

Platte Land Trust Annual Report 2021

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 2021 included the following:

- Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area opened to the public every day under the Missouri Recreational Access Program.
- Five Eagle Award projects and one Gold Award project were completed at CSNA.
- 520 Volunteer hours for land stewardship activities and projects
- PLT was selected for and began the process of accreditation with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

Land Conservation

Protecting Land Through Conservation Easements

The Platte Land Trust continued to monitor approximately 630 acres in conservation easement holdings.

- The National Golf Course (Parkville, MO) – about 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 Habitat at Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area

PLT completed a fifth 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 dedication of PLT Board Directors and volunteers such as Missouri Master Naturalists.

- Woodland thinning and cedar removal was completed in January and February.
- Spot spraying of invasive plants throughout the warm seasons in the grassland areas.
- Clearing trails of fallen trees.
- Reseeding where the dam was repaired in 2020 with native grasses and flowers.

- Cleared invasive plants and brush along the west property boundary.
- Burned brush piles, especially cedar branches of fallen trees and vines, to allow sunlight to reach native plants.
- Goats on the Go (GOTG) grazed 1.5 acres of understory and invasive plants.



Programs and Projects

Earth Day + Arbor Day Celebration

PLT passed out free native tree seedlings to celebrate spring at the Parkville Farmer's Market on April _____. The tree seedlings were purchased from the Missouri Department of Conservation nursery. About 350 seedlings were given to 100 patrons.



Volunteer Service

Volunteer community service activities resumed at Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area in 2021.

- Missouri Master Naturalist (MMN) refurbished the bluebird nest boxes and conducted bird surveys.
- MMN volunteers assisted with invasive plant removal on volunteer workdays.

Scout Award Projects

Scouts completed service award projects at CSNA throughout the year 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.

Six projects were completed in 2020:

- Ten bluebird nest boxes – Adira Mongar, Girl Scout Gold Award, Troop 3114
- Move storage shed to CSNA – Gus Jones, Boy Scout Troop 393
- Woodland trail central – Colby Green, Boy Scout Troop 314
- CSNA information kiosk – Cayo Dominguez-Heithoff, Boy Scout Troop 314
- Wildlife viewing station, pond – Derek Darr, Boy Scout Troop 393
- Firewood storage bin – Graeson Phillips, Boy Scout Troop 314



Groups at Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area

Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area (CSNA) is used for Scout troop camping once per month with advance registration. In 2021, camping occurred once due to Scout program restrictions during the pandemic.

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

Native Plant Sale

The annual native plant sale was held August xx at Backyard Bird Center on Barry Road. Sales returned to in-person and pre-order, pre-pay. This 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 June xx as part of the Summer Solstiece event at the Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area. Board members and friends enjoyed a summer evening in nature with music, nature hikes, and a campfire.

Family Time Outdoors

This program remained canceled in 2021 due to increases COVID-19 cases during the summer.

Partnerships

PLT actively participated in the Missouri Land Trust Coalition, serving on the steering committee and assisting with the new website, www.missourilandtrusts.org. We also participated in the Fall Fest at the KC Farm School on Gibbs Road.



Platte Land Trust received a grant from Platte County Parks & Recreation to install bee houses at CSNA. Education programs about bees and other pollinators will commence in 2022.

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 day to allow more people to enjoy nature.
- Started land protection discussions with six property owners to protect 535 acres.
- Added one Board Director for a total of ten members.
- Completed a master plan for the Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area.
- PLT initiated Land Trust Accreditation with registration in August and submitting our Pre-application in November. The Board of Directors hired consultant Sarah Naperala to assist with the accreditation application process.



Financial Statement

At the close of the fiscal year on December 31, 2021, financial assets were at the following levels. A summary of revenue and expenses for the fiscal year are listed below.

Unrestricted	\$ 27,254
Donor Restricted	\$ 15,952
Board Designated	\$121,590
Real Estate	\$160,000

Income	
Donations	\$ 6,523
Conservation Easement Fees	\$ 21,170
Grants	\$ 2,148
Fundraising	\$ 1,852
Land Transaction contributions - restricted	\$ 1,760
Interest Income	\$ 1,143
Uncategorized – Sawyers Trust	\$ 73,308
Total revenue	\$ 107,904
Expenses	
Administration & Financial Management	\$ 2,489
Capacity Building & Communications	\$ 2,096
Programs	\$ 700
Land Stewardship	\$ 12,569
Land Acquisition	\$ 808
Fundraising	\$ 695
Legal fees	\$ 603
Accreditation	\$ 4,050
Reserves – Board designated	\$ 75,000
Total Expenses	\$ 99,011
Net	\$ 8,893

Supporters

Platte Land Trust is very grateful for the gifts of time, talent, and treasure received in 2021.

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.

- CSNA Habitat Volunteers: Sharen Hunt, Tom Jacobs, Nancy McDowell, Tim McDowell, Chris Cardwell, Carla Dods, Jeanette Hartshorn, John Burwell, Charlie Higdon, Jim Braddock, Chris Hershey, Eddie & Dave Edwards, Mary Grinter, Mickie Sandman, Adam Rossi, Chelsea Myrick, Simon Berch, Shannon & Paul Holder, David Dods, Jack Corrigan, Kris Kramer, Ruth & Walt Hilbarger
- Boy Scout Troop 7413
- Girl Scout Service Unit 605
- Northland Homeschoolers
- Missouri Master Naturalists – Osage Trail and Loess Bluffs chapters

Number of individuals = 63 individuals

Volunteer Hours contributed = 587 hours

Donors and Supporters

Monetary contributions:

Bob & Nancy Borman
Jim & Joyce Braddock
John Burwell
Christopher Cardwell
Ed Casey
Lora Cohn
Carla Dods
David Hermanns & Claudia Ellermann
Michael and Kathleen Fasone
Bill & Marcia Hankins
Jeanette Hartshorn
Ted Heisel
Lynn Horsley
Sharen Hunt
Tom Jacobs
Elaine Kellerman

Zachary Kramer
Lee Kupfer
Levy Craig Law Firm
Nancy and Tim McDowell
Ginny Moore
Nancy Potter
Bill Quitmeier
Scott Schulte
Shawnee Farm Account
Sheila Shockey
Stephen Smith
Target Corporation
The National Golf Club
Matt Tinnel
Anonymous, Vanguard Charitable Trust

In-kind contributions of goods and services:

Boy Scout Troops 393 and 314
Jim Braddock
Carla Dods
Nancy and Tim McDowell

Sharen Hunt
Tom Jacobs
Mongar Family
Andy Braddock

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
- The Conservation Fund
- Missouri Land Trust Coalition

Board of Directors and Advisory Board

David Perry joined the Board of Directors in 2021. The Advisory Board was reduced to six people.

Board of Directors:

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

Carrie McCarthy
Nancy McDowell, Secretary
Tim McDowell
David Perry
Matt Strobbe

Advisory Board members:

Sharen Hunt
Kathy Jenkins Hart
Mary Nemecek

Mark McKellar
Bill Quitmeier
Maria Theoharidis

