

Platte Land Trust Annual Report 2020

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.

Major accomplishments in 2020 included the following:

- Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area opened to the public to allow people more access to nature during the COVID pandemic.
- Four Eagle Award projects completed at CSNA.
- 520 Volunteer hours for land stewardship activities and projects
- Our all-volunteer and modest operation proved flexible and sustainable.

Land Conservation

Protecting Land Through Conservation Easements

The Platte Land Trust continued to monitor approximately 600 acres in conservation easement holdings.

- The National Golf Course (Parkville, MO) - 270 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 fourth 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 and the dedication of PLT Board Directors and volunteers.

- Woodland thinning and cedar removal was completed in January and February.
- Every contractors sprayed the vegetation in the utility corridor in June.
- Spot spraying of invasive plants throughout the summer in the grassland areas.
- Invasive plant species removed along the west boundary with two volunteer groups.
- Debris piles were removed and the dam repaired in November.
- Prescribed burn was held December 28, 2020.



Programs and Projects

Volunteer Service

Volunteer community service activities resumed at Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area in the fall.

- Girl Scout Service Unit 605 cleared invasive plants along the west property boundary in September as part of their service to the environment.
- Cub Scouts from Union Chapel Elementary repainted the CSNA picnic tables in October.
- Northland Homeschoolers also cleared invasive plants from the west boundary during a fall volunteer workday.

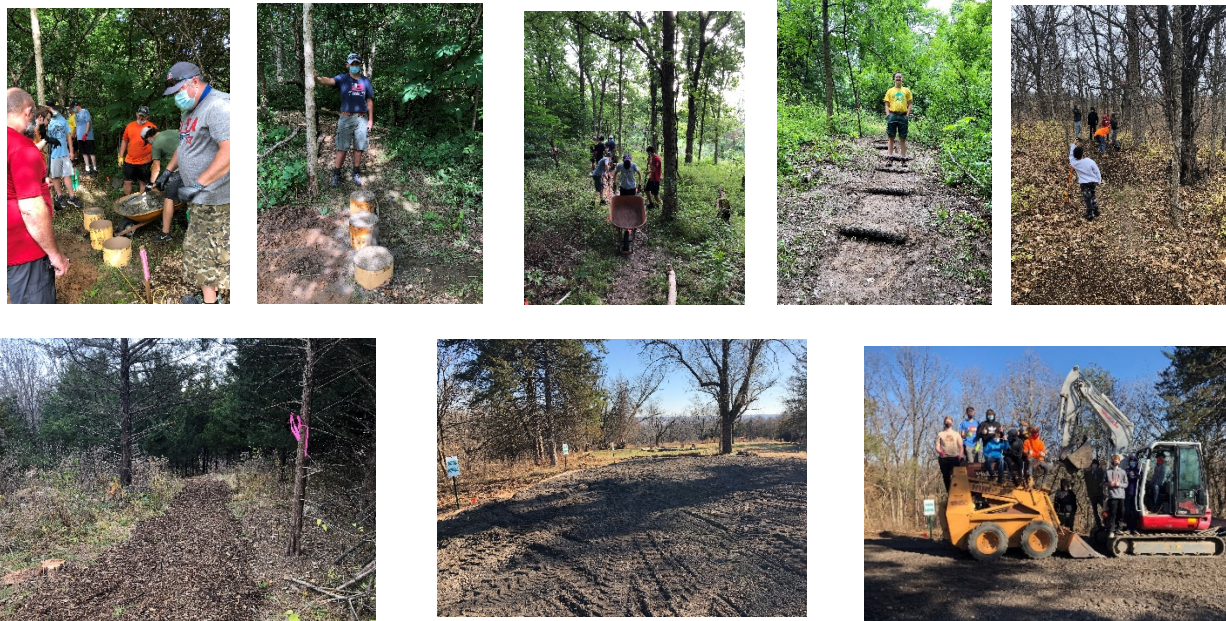
Scout Award Projects

Scouts completed service award projects at CSNA starting in the summer with CDC and public health restrictions followed. Each project is of their choosing from a list of land stewardship and property improvements developed by the Land Stewardship committee.



Four projects were completed in 2020:

- Woodland trail steps – Conner Robertson, Boy Scout Troop 314
- Woodland trail stepping stones – RJ Hughes, Boy Scout Troop 314
- CSNA parking lot resurfacing – Daniel Heckman, Boy Scout Troop 393
- Woodland trail clearing and marking – Josh Parr, Boy Scout Troop 393



Youth at Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area:

Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area (CSNA) is used for Scout troop camping once per month with advance registration. In 2020, camping occurred twice due to Scout program restrictions during the pandemic.

Northland Homeschoolers held a nature education program at CSNA in the fall.

Boy Scout Troop 393 planted a white oak tree at CSNA in honor of a fallen Scout.

Native Plant Sale:

The annual native plant sale was held September 12 at Backyard Bird Center on Barry Road. Sales of native plants were pre-order, pre-pay with curbside pickup due to COVID-19 restrictions. Fundraiser event for PLT supports 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 8 as an Open House at our Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area. Board members and friends enjoyed a fall afternoon in nature with hikes and a campfire. CDC guidelines were followed during the event.

Family Time Outdoors and Summer Solstice

These programs were canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Strategic Plan 2025

The Platte Land Trust Board of Directors continued implementation of the 2025 Strategic Plan.

- Opened Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area to the public every Sunday in April to June to allow more people to enjoy nature during the pandemic restrictions.
- Started land protection discussions with six property owners to protect 535 acres.
- Added two Board Directors: Zachery Kramer and Carrie McCarthy.
- Initiated a master plan for the Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area.
- Prepared PLT for Land Trust Accreditation registration in 2021.

Sawyers Litigation

June 2020 culminated three years of litigation with the Tim I. Sawyers Trust and estate to recoup the costs incurred from the February 2017 fire that destroyed the house. Funds for the fire cleanup and legal counsel were paid from operating funds and stewardship reserve funds. The Board hired Levy Craig law firm to represent the organization with the intent of recouping our costs and the value of the house.

The judge ruled that Platte Land Trust has a valid claim against the estate of Tim Sawyers concluding PLT's legal action. As of December 31, 2020 PLT had not received funds from the Tim Sawyers estate or trust.

Financial Statement

At the close of the fiscal year on December 31, 2020, restricted and designated monetary assets were at the following levels.

Unrestricted	\$22,371
Donor Restricted – Stewardship	\$15,000
Board Designated - Stewardship	\$ 7,937

A summary of revenue and expenses for the year are listed below.

Income	
Donations	\$ 2,448
Conservation Easement Fees	\$ 20,920
Grants	\$ 458
Fundraising	\$ 1,115
Other Income	\$ 636
Total revenue	\$ 25,577
Expenses	
Administration & Financial Management	\$ 2,418
Capacity Building & Communications	\$ 2,543
Programs	\$ 136
Land Stewardship	\$ 4,254
Land Acquisition	\$ 0

Fundraising	\$ 321
Legal fees	\$ 320
Total Expenses	\$ 9,992
Assets	
Cash on hand, 12-31-20	\$ 22,371
Stewardship & Legal Defense Reserves	\$ 24,937
Real Estate	\$160,000

Supporters

Platte Land Trust is very grateful for the gifts of time, talent, and treasure received in 2020.

Volunteers

In addition to the Board of Directors who run the organization, Platte Land Trust thanks our many volunteers for land stewardship work and property improvements.

- Invasive Plant Eradication at CSNA: Girl Scouts, Northland Homeschoolers, Missouri Master Naturalists, Sharen Hunt, Tom Jacobs, Nancy McDowell, Tim McDowell, Chris Cardwell, Kristen Bontrager, Carla Dods, Kristen Bontrager, Jeanette Hartshorn
- Chainsaw Crew at CSNA: Tom Jacobs, Chris Cardwell, John Burwell, Charlie Higdon, Kris Kramer, Jim Braddock, Chris Hershey
- Prescribed burn crew: Tom Jacobs, Carla Dods, Jim Braddock, Sharen Hunt, Kris Kramer, John Burwell, Chris Hershey, Chris Cardwell, Kristen Bontrager
- Boy Scout Troop 393
- Boy Scout Troop 314
- Boy Scout Troop 7413
- Girl Scout Service Unit 605
- Union Chapel Elementary Cub Scouts

Number of individuals = 90 individuals

Volunteer Hours contributed in 2020 = 520

Donors

Monetary contributions:

Douglas & Leigh Bias
Luis & Ashleigh Blanco
Bob & Nancy Borman
Jim & Joyce Braddock
John Burwell
Ed Casey
Carla Dods
Edie & Dave Edwards
Roscoe & Barbara Fields
Michael and Kathleen Fusone

Jeanette Hartshorn
Lynn Horsley
Marion Huet-Derrossett
Tom Jacobs
Kathy Jenkins Hart
Elaine Kellerman
Tim McDowell
Bradley & Melinda Mongar
Mike & Deb Moore
Olsson Associates



David Park
Nancy Potter
Bill Quitmeier
Scott Schulte
Stephen Smith

Sunflower Land Trust Jim Michael
The National Golf Club
Matt Tinnel
VML Foundation

In-kind contributions of goods and services:
Boy Scout Troops 393 and 314
Levy Craig Law Firm
Jim Braddock
Carla Dods
Nancy and Tim McDowell
Sharen Hunt

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)
- Land Trust Alliance - Midwest
- Heartland Council of Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts of NE Kansas & NW Missouri
- The Conservation Fund

Board of Directors and Advisory Board

Zachary Kramer and Carrie McCarthy joined the Board of Directors in 2020. Sharen Hunt and Melodee Blobaum ended their terms on Board.

Jim Braddock, Treasurer
Christopher Cardwell
Carla Dods, President
Tom Jacobs, P.E., Vice President
Zachary Kramer

Carrie McCarthy
Nancy McDowell, Secretary
Tim McDowell
Matt Strobbe

Advisory Board current members:

Cory Creed
Sharen Hunt
Kathy Jenkins Hart
Mary Nemecek
Mark McKellar

Cory Miller
Bill Quitmeier
Maria Theoharidis
Neil Davidson

This year Platte Land Trust continued operations with slight modifications during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our all-volunteer and modest operation proved flexible and resilient.

- Board of Director and committee meetings were held using virtual conference platforms.
- Financial expenditures were reduced due to cancelation of events and programs.
- Board members traveled separately to conduct annual monitoring and visit potential properties.
- In-person events and volunteer land stewardship workdays were canceled for the spring and summer.
- Volunteer land stewardship activities resumed in the fall following CDC guidelines.

