

Platte Land Trust Annual Report 2019

Mission: Protecting land, natural resources, and open space in the four-corners area of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa for the benefit of today's communities and future generations.

Land Conservation

Protecting Land Through Conservation Easements

The Platte Land Trust continues to monitor the 627 acres in conservation easement holdings:

- The National Golf Course (Parkville, MO) - 300 acres in two golf courses
- The Frank Adams Farm (Jackson County, MO) - 297 acres Missouri Century farm
- Sunflower Land Trust Mitigation Bank #1 (Wichita, Kansas) - 30-acres of wetlands and creek restoration



Restoring Land at Platte Land Trust's Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area

PLT completed its third year of a ten-year land stewardship plan to remove invasive plant species and restore the grasslands and woods. This work continues with assistance from the Missouri Department of Conservation, Private Lands program, many volunteers and a herd of goats from Stormy Dancer Farm Goats-on-the-Go.



Programs and Projects

Family Time Outdoors

- Six families participated at two spring sessions.
- This free program encourages families to spend time outdoors and learn about the nature surrounding us. Held at Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area, these events included nature hikes, protection of plants and animals, nature crafts, safety in the outdoors, and land management techniques.

Earth Day Work Day

- Northland Progress members and families celebrated Earth Day 2019 with community service at Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area.
- The crew cleared woody and invasive plants from the old fence line along Union Chapel Road.



Scout Projects

Girl and Boy Scouts completed service award projects at CSNA. Each project is of their choosing from a list of land stewardship and property improvements developed by the Land Stewardship committee. Three projects were completed in 2019:

- Fire pit – Ethan Monger, Eagle Award, Boy Scout Troop 393
- Water spigot pad – Silver Award, Girl Scout Troop 188
- CSNA sign – Austin McCoy, Eagle Award, Boy Scout Troop 393



Summer Solstice - A Night of Sun and Stars

- A celebration of the long days of summer at Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area was held June 21.
- Music around the campfire by Chris Cardwell
- Nature crafts for the children and s'mores were enjoyed by all
- Baby goats! Stormy Dancer Farm showcased their goats.

Native Plant Sale:

- The annual native plant sale was held September 14 at Backyard Bird Center on Barry Road.
- Free guidance on native plants for one's own yard was provided on September 7.
- Fundraiser event for PLT to support operations and land stewardship.
- Many thanks to Mark McKellar and the staff of Backyard Bird Center and to Missouri Wildflower Nursery.

Annual Membership Meeting:

- The Platte Land Trust's annual membership event was held November 14 at the Imeson Park community building, Platte Woods.
- Chili cookoff! Chili donations by Scott's Kitchen, The Craic, board members and friends
- Lynn Horsley, local journalist, provided reflections on her Mexico trip to visit the wintering grounds of monarch butterflies
- Forty-one attendees

Strategic Plan 2025

The Platte Land Trust Board of Directors convened a retreat in May 2019 to revisit the foundations of the organization and to draft a five-year strategic plan to guide us. The Directors updated the mission, vision, and goals for the organization.

Mission

Protecting land, natural resources, and open space in the four-corners area of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa for the benefit of today's communities and future generations.

Vision

Our communities prosper and are resilient because natural areas, farms, and open spaces are valued by people, local government, and businesses. Platte Land Trust protects high quality, valuable habitat for wildlife as well as family farms, bringing value, health, and well-being to our region.

As a volunteer-driven organization, we strive for excellence in our conservation work and relationships with landowners and our community. Platte Land Trust is a leader in voluntary land protection in western Missouri and eastern Kansas.

Strategic Plan

Adopted by the Board of Directors in November 2019, the strategic plan will guide the Platte County Land Trust (also known as Platte Land Trust) through the coming years as the Board of Directors strengthens the organization for a sound and resilient future. It is a fluid document, with objectives and tasks to achieve the goals adjusted as circumstances change in our community. The goals and objectives were organized into three categories:

Grow in Land Holdings

- Protect an additional 1000 acres
- Maximize CSNA for community benefit: develop Master Plan for CSNA; complete habitat restoration at CSNA;
- Establish a land acquisition fund to protect more land

Grow in Organization & People Strength

- Attain Land Trust Alliance accreditation
- Increase membership to 120
- Grow volunteer base to 4 groups and 50 individuals
- Fill Board to capacity of 15 members
- Transition to a paid staff organization

Grow in Financial Stability

- Diversify revenue sources
- Increase annual revenue to \$100,000
- Fully fund stewardship and legal defense account

Financial Statement

Income	
Donations	\$ 3,069
Conservation Easement Fees	\$ 30,360
Grants	\$ 0
Other Income	\$ 6,107
Total revenue	\$ 39,536
Expenses	
Administration	\$ 2,193
Programs	\$ 3,035
Land Stewardship	\$ 9,612
Land Acquisition	\$ 0
Fundraising	\$ 4,235
Legal fees	\$ 21,376
Total Expenses	\$ 40,461
Assets	
Cash on hand, 12-31-19	\$ 6,054
Stewardship & Legal Defense Reserves	\$ 55,965
Real Estate	\$160,000

Supporters

Volunteers

Platte Land Trust is an all-volunteer organization. In addition to the Board of Directors, Platte Land Trust thanks our many volunteers.

- Event support: Missouri Master Naturalists, Sandy Jacobs, Ken Hunt, Lynn Horsley, Claudia Ellermann, David Hermanns, David Dods, Mary Beth Ogle
- Invasive Plant Eradication at CSNA: Northland Progress, Missouri Master Naturalists, Sharen Hunt, Tom Jacobs, Nancy McDowell, Tim McDowell
- Chainsaw Crew at CSNA: Tom Jacobs, Chris Cardwell, John Burwell, Charlie Higdon, Carla Dods, Brady Jacobs, David Dods
- Boy Scout Troop 393
- Boy Scout Troop 344
- Girl Scout Troop 188

Number of people = 47 individuals

Volunteer Hours contributed in 2019 = 460

Donors

Melodee Blobaum
Bob & Nancy Borman
Jim & Joyce Braddock
John Burwell

Ed Casey
Kristen Connelly
David & Carla Dods
David Hermanns & Claudia Ellermann

Michael Fusone & Kathleen Piper
Bill & Marcia Hankins
Jeanette Hartshorn
Chris Hershey
Lynn Horsley
Ginny Moore
Mike & Deb Moore
Olsson Associates
David Park
DeAnn Pasley & Houstin Smith
Andy Sauer
Bryan & Paige Schillig

Scott Schulte
Senior Star at Wexford Place
Beth Quindry
Ellen Rottjakob
Stephen & Ellen Willits Smith
Ken & Sheila Sonnenschein
Sharen & Ken Hunt
Cathy & Stephen Tinetti
Tom & Sandy Jacobs
Elaine Kellerman
Ray McDonald
Tim & Nancy McDowell

Partnerships

As an all-volunteer land trust, PLT relies on partners to conduct our land conservation and education programs. Through partnerships, we strive to collaborate for the benefit of the community and each organization. We are grateful for the following partners.

- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Master Naturalists
- Burroughs Audubon of Greater Kansas City
- Deep Roots (formerly Kansas City Native Plant Initiative)
- Platte County Parks & Recreation
- Missouri University Extension
- Land Trust Alliance
- Heartland Council of Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts of NE Kansas & NW Missouri
- The Conservation Fund

Board of Directors and Advisory Board in 2019

PLT welcomed Chris Cardwell and Jim Braddock to the Board of Directors. Kathy Hart ended her three-year term in August.

Melodee Blobaum
Jim Braddock, Treasurer
Christopher Cardwell
Carla Dods, President
Sharen Hunt

Tom Jacobs, P.E., Vice President
Kathy Jenkins Hart
Nancy McDowell, Secretary
Tim McDowell
Matt Strobbe

Advisory Board current members:

Cory Creed
Neil Davidson
Pauli Kendrick
Mary Nemecek
Mark McKellar

Cory Miller
Bill Quitmeier
Maria Theoharidis
Stephen VanRhein