



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Protecting the land, water,
and wildlife along the
Mackinaw River in McLean
and Woodford Counties.

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Letter from ParkLands Board President

At ParkLands Foundation, everything we do is to live inside our Mission Statement: "Preserve historic natural lands in the middle and upper Mackinaw River watershed by protecting, ecologically restoring and managing these lands. Our preserves are dedicated primarily for preserving the biological diversity of native plants and wildlife, and secondarily for passive public recreation, environmental education and scientific research."

We have over 3,600 acres housed in 25 preserves and five conservation easements. We strive to meet these strict self-imposed requirements through our Board, our staff, our stewards, and our many volunteers and members. We remove invasive plants, we give tours of preserves to our members and the public, we support research by local colleges and universities, we bring in science experts to explore the land and water, we honor history through public education of Central Illinois' archeology. We live our Mission.

In 2022, we celebrated our 55th anniversary, two years before Earth Day. ParkLands was created to protect natural lands and provide lands of recreation for Central Illinois. Today, we know that our Mission has even greater importance. With the continuing loss of habitat worldwide, we must keep working to meet our goals. This will continue into the years to come with our efforts to secure environmentally important lands through conservation easements and donations, but there will be greater emphasis on our acknowledgement and support of our donors and our members. This we will accomplish through greater opportunities to experience our preserves and by sharing scientific information about our preserves.

We have stewards that work continuously to restore and manage our preserves like Mary Jo Adams at South Chinquapin Bluffs, Douglas

Kaufman-Dickson and Jack Pfaffman at Letcher Basin, Sherrie Snyder at Ridgetop Hill Prairie. We remove invasives, maintain trails, hold classes on chainsaw use, and look for ways for additional volunteers to be environmentally active.

We are stepping up our participation and sharing of the natural world. We will be hosting a training session with RiverWatch, where volunteers learn how to systematically monitor and report the quality of the Mackinaw. We are exploring how we can partner with the United States Geological Survey to provide them with valuable data about the Mackinaw and its watershed. We are joining the local Chamber of Commerce to be able to spread the word about our good works and their importance.

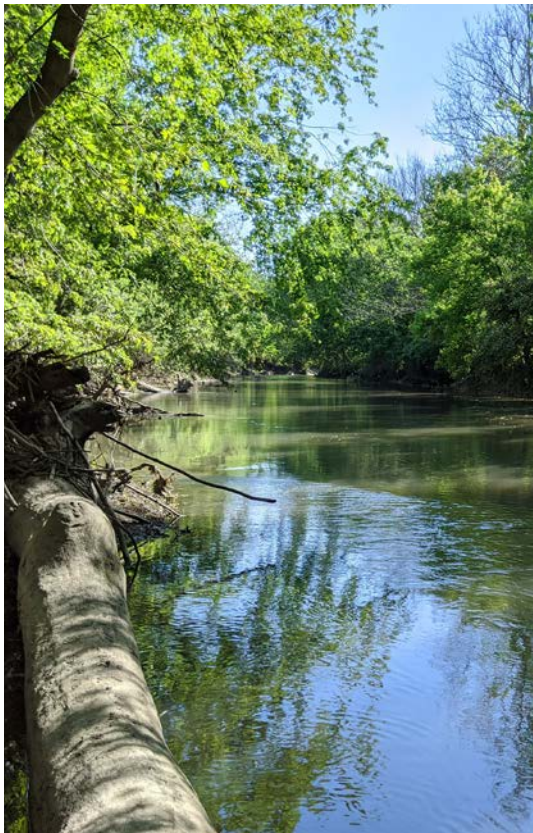
We continue to employ college students to work as interns, so they can apply their knowledge learned into the future. We see an increasing amount of coverage given to the state of earth's environmental health. The news is not always good. But in Illinois, the ParkLands Foundation is in the forefront of the effort to increase environmental awareness while doing real work on the ground. We will continue to live our Mission by protecting, ecologically restoring and managing the lands of the Mackinaw River watershed.

Thank you for believing in the ParkLands Foundation.



Frank Sanders
ParkLands Board President

Preserve



3,600 acres
of habitat
along the
**Mackinaw
River**

MCLEAN COUNTY 1,518.56 ACRES

Breen 1 Champion Federal	37.60 acres
Breen 2	21.76 acres
Frey-Henline	80.91 acres
Hubert	4.80 acres
Lexington Preserve	173.32 acres
Merwin Nature Preserve and Land and Water Preserve	712.84 acres
Mohr Preserve	277.70 acres
Moon Preserve	42.45 acres
Newlin Preserve	20.20 acres
NIG Preserve	22.30 acres
Shelley Preserve	30.51 acres
Sweeney Preserve	92.63 acres
Weston Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve	1.54 acres

WOODFORD COUNTY 1,359.61 ACRES

Hazel	40 acres
Chinquapin Bluffs Land and Water Reserve	728.78 acres
Woodrum	54.29 acres
Dungey	6.09 acres
Letchers Basin Land and Water Reserve	153.91 acres
Ridgetop Nature Preserve	17.46 acres
McLure Preserve	50 acres
Wyatts Ford Preserve	61.88 acres
Kenyon Preserve	141.71 acres
Hayes Woods Preserve	69.49 acres
Baller Woods	36 acres

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS 403.96 ACRES

Betts Easement	86.8 acres
Sears-Butler Easement	120.52 acres
Fraker-Thornton Easement-Letchers Basin...	51.73 acres
Fraker-Thornton Easement-Woodrum	5.71 acres
Franklin Farms Easement	139.2 acres

Preserve

25

Preserves under the
Parklands Foundation
protection

3,600

acres of habitat along the
Mackinaw River

5

conservation easements
held and inspected by
ParkLands

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

By leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals, RCPP demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation.

ParkLands joined this effort in the early stages in 2019 as a land trust partner. ParkLands agreed to participate and hold conservation easements in order to buffer our natural lands. By leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals, RCPP demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for conservation. Although the easements have not been finalized, we expect to add 120 acres of easements in the Woodford County Mackinaw River corridor. If you are interested in conservation easements please contact info@parklandsfoundation.org for more information or donating your land in perpetuity to ParkLands please contact Erin Herbez at erin@parklandsfoundation.org for more information.

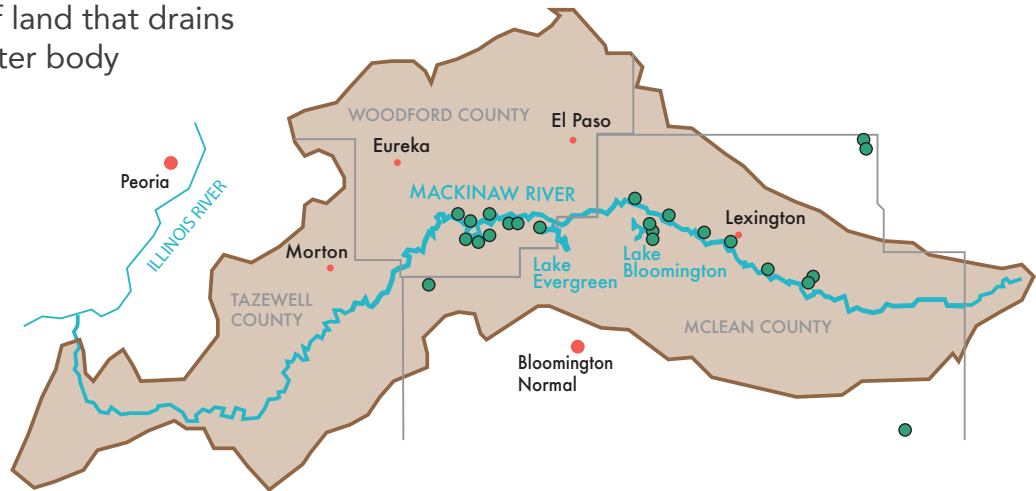


Protect

Mackinaw River Watershed

What is a watershed?

A watershed: an area of land that drains water into a specific water body



Achievements:

After receiving a grant from the Wilson Conservation Trust, Land Steward Jason Schoemaker along with the help of volunteer stewards, installed a parking lot and trails at the Champion Federal Preserve.

Troop 19 Eagle Scouts completed construction of the Merwin South Side Bridge, and updated an anti-erosion project on the staircase at Merwin.

Thanks to your generous donations in 2021, we purchased a new mower and tractor for preserve maintenance.

Thanks to efforts from Dr. Katy Everett, Erin Herbez and Jason Schoemaker, ParkLands was awarded an Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for \$100,000 in September. This grant will help ParkLands purchase a utility terrain vehicle and cargo trailer to support the mechanical and chemical removal of non-native invasive species and implement controlled burns. The grant money also will enlist contractual services to support natural area management at Merwin Savanna Nature Preserve in McLean County, Ridgetop Hill Prairie Nature Preserve in Woodford County and Chinquapin Bluffs Land and Water Reserve in Woodford County.

ParkLands received a Public Amenities Grant from the Illinois Clean Energy in 2021 and this grant was used to construct a parking lot and add signage at the Lexington Preserve.



Manage and Restore

Stewardship Completed Projects

We are extremely grateful to our members, stewards, volunteers, and donors for all they do and the ongoing support they give to ParkLands Foundation. This year ParkLands Foundation Volunteer Stewards accomplished a record number of projects and offered volunteer opportunities to the public across McLean and Woodford Counties.

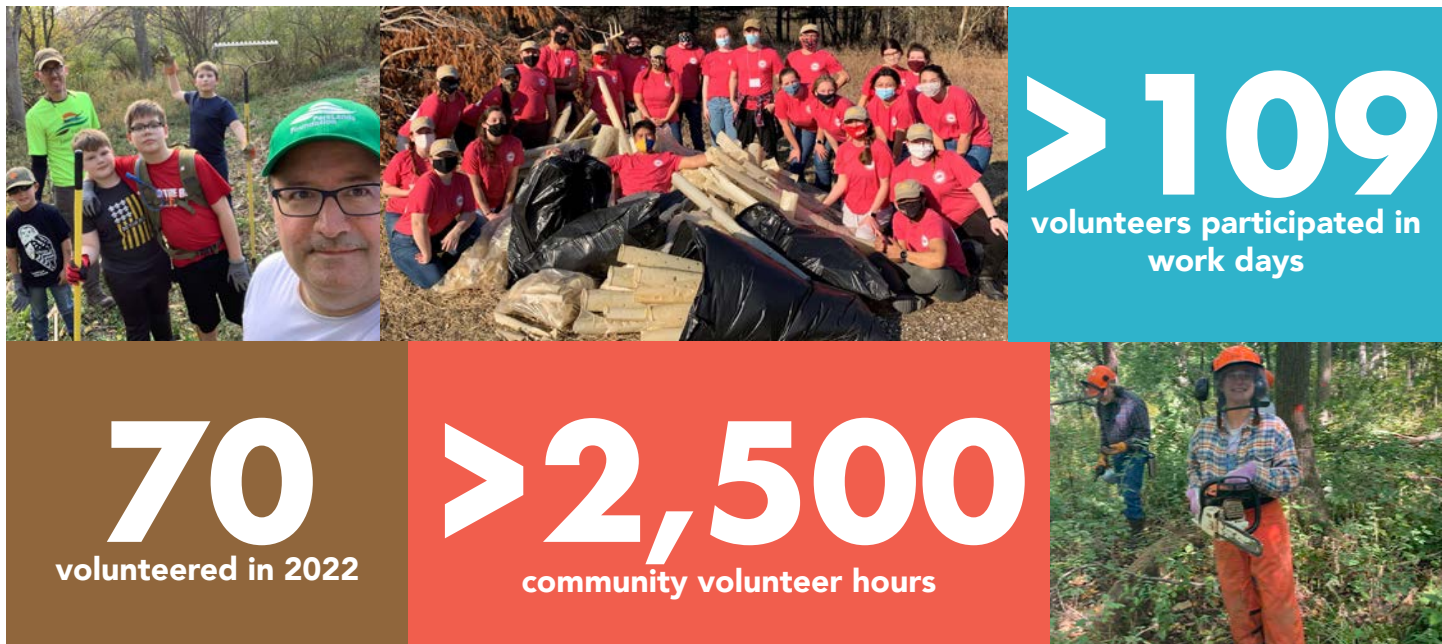
Projects completed by volunteer stewards in 2022 include:

- Contractors removed and mulched invasive trees and shrubs across North Merwin Preserve, Hayes Woods Preserve, Champion Federal Preserve, Sweeney Woods, and Henline Preserve.
- Volunteer stewards and interns developed new trails at Kenyon-Baller Woods Preserve connecting the two adjacent properties, improved existing trails at North Merwin Preserve with gravel lanes, assisted with the summer mowing of the Moon Tract in July, created a new trail at South Chinguapin, and helped install property/trail signage and a kiosk at the Lexington Preserve.
- As temperatures cooled, volunteer stewards and interns were able to remove and control the invasive species Black Locust and Lespedeza at North Chinguapin Preserve along the prairie throughout the fall.
- Summer interns worked from June through August controlling and removing woody invasives via cutting and spraying (Autumn Olive and Honeysuckle) at Bunney Preserve, Mohr Preserve, Merwin Preserve, Letcher Basin Preserve, Kenyon-Baller Woods Preserve, Hayes Woods Preserve, and Ridgetop Hill Prairie Preserve



Community Volunteer Projects

ParkLands Foundation wouldn't be possible without our supportive community, donors, members, and most importantly- volunteers. This year, ParkLands Foundation volunteers embarked on a multitude of tasks and projects to maintain, preserve, and improve ParkLands Foundation preserves in Woodford County and McLean County.



Volunteers are the fabric of what makes an amazing organization and we are so thankful for every single volunteer who lends their dedication, time, hard work, positive attitudes and talents on behalf of ParkLands Foundation to help us fulfill our mission. This year, volunteers embarked on a multitude of tasks and projects to maintain, preserve, and restore ParkLands Foundation preserves in Woodford County and McLean County.

- Bloomington Troop 19 Boy Scouts worked on repairing and developing the bridge, staircase, and trails at Merwin Preserve.
- In a partnership with the EAC and TreeCorps, ParkLands Foundation volunteers planted over 2,700 trees across Letcher Basin, Mohr Preserve, and Lexington Preserve.
- Dr. Katy Everett brought several groups of students from Eureka College to clear trails

and manage invasive Honeysuckle, Teasel, and Autumn Olive.

- Dr. Given Harper brought his Illinois Wesleyan Restoration Ecology Class to Hayes Woods Preserve, Lexington Preserve, and Letcher Basin Preserve to assist with clearing trails and removing invasives between September and November.
- After storms caused damage to the Merwin Preserve stairs, Bloomington High School sophomore, Hayden King, volunteered to repair and improve the staircase, additionally working on a side-project to stop and prevent downhill erosion of trails at Merwin Preserve.

New Initiatives for 2023

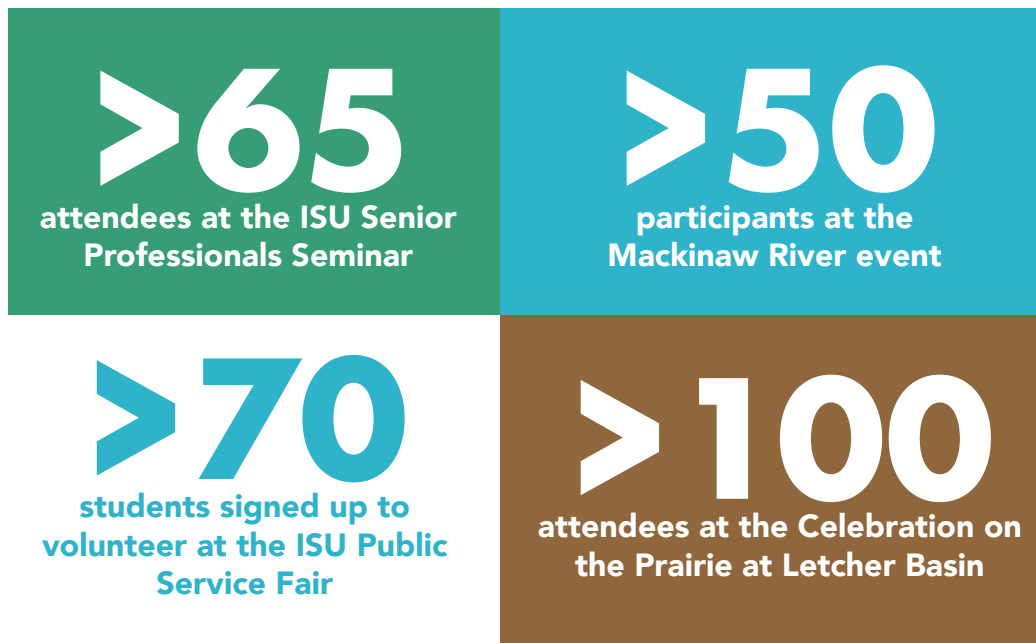
Change is on the horizon for volunteer stewards and individuals interested in stewardship with ParkLands Foundation in 2023. Going forward, all prospective/ incoming volunteer stewards will complete a steward-apprenticeship prior to becoming ParkLands Foundation Volunteer Stewards. The steward-apprenticeship program is in place to help ParkLands recruit, build, and retain highly-skilled, enthusiastic stewards to help maintain our beautiful preserves.

To boost membership and community engagement, ParkLands Foundation is introducing monthly guided Hikes with a Master Naturalist throughout 2023 at different preserves.

Our board, under Frank Sanders' guidance, has committed to increasing our fundraising efforts to ensure that ParkLands can continue to protect and steward our preserves in perpetuity.



Education



Education is at the core of the mission at ParkLands Foundation, as education is essential for the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity and conservation. Our preserves are dedicated primarily for preserving the biological diversity of native plants and wildlife, and secondarily for passive public recreation, environmental education and scientific research.

Our nature preserves offer the public opportunities for an experiential, hands-on approach to learning about the environment in Central Illinois. ParkLands Foundation organizes many educational opportunities for the community throughout the year including family-oriented activities for all ages in nature, informational programs and tours at our Woodford County and McLean County preserves, and collaborative research projects with local universities.

Some of the educational experiences ParkLands Foundation participated in the past year include:

- ISU Alumni Center Presentation with Senior Professionals: What is ParkLands Foundation? Director Jessica Chambers led a discussion centered around the mission behind ParkLands Foundation at the ISU Alumni Center with a group of senior professionals and community members.
- ISU Redbird Days: ParkLands Foundation participated in the annual Illinois State University Public Service Fair, as a part of Redbird Days, with a volunteer sign-up and informational booth for students.
- Master Naturalists Nature Trail Days:: Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, Addie Burns, attended the Sugar Grove Nature Trail Days with a booth setup to educate community members on the importance of ParkLands Foundation
- Damselflies, Dragonflies, and Mussels River Event: Participants of all ages learned about wildlife in the Mackinaw River from Professor

Bill Perry, wrapping up the day with a mussel tutorial by ParkLands Foundation Director Eric Smith.

- A Little Celebration on the Prairie at Letcher Basin: Ken Kashian shared his project of Weston Cemetery; Jan Turner shared her experiences at Horn Preserve; Dr. Ben Sadd and friends explored the prairie with us looking for bumble bees and other insects.
- ParkLands Foundation New Member Hike and Informational Tour at Chinquapin Preserve (North): new members that joined in 2022 were treated to a guided hike through North Chinquapin Bluffs Preserve, lead by ParkLands Foundation President Frank Sanders



Research at ParkLands Foundation

"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose." - Zora Neale Hurston

At ParkLands Foundation, we encourage use of our preserves for research but projects of any size need to be coordinated with the appropriate oversight organization or individual.

ParkLands Foundation preserves offer a rich environment for teaching and research activities—and are conveniently located a short distance from the Illinois State University campus in Bloomington-Normal.

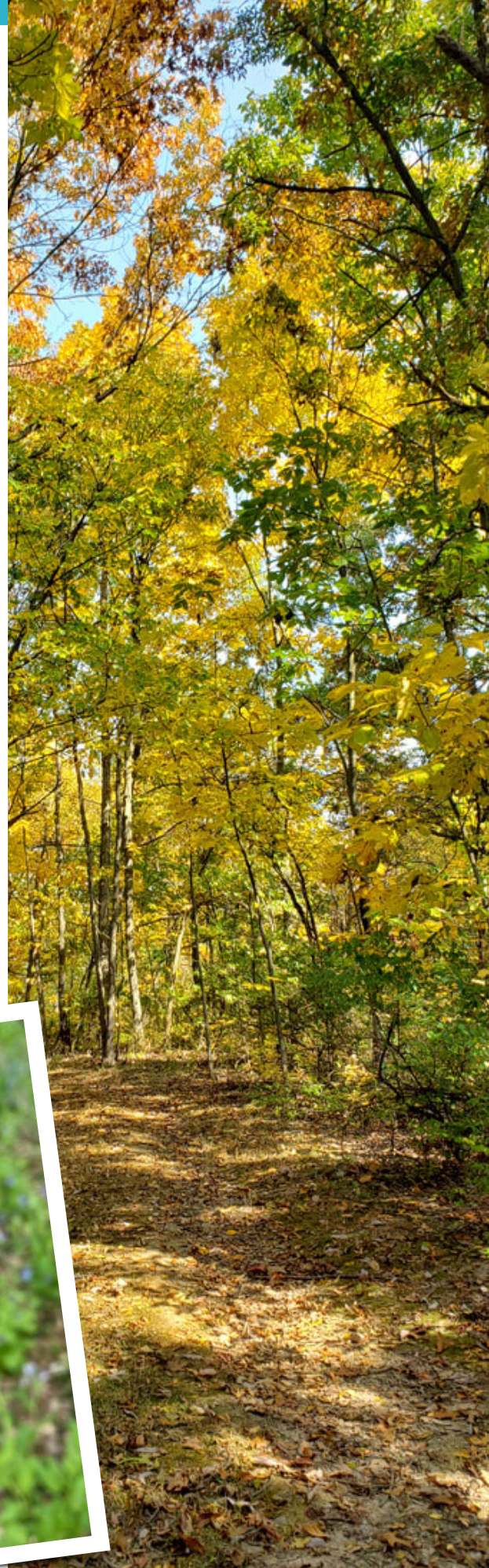
Recent projects include the study and documentation of cicadas at Weston Cemetery, bumble bee infectious disease study, and ecological surveys of bobcats in Central Illinois on several of our preserves.

Merwin is also home to a 40+ year study on house wrens. The Thompson, Sakaluk, and Nietlisbach labs conduct house wren studies on Merwin and other ParkLands properties. The study area is home to over 700 nest boxes, some of which can be viewed from the Merwin trails.

The Sadd Lab surveys the bumble bee queen community every spring, including checking for infectious diseases.

Some queens are used to establish colonies in the lab, which are used in studies to understand threats to native bumble bee health. Threats studied include parasites and pathogens, pesticide exposure, climate change, diet quality, and their interactions.

Dr. Diane Byers also conducted research on the plant communities at Weston Cemetery. Her lab at ISU has



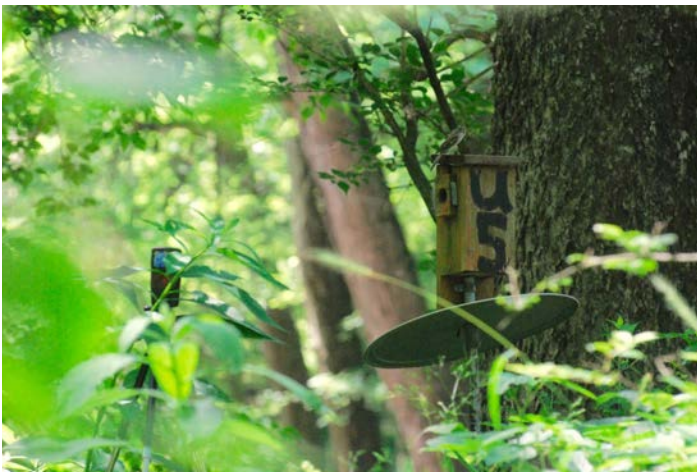
been focusing on *Lobelia spicata*'s response to the different microbe communities. Since diseases from the soil microbes may result in less branched roots and thus lower surface area to absorb water, they continue to study the joint effect of plant soil feedback and drought on plant growth.

Without these protected places our local researchers would not have the opportunity to continue this crucial body of research.

Investigators proposing to conduct research

on listed (state or federal) species are required to obtain appropriate permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the Illinois Department of Fish and Wildlife. Proof of permits are required prior to initiating any research on ParkLands preserves.

For interest in conducting research at any of our McLean County or Woodford County preserves, contact Katy Everett, Director of Research Licensing, who will provide a brief project request form to document research use of our preserves.



2022 Outreach Event Calendar

January

New Year's Day Hike
January 1
Kenyon Baller Preserve

March

Home Lawn & Garden Day
March 5
Central Catholic High School
PSCC Conference
March 10 and 11
Starved Rock Lodge

April

Aldo Leopold Speaker: Curt Meine
April 14
ISU Bone Student Center
Earth Day Volunteer
April 22
Various Preserves
Wildflower Walk
April 23
Merwin



May

Nachusa Visit
May 5
Nachusa, Franklin Grove

June

GPF Field Trip
June 12
GPF Visit to ParkLands

July

5th Annual Bike Ride
July 16
Lexington

August

River Event
August 13
Chinquapin Bluffs

September

Annual Meeting
September 11
Franklin Farm - Lexington

October

Prairie Celebration
October 8
Letcher Basin



Community Outreach

37

new members joined
ParkLands Foundation,
bringing the total number
of members to 340

550

people came to the
preserves through 10
Outreach events in 2022

295

individuals participated in
ParkLands annual bike ride
around the Mackinaw River
Valley

ParkLands Foundation hosts and participates in various outreach events to engage with the community of McLean and Woodford Counties throughout the year.

We kicked off 2022 with the annual ParkLands Foundation New Year's Eve hike at Kenyon-



New Year's Day Hike

Baller preserve, with more than 50 participants! Due to the lack of snow, we were unfortunately unable to hold the annual cross-country ski event that would have taken place at Chinquapin Bluffs.

As the weather began to warm up, we were able to get out to Merwin Preserve to accomplish substantial Garlic Mustard removal at the cusp of the season.

With the arrival of April, we were treated to speaker Curt Meine, sponsored by the Illinois State University Horticulture Center and Illinois Wesleyan University, dissecting Aldo Leopold's essay "The Land Ethic".

For Earth Day several volunteers participated

in work days. In the following week, our Wildflower Walk was enjoyed by more than 70 individuals that got to fully experience the beauty of the Merwin Preserve bluebells.

Over the summer, ParkLands Foundation hired two college-interns, Lauren Ausmus and Macie Hammons. The interns worked on invasive species removal throughout the summer and into the fall.

In August, we hosted a Dragons and Damselflies educational event at South Chinquapin Preserve along the Mackinaw River attended by more than 50 individuals of all ages! A few weeks later, Addie Burns joined the ParkLands team as an AmeriCorps fellow.

To celebrate the arrival of fall and beauty of the prairie, ParkLands Foundation hosted a Little Celebration on the Prairie learning event at Letcher Basin Preserve for more than 100 community members throughout the day! Guests were treated to bee and insect identification with Dr. Ben Sadd of ISU, plein air



Wildflower Walk

artists painting interpretations of the prairie, and hay rack rides around Letcher Basin!

In October, Illinois Wesleyan students led by Professor Given Harper devoted several days to volunteering with our Land Steward, Jason Shoemaker to construct a parking lot and cleanup trails at Lexington Preserve.

Around the same time, Bloomington Troop 19 Boy Scouts led by Chris Hoyt developed new

hiking trails at Champion Federal Reserve for public use!

Ending events for the year on a high note, Ann Schriefels led the final public work day of the season on November 6th at Hayes woods Preserve, cutting invasive brush. To celebrate new members, ParkLands Foundation hosted a new member hike on November 12th at Chinquapin Bluffs Preserve.



River Event

Calendar of Events

2022

JAN



New Tractor

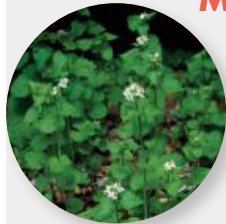
ParkLands Foundation acquired a new tractor for property maintenance thanks to generous donors.

New Years Eve Hike

Our New Year's Eve hike rang in the year a day early on December 31st at Kenyon-Baller Preserve with a fantastic turnout!



FEB



Merwin Garlic Mustard Removal

As the weather began to warm up, volunteers gathered at Merwin Preserve to jump start garlic mustard removal.

MAR

Start of Bluebell Season

April 16th kicked off the start of the bluebell season at Merwin Preserve.

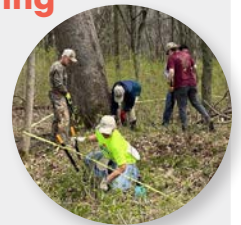
APR

Aldo Leopold Speaker: Curt Meine

ParkLands Foundation members, volunteers, and staff were invited to attend Curt Meine's lecture at the ISU Bone Center.

Earth Day Volunteering

Volunteers assembled in droves at the Mohr Preserve Bunney Tract to cut invasive honeysuckle for Earth Day 2022.



Wildflower Walk

Our annual Wildflower Walk was on April 23rd at Merwin Preserve, with a plethora of attendees!



GPF Field Trip to ParkLands Foundation

Grand Prairie Friends (GPF) met with ParkLands members on June 12th to share ideas.



MAY

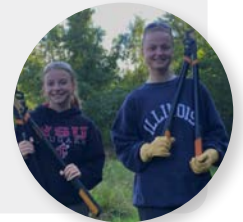
Merwin Bluebells

After weeks of enjoying the bluebells in full bloom, on Sunday, May 1st, crowds of nature lovers enjoyed the final blossoms of the bluebells for the year.



College Interns

Lauren Ausmus and Macie Hammons spent the summer spraying invasives, cutting brush, and clearing trails.



JUN

Dragonflies and Damselflies

In mid-August, our third annual river event took place with the theme of Dragonflies and Damselflies at Chinquapin Preserve.



JUL

AUG

5th Annual Bike Ride

Nearly 200 riders flocked to Lexington Preserve for a two-wheeled tour of the Mackinaw River Valley's rolling hills at our Annual Bike Ride 2022.



Calendar of Events

ISU Festival Days

ParkLands Foundation set up a booth at the ISU Festival Days Community Service Fair on September 1st to scout for more student volunteers.



AUG

Chinquapin Bluffs Work Day

Volunteers gathered at Chinquapin Bluffs on August 20th to tackle invasive teasel and honeysuckle removal.

SEP

SAWW

Woodworking Class

Brave ParkLands volunteer stewards participated in an Illinois Extension chainsaw and woodworking class in September to learn how to take down trees and brush.



56th Annual Meeting

ParkLands Foundation members gathered at Franklin Family Farm in Lexington for the 56th Annual Member Meeting on September 11th.



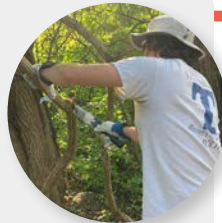
Work Day with Eureka College

Eureka College students accompanied Professor Katy Everett to Letcher Basin to remove invasive teasel.



Work Days with Illinois Wesleyan

IWU students accompanied Professor Given Harper for several days clearing trails and honeysuckle.



OCT

Prairie Celebration

On October 1st, families, volunteers, and community members gathered to celebrate the beauty of the prairie at Letcher Basin Preserve.

Updated Bridge at Merwin

Bloomington Boy Scouts Troop 19 along with the help and support of Chris Hoyt and Thrivent Financial updated a bridge on the North side of Merwin Preserve to have handrails.



Lexington Preserve Work Day

One of the last work days of the year, led by Terrie and Jeff Howard, took place at Lexington Preserve on October 15th.



NOV

Hayes Woods Preserve Work Day

The final public work day of the season took place on November 4th at Hayes Woods Preserve.



DEC

New Member Hike

To celebrate membership, a new member hike was hosted at Chinquapin Bluffs on November 12th.



Finances

Contrary to what the name might suggest, ParkLands Foundation has no ongoing financial affiliation with the local or state park systems. While several of our most visited and ecologically important properties enjoy the legal protections that come with being rightfully designated as an Illinois Nature Preserve or Illinois Land and Water Reserve, such status does not come with a taxpayer-funded budget.

Throughout its 55+ year history, ParkLands has largely depended on the generous financial support of its members and other conservation-minded individuals, families, businesses, and various regional non-profit grant-making bodies to survive and thrive. This support, in the form of annual membership dues, contributions to our annual appeal, thoughtful end-of-life bequests and memorial donations, event sponsorships by local businesses, and corporate gift-matching programs, among other avenues of giving, are the financial “lifeblood” of the Foundation.

Over the years we have received significant and impactful support from a variety of private and family foundations to fund land acquisition, stewardship, and ongoing operations. We would also like to thank very sincerely those “outsized” individual donors who have once again done much more than their fair share of giving – you know who you are!

A smaller but important portion of our funding does come from our enrollment in the Federal Conservation Reserve Program, from farm “rents” on a few properties where

appropriate, and from investment income on our endowments that were created by several incredibly committed member-benefactors both past and present. And, this past year, we are thrilled to report that the Foundation was awarded a \$100K Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship grant by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to support several important “stewardship” projects.

While the latest annual financial statements have yet to be formally finalized, ParkLands Foundation received slightly less than \$300,000 of outside “public support” during our most recent year ending February 2022. Roughly the same amount was expended in support of operations with 78% spent on Stewardship and Program Services; 16% spent on Administration, and just 6% spent on Fundraising. Every dollar, be it a one-time gift or a recurring commitment really counts, and we are equally grateful for them all. If you would like more details about the Foundation’s financial picture, reach out to our office, and we’ll be happy to provide it.

SO, THANK YOU to all of our members and donors large and small for a successful year on the financial side of things despite the challenges of high inflation and an uncertain economic climate. And, if you are able to do so, PLEASE KEEP IT UP! The land, the river, the trees and prairie grasses and wildflowers, and all the ParkLands’ critters thank you too!

Michael McKinley
Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair

ParkLands Volunteer Stewards

The Volunteer Steward program provides the ongoing, focused care and maintenance that is critical to our most precious locations. Volunteer Stewards take “ownership” of a preserve through regular, periodic visits (i.e. monthly) to check-in on the property. They might remove invasive vegetation, gather trash, or document needed maintenance. Thank you to these Volunteer Stewards for their hard work this past year.

Chinquapin Bluffs Land and Water Reserve

Suzanne Rogers
Frank Sanders
Mary Jo Adams
Wayne Gustafson

Hayes Woods

Ann Schreifels

Kenyon-Baller Woods

Andy Smoot
Chuck Croxton

Letcher Basin Land and Water Reserve

Douglas Kaufman-Dickson
Jack Pfaffmann
Dianne Feasley
George Farnsworth

Lexington Preserve

Jeff Howard
Terrie Howard

Merwin Preserve

Craig Lutes

Mohr Preserve

Amy Woodrum

Moon Preserve

Janet Wiser

Ridgetop Hill Prairie

Sherrie Snyder
Connie Barling
Jim Franks

South Wyatt's Ford

Mary Jo Adams

Sweeney Woods

Tom Farmer

Weston Cemetery

Roger Anderson

Kiosk and Sign Manager for all Preserves

Peg Schickedanz



ParkLands Committee Members

The following committees within ParkLands Foundation help monitor progress, make plans, and report to the Board of Directors on their respective subject areas.

Development Committee

Michael McKinley
Shannon Fulton
Corrie Scott
Dan Deneen
Mike Doherty
Dee Frautschi
Frank Sanders

Finance Committee

Michael McKinley
Mark Larsen
Dan Deneen
Jim Franks
Bill Snyder

Membership Committee

Nancy Armstrong
Michael McKinley
Paul Van Ness
Krista Kirkham
Corrie Scott
Douglas Kaufman-Dickson

Stewardship Committee

Angelo Capparella
Eric Smith
Frank Sanders
Given Harper
Jim Franks
Katy Everett
Krista Kirkham
Maria Lemke
Roger Anderson

Douglas Kaufman-Dickson
Bill Snyder
Corrie Scott
Shannon Fulton
Steve Knitter

Outreach Committee

Austin Calhoun
George Farnsworth
Jan Turner
Jessica Chambers
Mary Jo Adams
Paul Van Ness
Craig Lutes
Keith Pluymers
Ped Schickedanz
Frank Sanders

Real Property Committee

Dan Deneen
Matt Fraker
Eric Smith
Bill Snyder
Shannon Fulton



ParkLands Foundation Board of Directors

ParkLands Foundation is led by a committed and talented all-volunteer Board of Directors, and a small, but very dedicated paid staff comprised of our Director of Development and Administration, Land Steward, and Outreach Coordinator.



Frank Sanders
President



Eric Smith
Vice President



Katy Everett
Secretary



Jim Franks
Director



Michael McKinley
Treasurer & Finance
Committee Chair



Dan Deneen
Chair Real Property



Craig Lutes
Outreach Chair



Bob Fitzgerald
Director



Michael Doherty
Director



Finn Amble
Director



Dee Frautschi
Director



Keith Pluymers
Director

ParkLands Foundation Board of Directors



**Douglas
Kaufman-Dickson**
Director



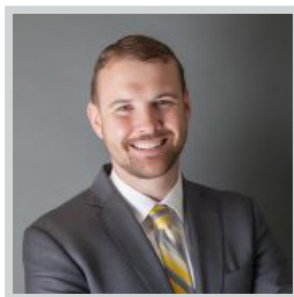
Corrie Scott
Director



Paul Van Ness
Director



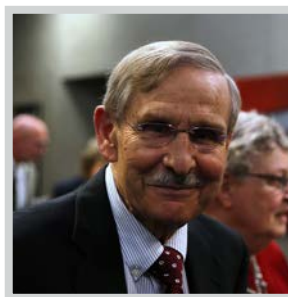
Guy Fraker
Honorary Director



Mark Larsen
Director



Shannon Fulton
Director



Roger Anderson
Honorary Director



Bill Snyder
Director

ParkLands Foundation Staff



Jason Shoemaker
Land Steward



Erin Herbez
Administrative
Director



Addie Burns
Volunteer &
Outreach
Coordinator

Sponsor & Funders

Public Agencies

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Business & Private Supporters

Zimmerman & Armstrong Investment Advisors

State Farm Foundation

Caterpillar Foundation

Growmark Foundation

Wilson Conservation Trust

Bloomington Cycle and Fitness

Commerce Bank & Trust Company

Daniel G Deneen Law Office

Deer's Mill Farm

Prairie Oak Veterinary

Vitesse Cycle Shop

The Factory

Gentle Family Dentistry

Heartland Bank & Trust

Keg Grove Brewing Company

Kemp's Upper Tap

Non-profit Sponsors & Partners

The Merwin Foundation

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation

Ecology Action Center (EAC)

Illinois Prairie Wild Ones

The Nature Conservancy

U of I Extension Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners

Illinois Prairie Community Foundation

New Covenant Community Church

Grand Prairie Friends

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL IN PRESERVING LIFE ALONG THE MACKINAW RIVER.

Become a Volunteer or Donate Today

With only one full-time Land Steward to care for 3,600 acres across 25 preserves in two counties, volunteers are at the core of ParkLands Foundation's success. There are many ways to get involved with no experience required!

Do you like to get your hands dirty? Workdays are popular for individuals to groups of corporate employees, Scouts, retirees, and students. Workdays are scheduled throughout the year and are posted on the events calendar and social media pages.

Join the community on the front lines of conservation in central Illinois and consider a donation that will go a long way to preserve and restore Central Illinois to its greatness as the home of the Grand Prairie.

There are many ways to give: by becoming a member, by establishing your legacy for now and the future with a donation, by monthly gifting, and, if appropriate and advisable by your tax accountant, making a non-taxable donation from your IRA.

However you decide to give, you will become a ParkLands Champion by helping fulfill the mission of protecting, restoring and managing the lands along the middle and upper reaches of the Mackinaw River.

[Learn More](#)



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Remembering Lifelong Supporters

This annual report is dedicated to the memory of Finn Amble and Mike Hall, lifelong supporters of ParkLands Foundation.



Finn Reidar Amble

59, of Hudson, IL passed away peacefully at 4:45 AM on Thursday September 15, 2022, at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL.

Finn was a Master Naturalist, Elder at Second Presbyterian Church, and member of the ParkLands Foundation Board of Directors and American Board of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery. He loved playing with his two doodles, Shiloh, and Bella, being outside in nature, and above all, spending time with his kids and other family members.

He was a positive force affecting the lives of everyone around him. He spent his life mentoring and helping others — family, friends, neighbors, strangers, students, church youth, volunteers, coworkers, employees, and patients. His infectious laugh, intentional friendship, and dedication to his community will be missed by many.



Michael Allen "Mike" Hall

67, of Normal passed away early in the morning on Saturday, January 7, 2023, in hospice at McLean County Nursing Home in Normal. He died peacefully in his sleep, with his wife, Kris, at his side.

Mike served as the first ever Administrative Director of the ParkLands Foundation (2012-16). He combined his love of nature with his strong organizational skills to help professionalize and grow the organization.

A man of many interests, pleasures, and hobbies, Mike loved riding his bike through the Illinois cornfields, hiking in the Colorado Rockies, drinking Hurricanes in New Orleans, eating blueberry pie, tinkering in his workshop, slurping Dole Whip at the Magic Kingdom, riding a rocket ship at Space Mountain, swing-dancing, and watching the St. Louis Cardinals.