

# Recent Conservation Successes



The Macon County Conservation Foundation supports local conservation projects. These projects improve wildlife habitat and protect our air and drinking water quality. Funded by generous people like you, this local non-profit has funded dozens of projects on hundreds of acres of Macon County prairies, wetlands, and forests:

## Rodney T. Miller Wetland



Cattail plants once heavily colonized this wetland at Rock Springs Conservation Area. By controlling the cattails and introducing native plants, the Macon County Conservation Foundation increased plant diversity and habitat quality. The wetland now provides better conditions for reptiles, insects, amphibians, and local and migrating birds.

## Friends Creek Savanna



This site at Friends Creek Conservation Area was heavily degraded with scattered oak trees choked out by invasive bush honeysuckle, a dense invasive exotic shrub. After removing the invasive plants and reseeding with native plants in 2011, the open savanna now provides a suitable home for owls, deer, and many migratory songbirds.

## Sand Creek Soil Erosion



This drainage and erosion control project along a trail at Sand Creek Conservation Area was completed in 2015. It improves water quality, prevents soil erosion, and dangerous trail conditions by slowing the flow of water. As a result, less sediment washes into Lake Decatur, keeping our drinking water cleaner for wildlife and area residents.

## Willow Branch Prairie



The restored prairie at Willow Branch Conservation Area has bloomed since 2016. Volunteers and staff seeded 44 acres of prairie and 8 acres of savanna here in December 2015. Areas like these now improve our air and water quality, and offer precious habitat for wildlife. This site near Macon, IL is now alive with songbirds and insects.

## Rock Springs Entrance



Once a dense tangle of invasive bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, and trash, the 3 acres at the entrance to Rock Springs Conservation Area began restoration in 2020. The site will be transformed into a mix of native prairie and oak hickory savanna, providing better food and native habitat for many species of birds, pollinators, and more.

## New Prairie at Fort Daniel



In December 2020, volunteers and staff seeded 24 acres of native prairie on a new addition to Fort Daniel Conservation Area near Mt. Zion, IL. Once a row crop field, the restored native prairie will soon provide food and shelter for wildlife, and improve the water quality in Big Creek, which flows into Lake Decatur.

*Your support continues these natural area improvements:  
Benefitting our air and water quality, wildlife, and  
future generations. Donate online today at  
[MaconCountyConservationFoundation.org](https://MaconCountyConservationFoundation.org).*

