Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation
Natural Areas Land Acquisition Grants
2002-2012
Between 2002 and 2006, ICECF awarded grants to support the acquisition of 7,990 acres and 759 acres of conservation easements, which generated additional donations of 110 acres outright and 342 acres of conservation easements.

The map to the right illustrates the location of 54 sites, representative of 53 grants awarded for the acquisition of at least 75 parcels of land.

19 of the sites contain an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site. INAI sites designate high-quality natural areas.

19 of the sites have additional or special protection through registration as a Land and Water Reserve, dedication as a Nature Preserve or enrollment as a Natural Heritage Landmark with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Established in 1963, the Commission preserves and protects natural areas and endangered species.
**2002**

1. **Sunnyside Park Water Quality Project**, DuPage County
   5 acres, fee simple acquisition
   Wetland and forested floodplain habitat along the East Branch DuPage River in Bloomingdale
   DuPage County Department of Development and Environmental Concerns

2. **Potawatomi Woods Forest Preserve**, DeKalb County
   300 acres, fee simple acquisition
   Forested floodplain along the South Branch of the Kishwaukee River protected by the Natural Land Institute
   DeKalb County Forest Preserve District

3. **Prairie Ridge State Natural Area** addition, Jasper County
   40 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
   Grassland habitat part of the larger 4,101-acre bi-county protected area
   Illinois Audubon Society

4. **Piasa Creek Watershed Project**, Jersey County
   107 acres, fee simple acquisition
   Multiple parcel acquisition of wetland and stream buffer habitat along Mississippi River tributary
   Great Rivers Land Trust

5. **Garfield Farm** addition, Kane County
   99 acres, fee simple acquisition
   Restored prairie and wetland habitat that buffer existing natural areas
   Campion Historic Agricultural Lands

6. **Kankakee Sands** addition, Kankakee County
   144 acres, fee simple acquisition
   Multiple parcel acquisition of savanna and wetland habitat near the Indiana border
   The Nature Conservancy

7. **Camp River Trails**, LaSalle County
   68 acres, easement acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
   Upland and floodplain forest, seeps and sandstone bluffs along the Fox River protected by
   The Conservation Foundation
   Girl Scouts of Whispering Oaks Council

8. **Ryan Wetland and Sand Prairie**, Lee County
   44 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
   Sand bottom wetlands and prairie
   Lee County Soil and Water Conservation District

9. **Kyte River Bottoms Land and Water Reserve**, Ogle County
   235 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
   Forest at the confluence of the Kyte and Rock Rivers near Oregon
   Natural Land Institute

10. **Hidden Oaks Conservation Area**, Will County
    26 acres, fee simple acquisition;
    33 acres donated outright
    Forest and wetland meadow along the DuPage River
    protected by the Forest Preserve District of Will County
    Village of Bolingbrook

**2003**

11. **Big Muddy Wetlands addition to Shawnee National Forest**, Jackson County
    195 acres, fee simple acquisition
    Restored wetland habitat along the Big Muddy River
    protected by Ducks Unlimited
    U.S. Forest Service

12. **Chautauqua Bottoms Preserve**, Jackson County
    20 acres, fee simple acquisition
    Forested floodplain of Little Crab Orchard Creek in Carbondale
    Green Earth, Inc.

13. **Prairie Ridge State Natural Area** addition, Jasper County
    200 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
    Grassland habitat protected by Illinois Audubon Society, northwest of 2002 acquisition
    Illinois Department of Natural Resources

14. **Blackberry Maples Forest Preserve** addition, Kane County
    67 acres, fee simple acquisition
    Sugar Maple woods containing Great Blue Heron rookeries and marsh, prairie and fen habitat
    Kane County Forest Preserve District

15. **Boone Creek Conservation Area** addition, McHenry County
    334 acres, fee simple acquisition
    Wetlands and oak/hickory woodlands protected by the
    McHenry County Conservation Foundation
    McHenry County Conservation District

16. **Beaver Island addition to Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge**, Randolph County
    245 acres, fee simple acquisition
    Forested island on the Mississippi River protected by
    Ducks Unlimited
    U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

17. **Shawnee National Forest** addition, Union County
    152 acres, fee simple acquisition
    In-holding along the Hutchins Creek Valley in the Illinois Ozarks protected by The Nature Conservancy
    U.S. Forest Service

18. **Evans-Judge Preserve** addition, Will County
    168 acres, fee simple acquisition
    Savanna, wetlands and floodplain along the south bank of the Kankakee River near complex of protected sites
    Forest Preserve District of Will County
2004

19 Bluff Spring Fen Nature Preserve and buffer, Cook County
89 acres, fee simple acquisition; 77 acres donated outright / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve
Diverse wetland complex near the Fox River in Elgin
Forest Preserve District of Cook County

20 Swift Prairie Forest Preserve addition, DuPage County
2 acres, fee simple acquisition / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer
Prairie and wetlands buffering Swift Prairie Nature Preserve near Addison
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

21 West Chicago Prairie Forest Preserve addition, DuPage County
3 acres, fee simple acquisition / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer
Wetlands to expand and buffer Truitt-Hoff Nature Preserve
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

22 Kolar Savanna, creation of Iroquois Sands Land and Water Reserve, Iroquois County
44 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Black oak savanna next to two state-owned INPC sites
Friends of the Kankakee

23 Hoover Forest Preserve, Kendall County
140 acres, fee simple acquisition
Bluffs, ravines and wetlands along the Fox River
Kendall County Forest Preserve District

24 Plum Island Sanctuary, LaSalle County
46 acres, fee simple acquisition / enrolled Illinois Natural Heritage Landmark
Island in the Illinois River across from Starved Rock providing a foraging base and rest area for bald eagles
Illinois Audubon Society

25 James Family Woods connector parcel, Livingston County
6 acres, fee simple acquisition
Forested habitat along Indian Creek that provides access to Fugate Woods near Fairbury
Prairie Lands Foundation

26 Wightman Lake addition to Marshall State Fish and Wildlife Area, Marshall County
370 acres, fee simple acquisition
Restored wetland and bottomland hardwood habitat along the Illinois River protected by Ducks Unlimited Illinois Department of Natural Resources

27 Fox Bluff Conservation Area, McHenry County
60 acres, fee simple acquisition
Oak woodland along the Fox River, part of a larger project to purchase the 116-acre former Camp Algonquin protected by McHenry County Conservation Foundation
McHenry County Conservation District

28 Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve, Monroe County
450 acres, easement acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Hilltop prairie, bluffs and forests overlooking the Mississippi bottomlands, protected by Illinois Audubon Society
Village of Valmeyer

29 Clear Creek Knolls addition to Nachusa Grasslands, Ogle and Lee County
973 acres, fee simple acquisition;
290 acres, easement donation
Grassland, savanna and woodland habitat
The Nature Conservancy

30 Monticello’s Sangamon River Land and Water Reserve, Piatt County
153 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Riparian habitat along the Sangamon River
City of Monticello

31 Rockwood Island addition to Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge, Randolph County
660 acres, fee simple acquisition
Island and side-channel habitat protected by HeartLands Conservancy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

32 Harlem Hills Nature Preserve addition, Winnebago County
4 acres, fee simple acquisition / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer
Gravel hill prairie in Loves Park protected by Natural Land Institute
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
**2005**

33 **Newburg Village Conservation Area**, Boone County

- 103 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Wetland habitat along the Kishwaukee River
- Boone County Conservation District

34 **Plucheman's Slough addition to Sanganois State Fish and Wildlife Area**, Cass County

- 331 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Part of 452-acre wetland complex connecting bottomland forest to backwater lake habitat at the confluence of the Sangamon and Illinois Rivers, protected by Ducks Unlimited
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources

35 **Wapello Land and Water Reserve**, Jo Daviess and Carroll County

- 80 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
- Mesic prairie and upland forest along Apple River
- Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation

36 **Cache River State Natural Area** addition, Johnson County

- 40 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Upland forest protected by the Trust for Public Land
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources

37 **Kankakee Sands** addition, Kankakee County

- 109 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Black oak and dry savanna near previous acquisitions at Kankakee Sands
- The Nature Conservancy

38 **Shady Rest Land and Water Reserve**, Piatt County

- 28 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
- Upland and floodplain forest along the Sangamon River
- Plitt County Forest Preserve District

39 **Big Grand Pierre Land and Water Reserve**, Pope County

- 222 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
- Wooded in-holding at Shawnee National Forest protected by Illinois Audubon Society
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources

40 **Rockwood Island addition to Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge**, Randolph County

- 599 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Bottomland forest and wetlands protected by Heartlands Conservancy
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

41 **Protected Mississippi River Bluffs**, St. Clair County

- 2 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Multiple parcel acquisition of river bluffs in East St. Louis
- St. Clair County Greenspace Foundation

42 **Pecatonica River Valley easements**, Winnebago County

- 230 acres, easement acquisition
- Bottomland forests and wetlands south of Rockton
- Private Landowners / Natural Land Institute

43 **Letcher Basin Preserve**, Woodford County

- 151 acres, fee simple acquisition;
- 52 acres, easement donation
- Tallgrass prairie, wetland and creek habitat along the Mackinaw River
- Parklands Foundation

44 **Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge** addition, Alexander County

- 231 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Wetlands along the Cache River protected by Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

45 **Mahoney addition to Des Plaines Riverway**, DuPage County

- 9 acres, fee simple acquisition / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve
- Forested habitat along the Des Plaines River
- Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

46 **Anderson Savanna addition to Iroquois Sands Land and Water Reserve**, Iroquois County

- 22 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
- Black oak savanna connecting two state-owned INPC sites to Indiana's Willow Slough State Fish and Wildlife Area
- Friends of the Kankakee

47 **Oakland Nature Preserve**, Jackson County

- 12 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Woodlands that buffer high-quality prairie and wildlife corridor in Carbondale
- Green Earth, Inc.

48 **Grunwald Farm Forest Preserve**, Kane County

- 160 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Woodland, wetland and fen habitat along Blackberry Creek near 2003 acquisition, part of a larger project to create a new 224-acre preserve
- Kane County Forest Preserve District

49 **Reservation Woods**, Kendall County

- 12 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Woodland habitat at the center of a 100-acre forest protected by The Conservation Foundation
- Forest Preserve District of Kendall County

50 **Funks Grove**, McLean County

- 453 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
- Old-growth forest, portions of Timber Creek, and prairie grove along Sugar Creek, part of a larger 1,100-acre protected natural area
- Sugar Grove Foundation

51 **Cranfill addition to Coffeen Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area**, Montgomery County

- 313 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Restored prairie, wetland and forest providing pheasant and quail habitat, protected by Pheasants Forever
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources

52 **Rockwood Island addition to Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge**, Randolph County

- 143 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Bottomland in-holdings protected by Heartlands Conservancy
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

53 **Nieman Marsh**, Winnebago County

- 38 acres, fee simple acquisition;
- 11 acres, easement acquisition
- Deep marsh, sedge meadow and wetlands, northeast of Pecatonica
- Natural Land Institute

54 **Kropp-Schulenberg Prairie addition to Riverview Farmstead Preserve**, Will County

- 10 acres, fee simple acquisition
- Prairie and woodland habitat along the DuPage River
- Forest Preserve District of Will County
Between 2007 and 2011, ICECF awarded grants to support the acquisition of 9,088 acres and 2,295 acres of conservation easements, which generated additional donations of 93 acres of conservation easements.

The map to the right illustrates the location of 68 sites, representative of 65 grants awarded for the acquisition of at least 117 parcels of land.

25 of the sites contain an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site. INAI sites designate high-quality natural areas.

13 of the sites have additional or special protection through registration as a Land and Water Reserve, dedication as a Nature Preserve or enrollment as a Natural Heritage Landmark with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Established in 1963, the Commission preserves and protects natural areas and endangered species.

**Map Legend**
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
2007

55 **Piscassaw Fen Conservation Area**, Boone County
80 acres, fee simple acquisition
Sedge meadow, wetland and fen habitat
Boone County Conservation District

56 **Boyle Woods**, Cass County
50 acres, fee simple acquisition
Old-growth forest and mesic upland habitat
Friends of the Sangamon Valley

57 Pluchemans Slough addition to **Sanganois State Fish and Wildlife Area**, Cass County
80 acres, fee simple acquisition
Part of 452-acre wetland complex connecting bottomland forest to backwater lake at confluence of Sangamon and Illinois Rivers, protected by Ducks Unlimited Illinois Department of Natural Resources

58 **Sangamon River Forest Preserve**, Champaign County
160 acres, fee simple acquisition
Floodplain forest and oak savanna, south of Fisher Champaign County Forest Preserve District

59 **Lovetts Pond State Natural Area addition**, Jackson County
60 acres, fee simple acquisition
Wetland habitat, near Shawnee National Forest, protected by The Nature Conservancy Illinois Department of Natural Resources

60 **Palisades Preserve**, Jersey County
430 acres, fee simple acquisition / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve
Oak and hickory forest, hill prairie and limestone cliffs overlooking the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois River confluences, protected by Great Rivers Land Trust Lewis and Clark Community College Foundation

61 **Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve**, Jo Daviess County
52 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Oak savanna, hill prairies and bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation

62 **Kankakee Sands addition**, Kankakee County
43 acres, fee simple acquisition
Multiple parcel acquisitions of black oak savanna near previous acquisitions at Kankakee Sands
The Nature Conservancy

63 **Millbrook South Forest Preserve**, Kendall County
233 acres, fee simple acquisition
River corridor and woodlands along the Fox River
Kendall County Forest Preserve District

64 **Silver Creek addition to Fel-Pro RRR Conservation Area**, McHenry County
58 acres, fee simple acquisition / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve
Oak savanna and wetland fen habitat along Silver Creek
McHenry County Conservation District

65 **Singing Woods addition**, Peoria County
28 acres, fee simple acquisition
Woodlands, meadows and rare hill prairies contiguous with larger 1,100-acre state-dedicated Nature Preserve
Peoria Park District

66 **Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge addition**, Pulaski County
140 acres, fee simple acquisition
Cache River wetlands protected by American Land Conservancy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

67 **Milan Bottoms Preserve**, Rock Island County
93 acres, fee simple acquisition
Mississippi floodplain forest near Mark Twain National Fish and Wildlife Refuge
Natural Land Institute

68 **Protected Mississippi River Bluffs**, St. Clair County
7 acres, fee simple acquisition
Bluff habitat buffering adjacent forest, near 2005 site
St. Clair County Greenspace Foundation

69 **Cave Spring Cave Natural Heritage Landmark**, Union County
68 acre, fee simple acquisition
Natural Heritage Landmark
Woodland in-holding in Shawnee National Forest protected by The Nature Conservancy U.S. Forest Service

70 **Stone Bridge Forest Preserve**, Winnebago County
27 acres, fee simple acquisition
River corridor and riparian habitat along Kinnikinnick Creek
Winnebago County Forest Preserve District

71 **Hidden Oaks Conservation Area addition**, Will County
3 acres, fee simple acquisition
Forest and meadow in-holding, near 2002 site
Bolingbrook Park District

2008

72 **Kishwaukee Valley Conservation Area**, Boone County
40 acres, fee simple acquisition
Wetlands and Kishwaukee River floodplain
Boone County Conservation District

73 **Patton Woods addition to Middle Fork River Forest Preserve**, Champaign County
5 acres, fee simple acquisition
Historic oak/hickory forest including some old-growth remnants, near the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River Champaign County Forest Preserve District

74 **Pyles Fork Preserve**, Jackson County
126 acres, fee simple acquisition
Forested floodplain along tributary of Crab Orchard Creek connected to public park in Carbondale, protected by the American Land Conservancy Green Earth, Inc

75 **Palisades Preserve buffer**, Jersey County
353 acres, fee simple acquisition
Oak/hickory forested bluffs and ridge-top prairies overlooking the Mississippi River, contiguous with 2007 acquisition
Great Rivers Land Trust

76 **Horseshoe Mound Park**, Jo Daviess County
40 acres, fee simple acquisition
Oak savanna and grassland on top of 240-foot geologic mound east of Galena
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation

77 **Brunner Family Forest Preserve**, Kane County
146 acres, fee simple acquisition
Fen, seeps, bluffs and woods along a one-mile stretch of the Fox River, part of a larger project to purchase 700-acre farm connecting two existing forest preserves Kane County Forest Preserve District

78 **Arlington Wetlands**, Madison County
76 acre, fee simple acquisition / easement
Wetlands near confluence of Illinois and Missouri Rivers Madison County Government Planning and Development Department / HeartLands Conservancy

79 **Yonder Prairie**, McHenry County
40 acres, fee simple acquisition / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve
Wet prairie habitat, part of the 103-acre protected core of the diverse West Woodstock Prairie
The Land Conservancy of McHenry County
80 **Waller Tract**, McLean County
90 acres, fee simple acquisition
Forest, wetland and grassland connected to park-land
surrounding Evergreen Lake and managed by
Prairielands Preservation Foundation
City of Bloomington

81 **Grove Creek Forest Preserve**, Stephenson County
7 acres, fee simple acquisition
Buffer habitat along Grove Creek connected to 71 acres
of prairie in Winnebago County (Project 83), protected
by the Natural Land Institute
Winnebago County Forest Preserve

82 **Donohue Grove Preserve** addition, Will County
71 acres, fee simple acquisition
Mature oak/hickory forest bisected by Fork Creek
Forest Preserve District of Will County

83 **Grove Creek Forest Preserve**, Winnebago County
71 acres, fee simple acquisition
Dry and mesic prairie bisected by Grove Creek,
protected along with the 7 acres in Stephenson County
(Project 81) to create a new preserve
Winnebago County Forest Preserve District

84 **Kilbuck Bluffs Forest Preserve**, Winnebago County
59 acres, fee simple acquisition
Floodplain forest along the Kilbuck Creek and
Kishwaukee River
Winnebago County Forest Preserve District

85 **Ottertail Marsh**, Winnebago County
131 acres, easement acquisition
Floodplain forest, sloughs, wetland and marsh habitat
along one-mile stretch of Sugar River, west of Rockton
Private Landowner / Natural Land Institute

86 **Plucheman’s Slough addition to Sanganois State
Fish and Wildlife Area**, Cass County
40 acres, fee simple acquisition
Part of 452-acre wetland complex connecting bottom-
land forest to backwater lake habitat at confluence of
Sangamon and Illinois Rivers, protected by
Ducks Unlimited
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

87 **Sangamon Bay easement**, Cass County
426 acres, easement acquisition
Wetland and floodplain forest habitat near
Plucheman’s Slough
Private Landowner / Ducks Unlimited

88 **Apple River Canyon State Park** addition,
Jo Daviess County
139 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois
Land and Water Reserve
Oak/hickory forest, grasslands and dolomite bluffs along
one mile of Apple River, protected by the Natural Land
Institute, which generated Land and Water registration
of an additional 85 acres of adjacent hardwood forest
owned by Boy Scouts camp
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

89 **Eagle’s Nest Land and Water Reserve**, Jo Daviess County
125 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois
Land and Water Reserve
Woodland and wetland habitat along the county’s
southern stretch of the Apple River
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation

90 **Kankakee Sands** addition, Kankakee County
105 acres, fee simple acquisition
Multiple parcel acquisition of black oak savanna
habitat connecting previously protected land
The Nature Conservancy

91 **Franklin Creek Headwaters**, Lee County
80 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored prairie and 1,000 feet of exposed cliffs
and woods along Franklin Creek, connecting Franklin
Grove to the state natural area and Nachusa
Grasslands via public trail
Franklin Creek Preservation Area Committee

92 **Rocky Fork Creek Corridor**, Madison County
35 acres, fee simple acquisition
Multiple parcel acquisition of riparian habitat, part of
Network to Freedom Underground Railroad site
Great Rivers Land Trust

93 **Sweeney Woods**, McLean County
77 acres, fee simple acquisition
Restored floodplain forest, creating 115 acres of
contiguous habitat along the Mackinaw River
Parklands Foundation

94 **Forest Glen Preserve** addition, Vermilion County
108 acres, fee simple acquisition
Restored prairie in-holding protected by
Pheasants Forever
Vermilion County Conservation District

95 **Ipsen Road Conservation Area**, Boone County
186 acres, fee simple acquisition
Bottomland hardwoods, floodplains and wet meadows
near BCCD’s LIB Conservation Area
Boone County Conservation District

96 **Point Pleasant Wetland addition to Middle Fork
River Forest Preserve**, Champaign County
40 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored wetland and upland prairie in the
northeast corner of the county
Champaign County Forest Preserve District

97 **Dolton Avenue Prairie**, Cook County
24 acres, fee simple acquisition
Wet and wet-mesic prairie connected, via the planned
Cal Sag Trail, to a string of other Illinois Natural Areas
Inventory sites including the Calumet City Prairie
Forest Preserve District of Cook County

98 **Kankakee Sands** addition, Iroquois County
24 acres, fee simple acquisition
Multiple parcel acquisitions of black oak savannas
and sand flatwoods near Iroquois Sands
Land and Water Reserve
Friends of the Kankakee

99 **Galena Gateway Park**, Jo Daviess County
100 acres, fee simple acquisition / easement
Savanna, grassland and to-be-restored bluffland prairie
at the eastern entrance to the City of Galena, stretching
from Horseshoe Mound (2008 grant) to the Galena
River, protected by Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
City of Galena / JDCF

100 **Cache River State Natural Area** addition, Johnson County
40 acres, fee simple acquisition
Forested wetlands along the Cache River protected by
American Land Conservancy
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
101 **Forever Fields**, Knox County
1,151 acres, fee simple acquisition
Grassland connected to existing Pheasant Habitat Area
Pheasants Forever, IDNR

102 **Orland Prairie addition to Nachusa Grasslands**, Ogle County
357 acres, fee simple acquisition
Woodland and grassland habitat, near 2004 acquisition
The Nature Conservancy

103 **Sand Ridge Prairie**, Ogle County
83 acres, fee simple acquisition
Sand prairie near Kyte River Bottoms, south of Oregon
Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County

104 **Loy Prairie Land and Water Reserve**, Marion County
200 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
To-be-restored prairie buffering Twelve-Mile Prairie INAI site and connected to Prairie Ridge State Natural Area
Illinois Audubon Society

105 **Kidd Lake Marsh State Natural Area** addition, Monroe County
94 acres, fee simple acquisition
Prairie marsh and wetland habitat in bottomlands below Fults Hill Prairie Nature Preserve, protected by Heartlands Conservancy
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

106 **White Rock**, Monroe County
476 total acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve (168 acres) / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve (306 acres)
Upland forest, hill prairies and limestone glade, overlooking the Mississippi bottomlands
Heartlands Conservancy, Cliftop

107 **Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve**, Will County
269 acres, fee simple acquisition / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve
Rare dolomite prairie on the Des Plaines River
Forest Preserve District of Will County

108 **Stone Bridge Forest Preserve** addition, Winnebago County
11 acres, fee simple acquisition
Woodlands along Kinnikinnick Creek, connected to 2007 acquisition
Winnebago County Forest Preserve District

109 Jenkins/Van Zelst Marsh addition to **Woodford County State Fish and Wildlife Area**, Woodford County
237 acres, fee simple acquisition
Restorable marsh, wetland fen, floodplain forest and upland bluff forest overlooking Illinois River Valley on Upper Peoria Lakes, protected by Ducks Unlimited Illinois Department of Natural Resources

110 **Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program enrollment**, Woodford County
83 acres, easement acquisition
Wetlands in Upper Peoria Lake protected by Ducks Unlimited in coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service
Private Landowner / USWREP

**2010 continued**

111 **Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area** addition, Boone County
Estimated 137 acres, fee simple acquisition
Multiple parcel acquisition of oak savanna, forested wetlands and riparian corridor, adding to 2007 acquisition
Boone County Conservation District

112 **Embarrasses, Coles County**
141 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Upland forest spread across broad ridges and steep ravines adjacent to Warbler Woods Nature Preserve
Grand Prairie Friends

113 **Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve**, DeKalb County
43 acres, fee simple acquisition
Restored natural area with oak savanna, wetland, fen, stream and forest habitat in northern DeKalb County
DeKalb County Forest Preserve District

114 **East Branch Forest Preserve** addition, DuPage County
10 acres, fee simple acquisition
In-holding to large (500+ acres) preserve in Glendale Heights that is part of the East Branch
DuPage River greenway
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

115 **Kankakee Sands connector parcels**, Iroquois County
10 acres, fee simple acquisition
Black oak savannas and sand flatwoods, part of project to connect Iroquois County State Wildlife Area and Willow Slough State Fish and Wildlife Area
Friends of the Kankakee

116 **William G. Wells Nature Preserve Buffer addition to the Dokum Mskoda Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve, Lake County**
8 acres, fee simple acquisition / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer
Acquisition of buffer parcel critical to the dedication of the adjoining 93-acre Nature Preserve by Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Conservé Lake County

117 **Hurd Tract**, Lee County
40 acres, fee simple acquisition
Private in-holding to Franklin Creek State Natural Area containing hardwood forest, a segment of the creek and exposed bedrock cliffs
Franklin Creek Preservation Area Committee

118 **Winding Creek Conservation Area** addition, McHenry County
48 acres, fee simple acquisition
Oak savanna in-holding along the Nippersink Creek in northern part of the county
McHenry County Conservation District

119 **White Rock** addition, Monroe County
179 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Hill prairie, forest, and glade habitat
Heartlands Conservancy, Cliftop

120 **Chillicothe Bottoms**, a site of the **Middle Illinois River Project**, Peoria County
232 acres, fee simple acquisition
Part of a multi-parcel grant project to protect an estimated 3,000 acres of wetland habitat along the Illinois River with fee simple and easement acquisitions in two priority locations - from Henry to Peoria and from Bath to Beardstown
Ducks Unlimited

121 **Deer Run Forest Preserve** addition, Winnebago County
81 acres, fee simple acquisition
Upland forest and to-be-restored prairie in-holding and buffer habitat along the Kishwaukee River
Winnebago County Forest Preserve District

122 **Pecatonica Woodlands Preserve**, Winnebago County
145 acres, fee simple acquisition; 70 acres, easement acquisition
Bottomland forest, sedge meadow and open slough habitat along the Pecatonica River
Natural Land Institute

* Projects in progress
123 Beaver Creek Confluence Conservation Area, Boone County
290 acres, fee simple acquisition
Multiple parcel acquisitions of wetland and stream habitat as part of a larger plan to protect and acquire land in the Kishwaukee River Watershed. The first, a 208-acre parcel of forested land, lies at the confluence of the Beaver Creek and Kishwaukee River, just north of the Ipsen Conservation Area. The second, an 82-acre parcel, consists of upland oak savanna and glacial bluffs overlooking wet meadow habitat along the Piscasaw Creek.
Boone County Conservation District

124 Middle Fork River Forest Preserve addition, Champaign County
5 acres, fee simple acquisition
Riparian forest and floodplain habitat adjacent to the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve (near 2010 acquisition). The wooded natural area adds to the District’s 4.6 miles of protected land on the Middle Fork of the Vermillion River, which is a high-quality, biologically rich stream, and connects it to additional lands of conservation interest.
Champaign County Forest Preserve District

125 Kankakee Sands connector parcels, Iroquois County
Estimated 33 acres, fee simple acquisition
Multiple parcel acquisitions of black oak savanna, sand prairie, remnant flatwoods and restorable flatwoods as part of a larger project to connect Iroquois State Wildlife Area, Hooper Branch Savanna Nature Preserve and Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area - the first two of which are in Illinois and the latter in Indiana. The target parcels contain 239 native plant species as well as several species of concern, including 8 state-listed plants and 2 state-listed animals, the regal fritillary butterfly and ornate box turtle. The regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*) can be found in tall-grass prairies or wet grassy areas in the central U.S., however, due to habitat loss and fragmentation is now listed as threatened in Illinois.
Friends of the Kankakee

126 Kankakee Sands Ecosystem Preserve additions, Kankakee County
Estimated 250 acres, fee simple acquisition
Multiple parcel acquisitions of black oak savanna and sand prairie habitat as part of the larger project to expand the bi-state preserve spanning 34,000 acres across Indiana and Illinois. These parcels are connected to land previously acquired by TNC and include multiple INAI sites. The Kankakee Sands Ecosystem Preserve contains the highest concentration of high-quality black oak savannas in the Midwest.
The Nature Conservancy

* Projects in progress
127 Amboy Marsh, Lee County
272 acres, fee simple acquisition
Wetland complex interspersed with black oak sand savannas, sedge meadows and dry sand prairie in the Green River Conservation Opportunity Area on the north edge of the Bloomington Moraine. The highest quality sand pond remaining in Illinois can be found here as well as several rare, threatened and endangered species.
Illinois Audubon Society

128 Willow Branch Conservation Area, Macon County
65 acres, fee simple acquisition
Savanna, forest and to-be-restored prairie along Willow Branch that will lead to a 2.75 mile long greenway. Protection of this property also protects the high quality and biological diversity of the stream.
Macon County Conservation Foundation, Macon County Conservation District

129 Swamp White Oak addition to Coral Woods Conservation Area, McHenry County
10 acres, fee simple acquisition
Partially wooded parcel with old growth forest connected to the northern boundary of the 775-acre Coral Woods Conservation Area. The mature oak woodlands contain native Swamp White Oak, which are rare in McHenry County. Coral Woods Conservation Area is one of seven remaining 100+ acre blocks of woods in McHenry County.
McHenry County Conservation District

130 Hotchkiss Prairie addition to Nachusa Grasslands, Ogle County
100 acres, fee simple acquisition
Grassland in-holding in the heart of the overall design of the 3,150-acre Nachusa Grasslands preserve, adding to previous TNC acquisitions including the Orland Prairie and Clear Creek Knolls.
The Nature Conservancy

131 LCF Sangamon River Corridor Reserve, Piatt County
108 acres, fee simple acquisition
Floodplain forest and forest slopes along a one-mile stretch of the Sangamon River near Monticello. The acquisition helps further efforts to create a wildlife corridor linking over 5,300 acres of existing protected areas that border and buffer the river in Champaign and Piatt counties. The site provides habitat for freshwater mussels (over 17 different species have been found here) as well as forest interior birds and other wildlife. Protecting the parcel’s existing forest and re-establishing native hardwoods on 59 acres of former agricultural fields will protect water quality of the INAI-listed Sangamon River and benefit efforts to safeguard the recharge area for the Mahomet Aquifer.
The Land Conservation Foundation

The sites mapped on the previous pages show the locations of 127 Natural Areas Land Acquisition grant projects awarded between 2002 and 2012. The sites range from privately-owned preserves that are open to the public, to county forest preserves and conservation areas, to national forests and wildlife refuges. A small number are private conservation easements. Noted as “additions,” many projects purchased land that was added to existing preserves and wildlife areas. Others acquired property to create new preserves. All had some connection to previously protected land at the time of purchase and many sites have been expanded upon since the grant awards were made. All but four grants are represented by one dot each and the majority of them acquired a singular property. Also represented by one dot, but noted as “multiple parcel acquisitions” in the descriptions, are a handful of projects that purchased multiple properties at the same time for the purpose of assembling a large natural area, such as the Kankakee Sands ecosystem in Kankakee and Iroquois counties or Piscasaw Fen in Boone County. Four of the grants are represented by two dots each as they added land to two different natural areas.

The 127 grants awarded represent a total commitment of $47.7 million by the Foundation, which leveraged an estimated $95.5 million in matching funds from grantees and other sources. When completed, the projects will have led to the overall acquisition of close to 22,000 acres of natural areas and wildlife habitat.

The project sites are organized by year and listed alphabetically by county in the following format:

1. Name of Natural Area, County
2. Acres Protected by Grant Project, type of acquisition / Additional Protection (i.e. easement, Illinois Land and Water Reserve registration, etc.)
3. Habitat, Location and Grantee (if other than current owner)
4. Landowner / easement holder

Line 1 lists the current name of the property.
Line 2 lists the total number of acres protected by the grant project, not the total number of acres included in the preserve or natural area at the time of publication. The type of acquisition describes how the grantee acquired the land. Additional protection refers to actions taken to restrict the future use of the land, ensuring the permanent protection of its natural habitat. Some natural areas have been voluntarily enrolled, contingent upon approval of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC), into the Illinois Nature Preserves System and are so described as either dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, registered Land and Water Reserves or enrolled Natural Heritage Landmarks. Others are subject to an easement agreement between the landowner and a private land trust that permanently restricts the use of the land to protect the conservation value.
Line 3 describes the habitat protected. The Grantee is listed in color after the words “protected by,” if different from the current owner. Some grantees have transferred property purchased with grant support to another conservation organization or agency to own and manage (subject to a conservation easement or deed restriction that protects the wildlife habitat in perpetuity).
Line 4 lists the current landowner and easement holder. Grantee organization(s) are in color.

Land Acquisition is the main focus of the Foundation’s Natural Areas program, with grant funds awarded to help cover the direct cost, or sales price, of the land, as in the case of the 127 projects protecting natural areas at the 131 sites featured in this document. In addition to these sites, Foundation grants have assisted with the creation of the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve, the donation of conservation easements protecting an estimated 930 acres of natural habitat in McHenry County and the completion of a limited number of capacity building and planning projects designed to ultimately facilitate the acquisition and protection of natural areas.