

NATURE

KANSAS

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A young child and father at Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve in Barton County, Kansas © Jenny Trucano Muller/TNC

A Campaign for Generations

Seven generations ago, the Central Plains of the United States was an endless landscape bursting with grasses and wildflowers and teeming with bison, prairie dogs, elk, and grassland birds. In 1806, Zebulon Pike wrote of modern-day Matfield Green, Kansas:

*“Passed very ruff flint hills...
I stood on a hill, and in one view below
me saw buffalo, elk, deer, cabrie
[pronghorn antelope] and panthers.”*

Five generations ago, European settlers were farming a land of plenty. Drawn by the nutrient-rich soils that sustained an abundance of life, they displaced Native American tribes who had lived in this region for centuries, and they began converting the native prairie grassland to farmland across much of Kansas.

One generation ago, dedicated volunteers from across Kansas came together to establish a statewide chapter of The Nature Conservancy. These early leaders wanted to protect our state’s natural heritage. They wanted future generations to inherit a biologically rich world, and they knew that time was slipping away. Some of The Nature Conservancy’s earliest projects remain today’s most beloved places to visit: Konza Prairie. Cheyenne Bottoms. Smoky Valley Ranch.

Our supporters created a solid foundation, allowing The Nature Conservancy to build on our initial strategy of establishing protected areas. Thirty years later, we’re reaching beyond the borders of our nature preserves to inspire private land conservation on a



© Jill Bauer/TNC Photo Contest 2021

How To Donate

With your help, we can create a stronger, more resilient Kansas that meets the needs of both people and nature. We envision a Kansas where the diversity of life thrives and people conserve nature for its own sake, as well as its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives. Please give generously to protect nature today and for future generations. Call our Topeka office at 785-233-4400 or email kansas@tnc.org to make a contribution.



Bison mother and calf © Dave Lauridsen; Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park © Brian Schoenfish; Prairie sunflowers © Jim Griggs

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CAMPAIGN ELEMENTS

The Generations campaign a total goal of \$17.5 million: \$10 million for Land, \$3 million for Water, \$2 million for Air, and \$2.5 million for emerging opportunities. These funds will be used for strategic and capital investments but do not cover annual expenses for existing conservation programs.

Land

We can build on our long history of protecting habitat by stewarding the special places of Kansas long into the future. Your gift will help double the acres already protected with conservation easements, secure vital in-holdings and surrounding land at preserves, and establish better conservation stewardship practices on 200,000 acres of private land.

Water

The streams of Kansas—from large rivers to small creeks—are neglected. A 2012 assessment found that 75% of streams in the state are “impaired,” meaning they can’t be used for things like swimming, fishing, and drinking water. Four years later, the number jumped to 80%. But it doesn’t have to be this way. Your gift will ensure that Kansas’s waters are repaired instead of impaired and that they can sustain us all now and long into the future.

Air

Our state is a leader when it comes to large-scale wind energy production, but Kansas is missing opportunities to sustainably develop solar and other clean energy technologies. Your gift will support wind energy being developed in the right places, encourage energy-efficiency legislation that boosts the economy, and keep vast amounts of carbon stored deep underground and out of the atmosphere.

vastly larger scale. We’re bringing unlikely partners together to protect our freshwater streams. We find ways to promote clean energy without sacrificing the ecological integrity of our native prairie grasslands. But Kansas today is changing once again. The actions we take now and over the next decade will define the future for our state and planet.

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The decisions we make now—for Kansas, in Kansas, as Kansans—will determine how future generations engage with the natural world. And just like that first group who formed the Kansas Chapter, our current supporters know that individually and collectively they can make a difference.

Through the Generations campaign, The Nature Conservancy is raising \$17.5 million to build on the previous generation of conservation successes by doubling our conservation impact in just five years. Your help is critical. A gift that conserves the wild places and animals of Kansas not only protects the natural world for future generations, but also makes our lives better, safer, and more prosperous today. Learn more about the Generations campaign and what we can accomplish for Kansas together at nature.org/generationsKS.