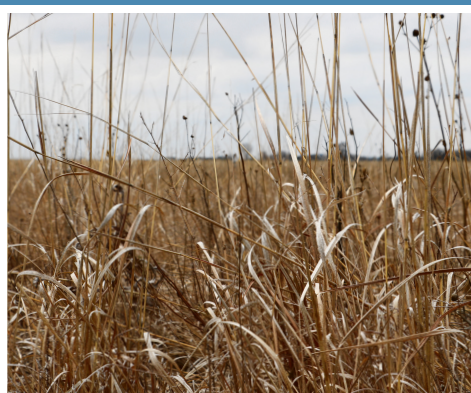


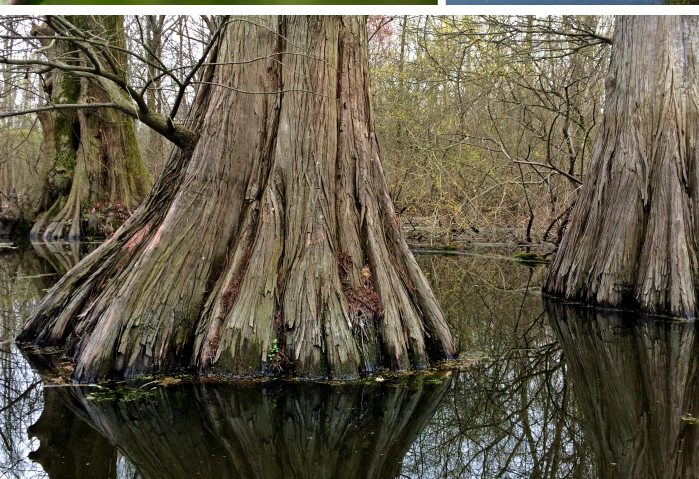


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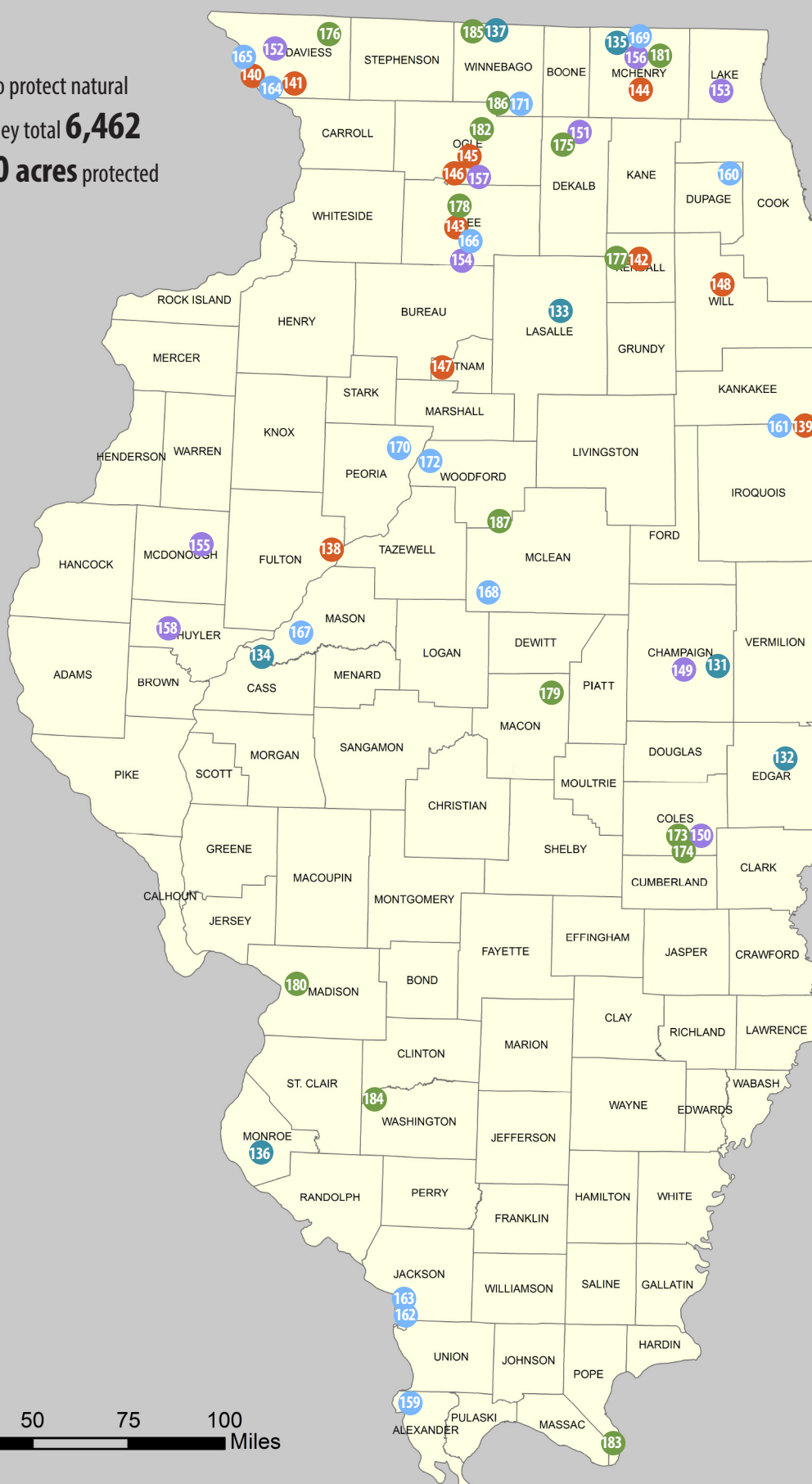
Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Natural Areas Land Acquisition Grants 2013-2017



NATURAL
AREAS

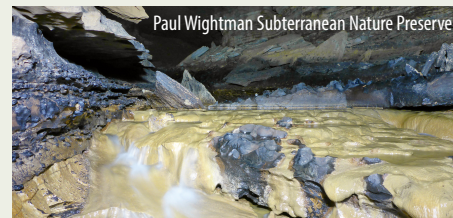


14 of the sites included in this booklet are part of the Illinois Nature Preserves System. More may be added into the system after the publication of this booklet.





- 131 **Hidden Acres**, *Champaign County*
26 acres, fee simple acquisition
Wooded floodplain bisected by the Salt Fork River within the Vermillion River Conservation Opportunity Area
[Champaign County Forest Preserve District](#)
- 132 **Willow Creek State Habitat Area** addition, *Edgar County*
120 acres, fee simple acquisition
Forest, savanna, pond, and to-be-restored prairie protected by [Pheasants Forever](#)
- 133 **Dayton Bluffs Preserve**, *LaSalle County*
253 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
To-be-restored prairie, forested slopes, and ravines along a 1.2-mile stretch of the Lower Fox River with public access managed by the City of Ottawa
[The Conservation Foundation](#)
- 134 Western Stewart Lake addition to **Sanganois State Fish and Wildlife Area** protected as part of the Middle Illinois River Project, *Mason County*
744 acres, fee simple acquisition
Wetland and floodplain forest providing habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. Part of a multi-parcel grant project that protected 1,911 acres along the Illinois River in two priority locations, purchased by [Ducks Unlimited](#)
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- 135 **McHenry County Community Research Forest**, *McHenry County*
53 acres, fee simple acquisition;
40 acres, easement donation
High-quality oak woodland co-managed with The Land Conservancy of McHenry County as a preserve and research forest
[McHenry County Conservation District](#); Private Landowner/The Land Conservancy of McHenry County
- 136 **Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve**, *Monroe County*
535 acres, fee simple acquisition / dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve
Forest and to-be-restored woods and meadow above the largest, and second most diverse cavern system in Illinois
[Clifftop](#)
- 137 **Calvin and Sophia Ferguson Forest Preserve**, *Winnebago County*
522 acres, easement acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Restored wetlands and sand prairie bounded by the Sugar River to the south and directly connected to conservation easement purchased with 2008 grant
[Winnebago County Forest Preserve District](#)



- 138 **Prairie Hills Wetland Reserve**, *Fulton County*
535 acres, fee simple acquisition
Hardwood forest and to-be-restored shallow water wetland and forest along the Illinois River, south of Peoria
[Prairie Hills Resource & Conservation Development](#)
- 139 **Kankakee Sands** addition, *Iroquois County*
14 acres, fee simple acquisition
Black oak woodlands, pin oak flatwoods, sand prairie and shallow water wetlands, in Kankakee Sands Macrosite, connecting large, state-owned protected areas in Illinois and Indiana
[Friends of the Kankakee](#)
- 140 **Woodford Algific Slope Conservation Easement**, *Jo Daviess County*
24 acres, conservation easement acquisition
Blufftop forest overlooking the Mississippi River on a cold air (algific talus) slope supporting globally rare-habitat and endangered species
Private Landowner/[Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation](#)
- 141 **Wapello Land & Water Reserve** addition, *Jo Daviess County*
99 acres, fee simple acquisition/ to be registered as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Forest and to-be-restored prairie along the Apple River connecting Wapello LWR with Eagle's Nest LWR
[Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation](#)
- 142 **Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve**, *Kendall County*
166 acres, fee simple acquisition
Wetlands, woods, and to-be-restored prairie along bluffs and ravines, including an island in the Fox River
[Kendall County Forest Preserve District](#)
- 143 Kelley addition to the **Franklin Creek State Natural Area**, *Lee County*
23 acres, fee simple acquisition
Upland forest bordering the state-dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve protected by the [Franklin Creek Conservation Association](#)
- 144 **Yonder Prairie** - O'Leary addition, *McHenry County*
26 acres, fee simple acquisition
18-acres of INAI habitat and 8-acre buffer to be restored to prairie.
[The Land Conservancy of McHenry County](#)
- 145 Faivre & Dahlberg additions to **Nachusa Grasslands**, *Ogle County*
60 acres, fee simple acquisition
Multi-parcel acquisition of seeps, black oak savanna, oak hickory woods, and remnant prairie
[The Nature Conservancy](#)
- 146 Didier addition to **Nachusa Grasslands**, *Ogle County*
25 acres, fee simple acquisition
Oak/hickory savanna situated on a high ridge that provides a scenic overlook of the larger preserve
[The Nature Conservancy](#)
- 147 Sandy Hollow addition to **Sue & Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge**, *Putnam County*
417 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored prairie, woodland and savanna at the top of the bluff next to a seep on the south end of the refuge, part of a project that protects an additional 135 acres of woods via a conservation easement
[The Wetlands Initiative](#)
- 148 Hoberg addition to **Pilcher Park**, *Will County*
80 acres, fee simple acquisition / to be dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve
Predominately oak and maple woodland at north-eastern border of existing preserve, part of a project to voluntarily dedicate/enroll existing preserve in Illinois Nature Preserves System
[Illinois Audubon Society](#)





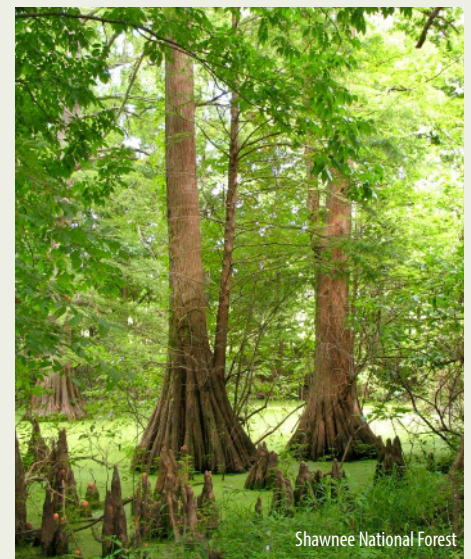
- 149 **Barnhart Grove Prairie Restoration Project** addition, *Champaign County*
8 acres, fee simple acquisition
In-holding to a previously u-shaped 80-acre prairie restoration
[Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District / IDNR](#)
- 150 **Warbler Woods North** (Scaggs Property), *Coles County*
92 acres, fee simple acquisition / to be registered as Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Mesic forest along ridges and ravines, protecting a 435-acre contiguous forest with Embarras Ridges Land and Water Reserve (Project 112) and Warbler Woods Nature Preserve
[Grand Prairie Friends](#)
- 151 **Swanson Grove**, *DeKalb County*
37 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored prairie and remnant savanna along rolling topography connected to Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve (Project 113)
[DeKalb County Forest Preserve District](#)
- 152 **Galena Gateway Park Preserve** addition, *Jo Daviess County*
80 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored prairie and woods protected by Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation and added to existing natural area (Project 99)
[City of Galena / Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation](#)
- 153 **Ray Lake Forest Preserve** addition, *Lake County*
338 acres, fee simple acquisition
Existing wetlands and open water (108 acres) and to-be-restored wetland, woodland, and prairie, part of a larger project to create a 10,000-acre complex of natural habitat
[Lake County Forest Preserves](#)
- 154 **Ryan Wetland and Sand Prairie** addition, *Lee County*
7 acres, fee simple acquisition / registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Wetland and to-be-restored prairie expanding on one of the first ten sites protected with Foundation grant support (project 8)
[Lee County Soil & Water Conservation District](#)
- 155 **Thurrow Conservation Easement**, *McDonough County*
120 acres, conservation easement acquisition
Oak/hickory/maple forest and grassland that provide foraging and nesting opportunities for migratory birds and bats
Private Landowner / [Prairie Hills Resource Conservation & Development](#)
- 156 Perricone addition to **Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge**, *McHenry County*
27 acres, fee simple acquisition
Remnant sedge meadow, a meandering section of Nippersink Creek, and to-be-restored wet mesic prairie, one of the first parcels to be protected within the boundaries of the new National Wildlife Refuge
[Openlands](#)
- 157 Senger-Williams addition to **Nachusa Grasslands**, *Ogle County*
196 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored prairie, oak savanna and wetlands at the northwest boundary of Nachusa, part of a larger effort to create a corridor between the preserve and Lowden Miller State Park
[The Nature Conservancy](#)
- 158 **Benninghoff Conservation Easement**, *Schuyler County*
200 acres, conservation easement acquisition
Mature forest and reforested land that provides habitat favored by the federally-endangered Indiana bat, migratory birds and other native plants and wildlife and 41 acres of buffer
Private Landowner / [Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development](#)



- 159 Webb addition to **Shawnee National Forest**, *Alexander County*
140 acres, fee simple acquisition
Mature Bald Cypress swamp and to-be-restored bottomland hardwood forest, part of a multi-parcel acquisition project to protect private inholdings to the Shawnee National Forest in southwestern Illinois
[U.S. Forest Service](#)
- 160 North addition to **Salt Creek Marsh Forest Preserve**, *DuPage County*
22 acres, fee simple acquisition
River corridor and wetlands along Salt Creek
[Forest Preserve District of DuPage County](#)
- 161 Connector parcels to **Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area**, *Iroquois County*
24 acres, fee simple acquisition
Black oak savanna, sand prairie, remnant flatwoods and to-be-restored flatwoods
[Friends of the Kankakee](#)
- 162 Brooks addition to **Shawnee National Forest**, *Jackson County*
57 acres, fee simple acquisition
Restored wetlands that adjoin over 800 acres of U.S. Forest Service-owned wetlands, part of a multi-parcel acquisition project to protect private inholdings to the Shawnee National Forest in southwestern Illinois
[Heartlands Conservancy](#)
- 163 Egret Lake addition to **Shawnee National Forest**, *Jackson County*
22 acres, fee simple acquisition
Wooded upland connected to 2,500-acre block of forest, part of a multi-parcel acquisition project to protect private inholdings to the Shawnee National Forest in southwestern Illinois
[Heartlands Conservancy](#)
- 164 **Oneota Preserve**, *Jo Daviess County*
159 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored woodland, savanna and prairie along the Apple river that connects to Foundation-supported Wapello and Eagle's Nest Land and Water Reserves
[Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation](#)



- 165 **Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve** addition, *Jo Daviess County*
21 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored savanna and prairie expanding 2007 Foundation-supported acquisition on bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River
[Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation](#)
- 166 **Gremel Wildlife Sanctuary**, *Lee County*
395 acres, fee simple acquisition
New preserve protecting a variety of habitat types, including wetland, savanna and sand prairie, near Amboy Marsh (acquired with 2012 grant support)
[Illinois Audubon Society](#)
- 167 **Eastern Stewart Lake (Rednose and Central Parcels)**, a site of the Middle Illinois River Project, *Mason County*
788 acres, fee simple acquisition
Natural backwater lake habitat, part of a multi-parcel grant project to protect habitat along the Illinois River in two priority locations - from Henry to Peoria and from Bath to Beardstown
[Illinois Audubon Society](#)
- 168 James Stubblefield addition to **Funks Grove**, *McClean County*
7 acres, fee simple acquisition
In-holding to the large Funks Grove Natural Area, which includes 453 acres previously protected with Foundation grant support in 2006
[Sugar Grove Foundation](#)
- 169 **Alden Creek Greenway** addition, *McHenry County*
237 acres, fee simple and conservation easement acquisition
New preserve encompassing almost an entire drainage basin of a feeder stream in the Nippersink Creek watershed
[McHenry County Conservation District](#)
- 170 **Tawny Oaks/Singing Woods Nature Preserve** addition, *Peoria County*
9 acres, fee simple acquisition
In-holding to the large Singing Woods Nature Preserve that is connected to the prairie habitat of the Tawny Oaks addition (acquired with 2007 grant support)
[Peoria Park District](#)
- 171 **Kishwaukee River Forest Preserve** addition, *Winnebago County*
38 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored dry mesic prairie and woods along the river surrounded by existing forest preserve
[Forest Preserves of Winnebago County](#)
- 172 Hagemann addition to the **Woodford County State Fish and Wildlife Area** protected as part of the Middle Illinois River Project, *Woodford County*
147 acres, fee simple acquisition
Wetland and floodplain forest providing habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife, part of a multi-parcel grant project to protect habitat along the Illinois River in two priority locations: from Henry to Peoria and from Bath to Beardstown, protected by [Ducks Unlimited](#)
[Illinois Department of Natural Resources](#)



- 173 North addition to **Warbler Bottoms**, *Coles County*
140 acres, fee simple acquisition / to be registered as Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Forest and to-be-restored bottomland hardwood forest, pollinator meadow and wetlands along the Embarras River and connected to three previous acquisitions
[Grand Prairie Friends](#)
- 174 South addition to **Warbler Bottoms**, *Coles County*
99 acres, fee simple acquisition Forest connected to the 646-acre Warbler Ridge Complex that includes two previous grant sites - Embarras Ridges and Warbler Woods North
[Grand Prairie Friends](#)
- 175 Nelson Prairie addition to **Haines Creek Conservation Corridor**, *DeKalb County*
16 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored prairie, forest, and savanna directly connected to Swanson Grove (Map #153) and Prairie Oaks (acquired with 2011 grant support) and part of the *Haines Creek Conservation Corridor*
[DeKalb County Forest Preserve District](#)
- 176 Rhodes addition to **Apple River Canyon Land & Water Reserve**, *Jo Daviess County*
149 acres, fee simple acquisition / to be registered as Illinois Land and Water Reserve
Natural and to-be-restored forest along the Apple River connected to Apple River Canyon State Park and two INAI sites
[Natural Land Institute](#)
- 177 **Little Rock Creek Forest Preserve**, *Kendall County*
135 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored prairie and existing forest and wetland along Little Rock Creek protected by [The Conservation Foundation](#)
[Kendall County Forest Preserve District](#)
- 178 In-holding to **Franklin Creek State Natural Area**, *Lee County*
5 acres, fee simple acquisition
Forest, wetland and savanna near the center of Franklin Creek State Natural Area
[Franklin Creek Conservation Association](#)



- 179 Addition to **Friends Creek Conservation Area**, *Macon County*
88 acres, fee simple acquisition
Forest and to-be-restored tallgrass prairie and savanna along two miles of Friends Creek
Macon County Conservation District
- 180 **Poag Sand Prairie**, *Madison County*
10 acres, fee simple acquisition
Shallow wetlands and sand prairie habitat managed for native reptiles and amphibians, protected by *The Nature Conservancy*
Heartlands Conservancy
- 181 Schaid Tract addition to **Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge**, *McHenry County*
34 acres, fee simple acquisition
Remnant oak savanna, to-be-restored prairie, and wide buffer of wetland habitat along the Nippersink Creek connected to the Perricone Tract (Map #158) protected by *Openlands*
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 182 **Bald Hill Prairie Preserve**, *Ogle County*
160 acres, fee simple acquisition
Hilltop gravel prairie, forest, and grassland near the Rock River
Byron Forest Preserve District
- 183 **Round Pond**, *Pope County*
340 acres, fee simple acquisition
High-quality floodplain forest and to-be-restored forested wetlands along the Ohio River Scenic Byway and connected to existing Illinois Nature Preserve
Illinois Audubon Society
- 184 **Kathleen Scanlan Conservation Area**, *Washington County*
140 acres, fee simple acquisition
Bottomland hardwood forest protected as first publicly-accessible preserve in the Kaskaskia Bottoms
Heartlands Conservancy
- 185 **Lost Flora Fen**, *Winnebago County*
40 acres, fee simple acquisition / to be registered as Illinois Land and Water Reserve
A new preserve protecting wetlands and to-be-restored wetland and prairie habitat along Raccoon Creek
Natural Land Institute
- 186 **Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve**, *Winnebago County*
169 acres, fee simple acquisition
To-be-restored short grass prairie and forest and existing woodland on 60-foot high limestone cliffs along south bank of the Rock River
Winnebago County Forest Preserve
- 187 **Hayes Woods Nature Preserve**, *Woodford County*
70 acres, fee simple acquisition
Mature upland forest and floodplain forest adjacent to the Mackinaw River
Parklands Foundation



Additional Information



The grants awarded from 2013 - 2017 represent a total commitment of \$22.4 million by the Foundation, which leveraged an estimated \$31.1 million in matching funds from grantees and other sources.

When completed, the projects will have led to the overall protection of over 6,800 acres of natural areas and wildlife habitat.

Grantee organizations are listed in color. The project sites are organized by year and listed alphabetically by county.

Cover Photos (left-right): Barnhart Prairie Grove Restoration Project in Summer (2015); Barnhart Prairie Grove in Winter (2015); Sandy Hollow addition to Sue & Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge (2014); Gremel Wildlife Sanctuary (2016); Schaid addition to Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge (2017); Swans over Sue & Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge - Dick Todd (2014); Webb addition to Shawnee National Forest (2016); Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve (2014)

Back Cover (left-right): Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve (2014); Green Tree Frog at Gremel Wildlife Sanctuary - Steve Hager (2016); Dahlberg addition to Nachusa Grasslands (2014); Swainsons Thrush at Gremel Wildlife Sanctuary - Steve Hager (2016); Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve (2014).



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