



Local Conservation Successes

The Macon County Conservation Foundation's annual Prairie Pedal fundraiser supports local conservation projects. These projects improve wildlife habitat and protect our air and drinking water quality. Since it began in 2008, Prairie Pedal has funded dozens of projects on hundreds of acres of Macon County prairies, wetlands, and forests:

Sand Creek Savanna



Even though sugar maples are native, a monoculture threatens the diversity of wildlife. Oak and hickory trees struggled to survive next to the maples, and many died in the shade cast by them. Cleared of maples and planted with over 25 species of wildflowers and grasses, the site now provides a variety of food and shelter for animals.

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 the site with native plants in 2011, this open savanna provides a suitable home for owls, deer, and many migratory songbirds.

Sand Creek Wetland



This wetland created at Sand Creek Conservation Area helps protect Sand Creek, a tributary feeding Lake Decatur. The wetland slows water down, prevents erosion, and improves Decatur's water quality by keeping silt out of Lake Decatur. Since then, mink, ducks, herons, fish, and many other native species have been spotted in the wetland.

Rodney T. Miller Wetland



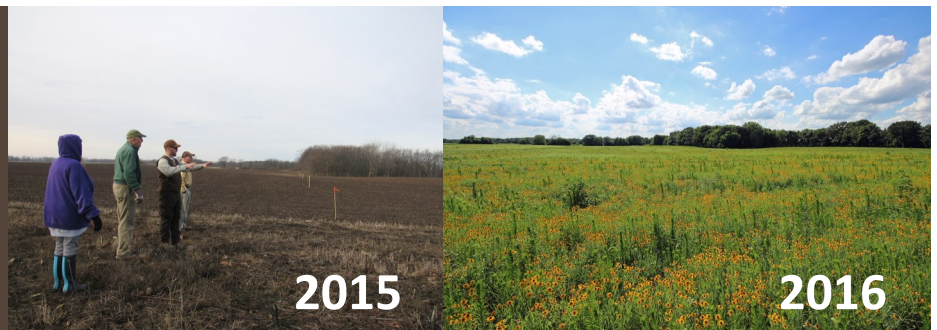
Cattail plants once heavily colonized this wetland at Rock Springs Conservation Area. By controlling the cattails and introducing native plants, the Macon County Conservation Foundation increased plant diversity and habitat quality.

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 bloomed in July 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. In summer 2016, the site was alive with songbirds and insects.

Your support of Prairie Pedal continues these efforts to improve natural areas in Macon County, for the benefit of our air and water quality, wildlife, and future generations.

