in green) have made a lasting commitment by naming The Nature Conservancy in their estate plans.

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We make every effort to ensure that our donor list is correct, but occasionally errors occur. If there is an error with your name, please accept our apologies and let us know by emailing oklahoma@tnc.org.

Your Retirement Plan Can Help Nature!

It's easy to help preserve nature by naming The Nature Conservancy as a beneficiary (even partial or contingent) of your retirement account or other investments. Here's how:

Retirement Account

Designating TNC as a beneficiary of your retirement account (such as an IRA) is one of the most tax-wise gifts you can make. Most retirement plans are taxed differently than other funds. Some donors choose to leave these gifts to charity, after leaving other less tax-burdened assets to their loved ones.

Certificate of Deposit, Bank and Brokerage Accounts and Life Insurance Policy

You can also name TNC as a beneficiary of a certificate of deposit, other bank or brokerage account or a life insurance policy.

Donor-Advised Fund

TNC may also be named the beneficiary of proceeds remaining in your donor-advised fund after your lifetime. Please note: TNC also offers its own donor-advised fund.

How You Benefit

Not only does your gift cost nothing to establish, but you also retain lifetime control of your assets and can modify your gift if circumstances change simply by requesting a new form. If you choose, your gift can remain anonymous. This is an excellent way to potentially allow you to save on taxes or reduce tax burden for your heirs.

To Make Your Gift:

1. Request a beneficiary form from your bank or plan administrator. This form—not your will—determines how these assets are distributed after your lifetime.

2. Write in The Nature Conservancy as beneficiary or partial beneficiary using our business address:

4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100,
Arlington, Virginia 22203-1606.

3. If the form requests a social security number, use our tax identification number: 53-0242652.

If the form asks for a date of birth, use our date of

incorporation: 10/11/1951.

4. Return the beneficiary form to your plan administrator. If you have any questions, please contact us at the phone number given below.

5. Please let us know so we can thank you and ensure that your wishes are carried out. TNC uses gifts made by beneficiary designation to support global conservation priorities unless you specify otherwise (such as for a place or program that matters to you).

To Ensure Your Gift is Received:

- Send The Nature Conservancy a copy of your beneficiary designation form.
- Share as much account information as you are comfortable with to ensure we are able to correctly identify and claim your gift (such as account type, account number, and approximate value of the gift).
- Include a list of your non-probate assets with your will or trust along with contact information for the beneficiaries so that your executor/trustee can notify the beneficiaries of the gift.
- Talk with your executor/trustee about providing copies of death certificates to interested parties when necessary. Most custodians require that such documentation be submitted for beneficiary claims.

To learn more about these gift planning options, please contact Associate Directors of Philanthropy Barry Maxwell (barry.maxwell@tnc.org) or Annie LeHew (annie.lehew@tnc.org).



Bee nectaring on spotted gayfeather © Tom Gross



2025 Policy Update

Policy makes conservation and climate action possible. It is an essential strategy for reaching our 2030 goals.

This year The Nature Conservancy in Oklahoma was actively involved in championing several pieces of legislation and took more direct action to support bills essential to promoting climate solutions, water sustainability and clean energy, in addition to defending public resources.

In the legislature, we supported three bills.

HB 1588 and SB 91 were legislation designed to institute a water quality study and clean water action plan for the Spring Creek watershed, a priority watershed in

the Ozark Interior Highlands in Northeast Oklahoma. The third bill, HB 2157, was a measure designed to create an agrivoltaics advisory body that would make policy recommendations to the Oklahoma legislature and Congressional Delegation.

TNC also worked with the Chairman of the House Utilities Committee on HB2155. This bill is designed to give the Oklahoma Corporation Commission the ability to institute a permitting process for industrial solar and battery facilities. TNC's interested in ensuring the use of our Site Renewables Right tool to limit impacts to wildlife and habitat.

How Backed Bills Shaped Our Successes Across Oklahoma

We're pleased to report the success of bills we supported, including HB 1588 and HB 2157. HB 1588 was passed through the House of Representatives after it was determined to be the most effective way to advance a Spring Creek water quality



study. The long-term health of Spring Creek is a priority for people and nature alike, and we remain committed to a community-based, collaborative approach that brings all stakeholders to the table.

While versions of HB 2157 passed both the House and Senate, the measure is in conference committee waiting for final consideration next legislative session. The bill would create an advisory committee to examine the compatibility of renewable energy projects and the agricultural industry in Oklahoma.

State Appropriations

TNC partnered with others in helping to secure an additional \$2 million for woody invasive species control. These funds will be available for work statewide and have been combined with over \$3 million in base funding at the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. This results in over \$5 million in funding to control

woody invasive species across the state in 2026.

TNC was part of a group that worked to protect the percentage of the Gross Production Tax on oil that historically has been earmarked for non-point source pollution work, resulting in \$2.8 million going to the Oklahoma Conservation Commission for this effort. These funds will be used to match EPA 319 dollars for work in priority watersheds statewide.

All in all, with a state budget shortfall of \$160 million, the push for flat state budgets and a major income tax cut, TNC in Oklahoma had a successful 2025 legislative session.

Our decades-old, proven approach to policy will guide us—remaining nonpartisan, grounded in science, open to diverse viewpoints, engaging with communities, staying true to our values and leveraging our extensive networks.

FROM the FIELD

*Conservation in Action
at Oklahoma's Nature Preserves*



The team at J.T. Nickel Preserve completed \$300,000 in trail improvements, including bilingual signage developed in partnership with the Cherokee Nation.



35 citizen scientists and TNC staff counted 1,537 birds across 55 species at Pearl Jackson Crosstimbers Preserve.



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and TNC signed a historic conservation agreement, creating new opportunities for collaborative stewardship at Crosstimbers Preserve.



TNC identified 130 biodiverse and highly threatened sites in the Interior Highlands. 25 of those sites are right here in Oklahoma!





TNC used prescribed fire and invasive species control methods to treat 75% of Pontotoc Ridge Preserve – a major step forward in our restoration efforts, completed in collaboration with the Chickasaw Nation and Bureau of Indian Affairs and supported, in part, by a State Wildlife Grant.



More than 500 bison calves joined the herd at Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, now over 3,000 strong.



The Four Canyon Preserve team cleared 777 acres of eastern red cedar—the most in a single year since the preserve's inception in 2004.

© Mike Fuhr / TNC



Sunflower at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve © Harvey Payne / TNC

OKLAHOMA STAFF

TULSA AREA

Mike Fuhr, State Director
Katie Gillies, Director of Conservation
Traci Billings, Director of Finance & Operations
Amanda Tubbs, Operations Manager
Alera Henson Albert, Operations & Finance Coordinator
Julie Etchison, Development Program Manager
Barry Maxwell, Associate Director of Philanthropy
Annie LeHew, Associate Director of Philanthropy
Bridget Wunsch, Volunteer & Community Outreach Specialist

OKC AREA

Melissa Shackford, Director of Land Protection
Clay Pope, Partnerships & External Affairs Manager
Stephanie Vogel, Director of Philanthropy
Sarah McCall, Marketing Manager
Josh White, Digital Marketing Specialist

FOUR CANYON PRESERVE

Chris Hise, Associate Director of Conservation

J.T. NICKEL FAMILY NATURE & WILDLIFE PRESERVE

Jeremy Tubbs, Project Director
Clint Burson, Conservation Practitioner IV

PONTOTOC RIDGE PRESERVE

Haley Bloomquist, Project Manager
Justin Currie, Conservation Practitioner III
Anabelle Lawson, Conservation Practitioner II

RESILIENT WATERS PROGRAM

Emily Moyer, Resilient Waters Program Manager

PEARL JACKSON CROSTMERS PRESERVE

Jeanine Lackey, Project Manager
Matthew Hagy, Conservation Practitioner IV

JOSEPH H. WILLIAMS TALLGRASS PRAIRIE PRESERVE

Bob Hamilton, Tallgrass Initiative Director
Tony Brown, Preserve Manager
Kevin Chouteau, Livestock Technician
Lane Birmingham, Livestock Technician
Wyatt Severson, Livestock Technician
Laura Reisdorph, Guest Services Assistant
Steve Reisdorph, Guest Services Assistant
Harvey Payne, Community Relations Coordinator

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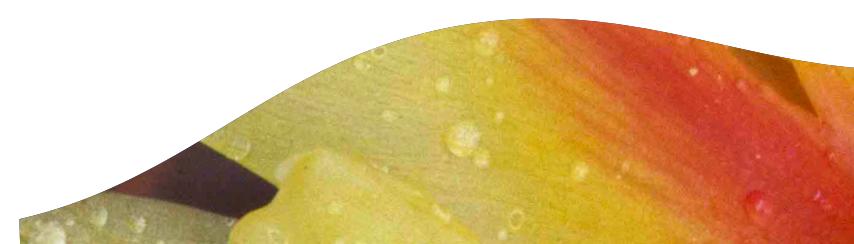
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*Deceased



TNC Welcomes New Staff in 2025

Annabelle Lawson

Conservation Steward



"I have always enjoyed being outside and surrounded by nature and I am grateful for the opportunity the work outdoors so often. I have already learned many new skills in this position and I'm excited to see what the future holds for me. In my free time I enjoy camping, reading, and butterfly watching."

Annie LeHew

Associate Director of Philanthropy



"As a Tulsa native, joining The Nature Conservancy in Oklahoma feels like coming home in the most meaningful way. Growing up, I spent countless hours exploring the state's wild spaces—experiences that sparked a lifelong love of nature and deep appreciation for the communities that care for it. After years in nonprofit and healthcare leadership, I'm thrilled to bring my passion for connecting people and nature through storytelling, shared experiences, and purpose. Outside of work, I'm happiest scuba diving, freediving, traveling, and hiking with my two pups and husband. I'm honored to be part of this team in a role that helps protect what I love."

Sarah McCall

Communications Manager



"Ten years ago I visited Tallgrass Prairie Preserve with my class at OSU; though I'd always loved nature, there was a new sort of magic that I experienced that day on the prairie. It was a full circle moment to join The Nature Conservancy this past March, and I'm so thrilled to do the work I'm passionate about with cool, smart people. Previously, I worked on behalf of a rare disease community and hold a B.A. in Multimedia Journalism. I love to travel and explore museums, try new restaurants and art classes, and spend time with friends, family and my animal companions, Storm and Salem."

Bridget Wunsch

Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator



"I grew up reading The Nature Conservancy's magazine, and it sparked a lifelong love for nature and conservation. I feel incredibly fortunate to now be a part of this amazing organization and to work alongside so many passionate and inspiring people. My favorite aspect of my role is working with our amazing volunteers and witnessing their own love for nature and our beautiful preserves grow."

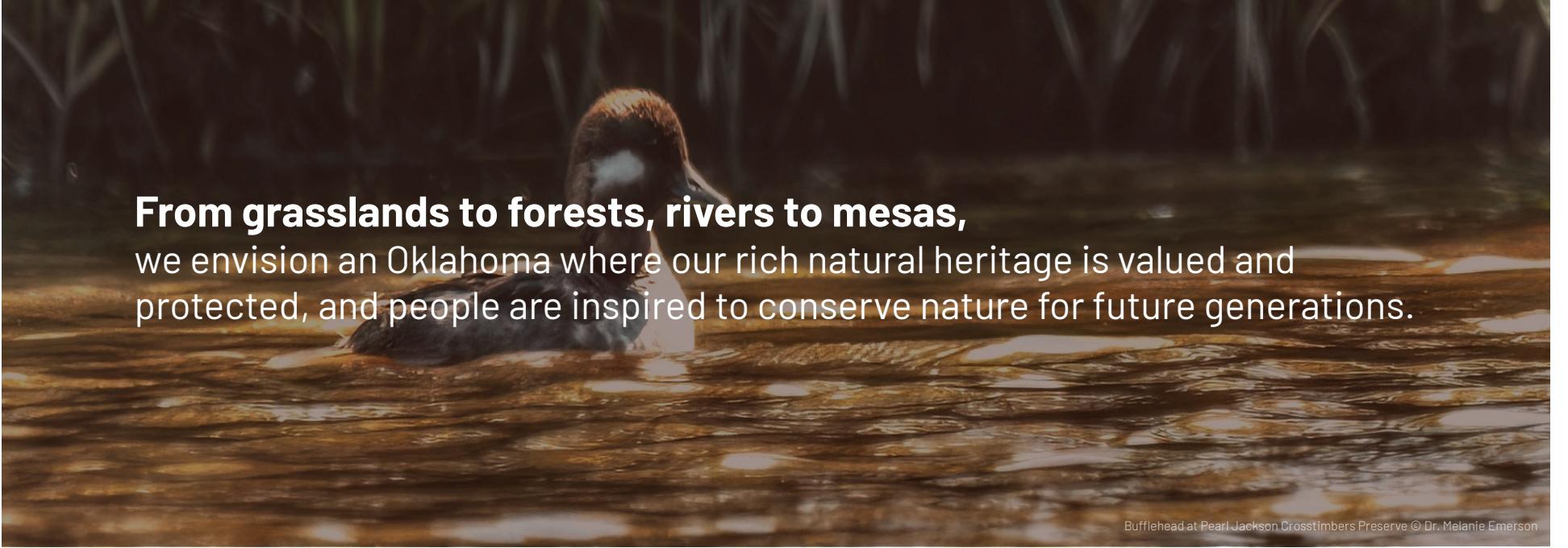


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The Nature Conservancy in Oklahoma
5555 East 71st Street, Suite 9100
Tulsa, Ok 74136

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From grasslands to forests, rivers to mesas,
we envision an Oklahoma where our rich natural heritage is valued and
protected, and people are inspired to conserve nature for future generations.

Bufflehead at Pearl Jackson Crosstimbers Preserve © Dr. Melanie Emerson