

Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves

# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Report 2024

Conserving  
Kentucky's Natural  
Heritage since 1976

TEAM   
**KENTUCKY**®

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET  
OFFICE OF KENTUCKY NATURE PRESERVES

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*This report is submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly as directed by KRS 146 and 418 KAR relating to the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves, the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund.*

## Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board

**Russell Meyer**, Chairman

Representing the Department of Parks

**Hugh N. Archer**, Vice Chairman

Representing environmental organizations

**Zack Couch**

Representing the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves

**Derek Beard**

Representing the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

**Shannon Galbraith-Kent**

Representing Kentucky Academy of Sciences

**Ted Jessup**

Representing agricultural interests

**Jimmy Cantrell**

Representing League of Kentucky Sportsmen

**Gordon Slone**

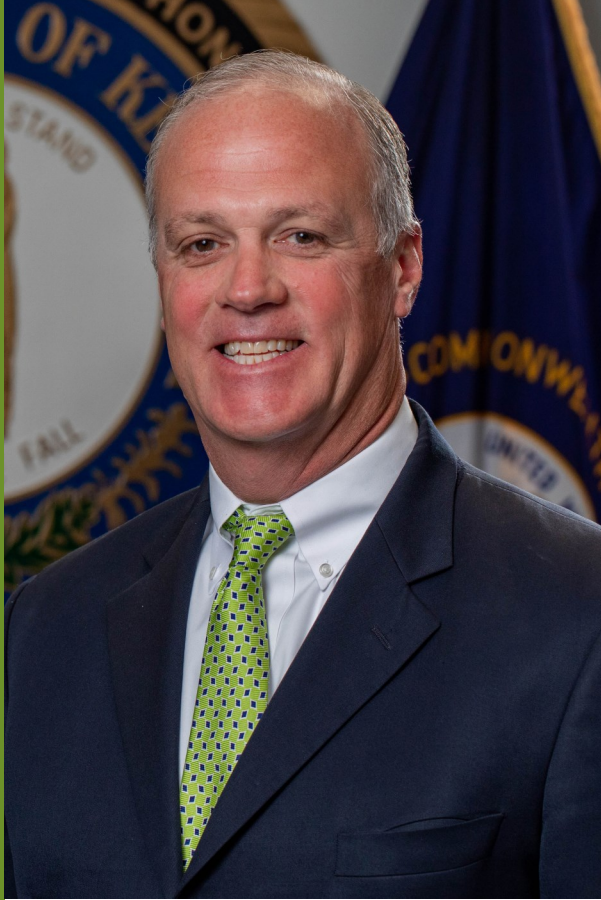
Representing Kentucky Department of Natural Resources

**Charlotte Turner McCoy**

Representing citizens of the Commonwealth with experience in land acquisition



# Letter from KHLCF Chairman



**Russell A. Meyer**  
Chairman, Kentucky Heritage Land  
Conservation Fund Board

Since its establishment in 1990, the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund has helped to conserve over 95,000 acres of Kentucky’s finest woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands. These places serve, not only as important habitats for Kentucky’s native flora and fauna, but also as areas for public recreation. Be it, the miles of hiking trails constructed within many of Kentucky’s State Parks, thousands of acres of land available for public hunting and fishing, or the small local park just beyond your backyard, each stand as a testament to the Kentucky General Assembly’s investment in Kentucky’s natural resources.

Underscoring this investment was the appropriation of \$2 million into the KHLCF by the General Assembly in 2024. Applications for new projects across Kentucky have already been received. And it continues to be our goal to distribute these funds in a manner that maximizes their benefit across the Commonwealth.

I’m excited to see how the KHLCF will continue to open new avenues for public outdoor recreation, increase local tourism, and conserve Kentucky’s bountiful natural treasures. In the meantime, please consider this an open invitation to explore Kentucky via the many State Parks, Forests, Natural Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas that have already been conserved via the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund.

With gratitude,

Russell A. Meyer  
Chairman, Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board  
Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Parks





# KHLCF Mission

*The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) is the primary source of state funding for the purchase of natural areas and is committed to protecting and conserving our Commonwealth's precious natural areas for enjoyment by this and future generations.*

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) is the primary source of state funding for the acquisition of natural areas. These funds are dedicated to conserving Kentucky's natural beauty for enjoyment both now and in the future. Each property funded by the KHLCF is protected in perpetuity by a conservation easement or deed restriction.

The fund was established by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Act in 1990. This legislation established priorities for property acquisitions including:

- ⇒ natural areas that possess unique features such as habitat for rare and endangered species
- ⇒ areas important to migratory birds
- ⇒ areas that perform important natural functions subject to alteration or loss
- ⇒ areas to be preserved in their natural state for public use, outdoor recreation and education

The fund is managed by the 9-member Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board. Revenue for the fund comes from the state portion of the unmined minerals tax, environmental fines, sale of Kentucky nature license plates, and interest.

By statute, the Environmental Education Council receives \$150,000 in environmental fines each year for environmental education programs and the Office of Energy Policy receives \$400,000 in unmined minerals taxes for the purpose of public education of coal-related issues. These funds are not part of the KHLCF. These transfers are reflected in the financial information section of this report.

Organizationally and administratively, the KHLCF is attached to the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves in the Energy and Environment Cabinet.

## **KHLCF funds are allocated quarterly as follows by statute:**

- ⇒ 50% Local governments, state colleges and universities, nonprofit trust organizations, and other public agencies
- ⇒ 10% Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- ⇒ 10% Department of Parks
- ⇒ 10% Division of Forestry
- ⇒ 10% Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves
- ⇒ 10% Wild Rivers Program

## The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund



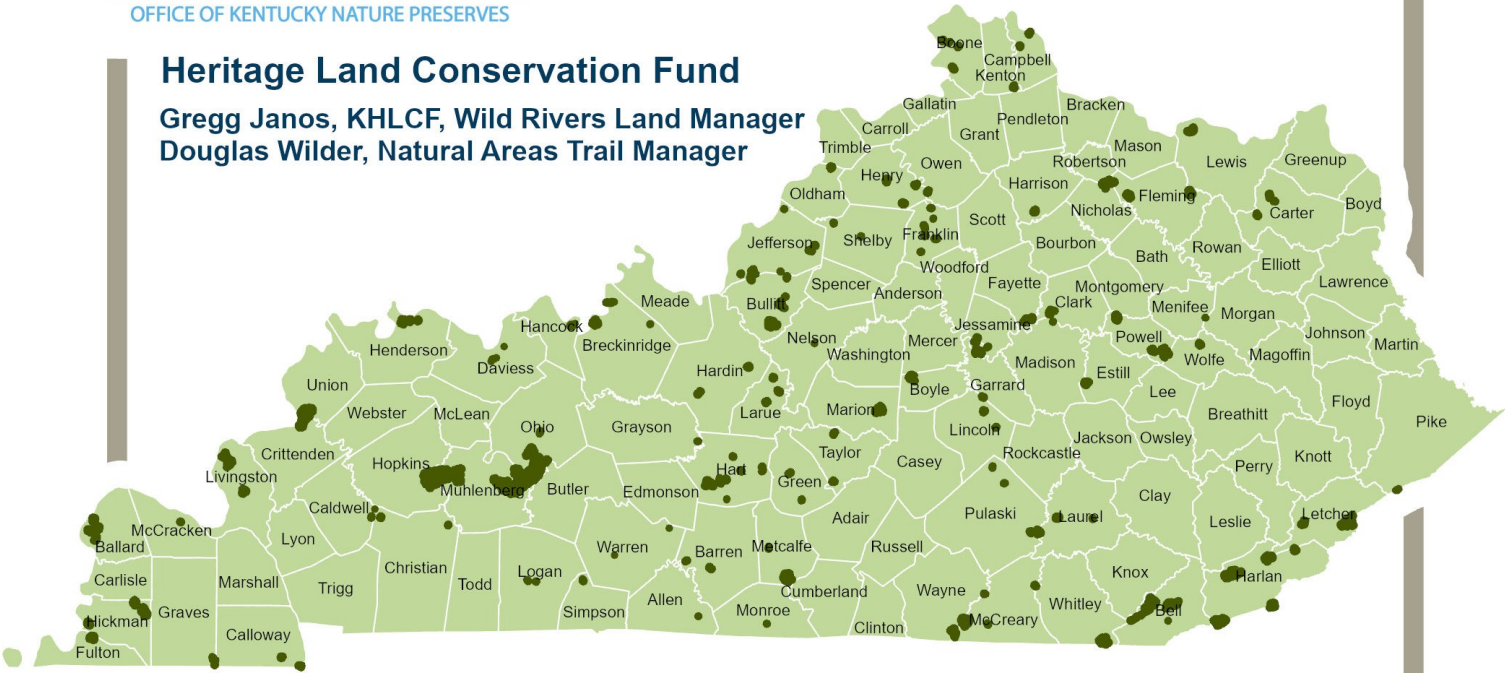
# Preserving Kentucky's Natural Treasures

# Why Conserve Kentucky?

Kentucky has approximately 25 million acres of land. The vast majority of that has been altered significantly since early European settlers but pockets of natural areas still exist. The goals of the KHLCF are simple: conserve Kentucky’s remaining natural lands, and provide appropriate public access to as many of them as possible. Our sites range from hiking spots, to hunting areas, to environmental education sites, to endangered species habitat. As of July 1st, 2024, the KHLCF program has funded the acquisition of 95,922 acres in 70 counties across Kentucky via an investment of \$81,219,645.



**Heritage Land Conservation Fund**  
**Gregg Janos, KHLCF, Wild Rivers Land Manager**  
**Douglas Wilder, Natural Areas Trail Manager**



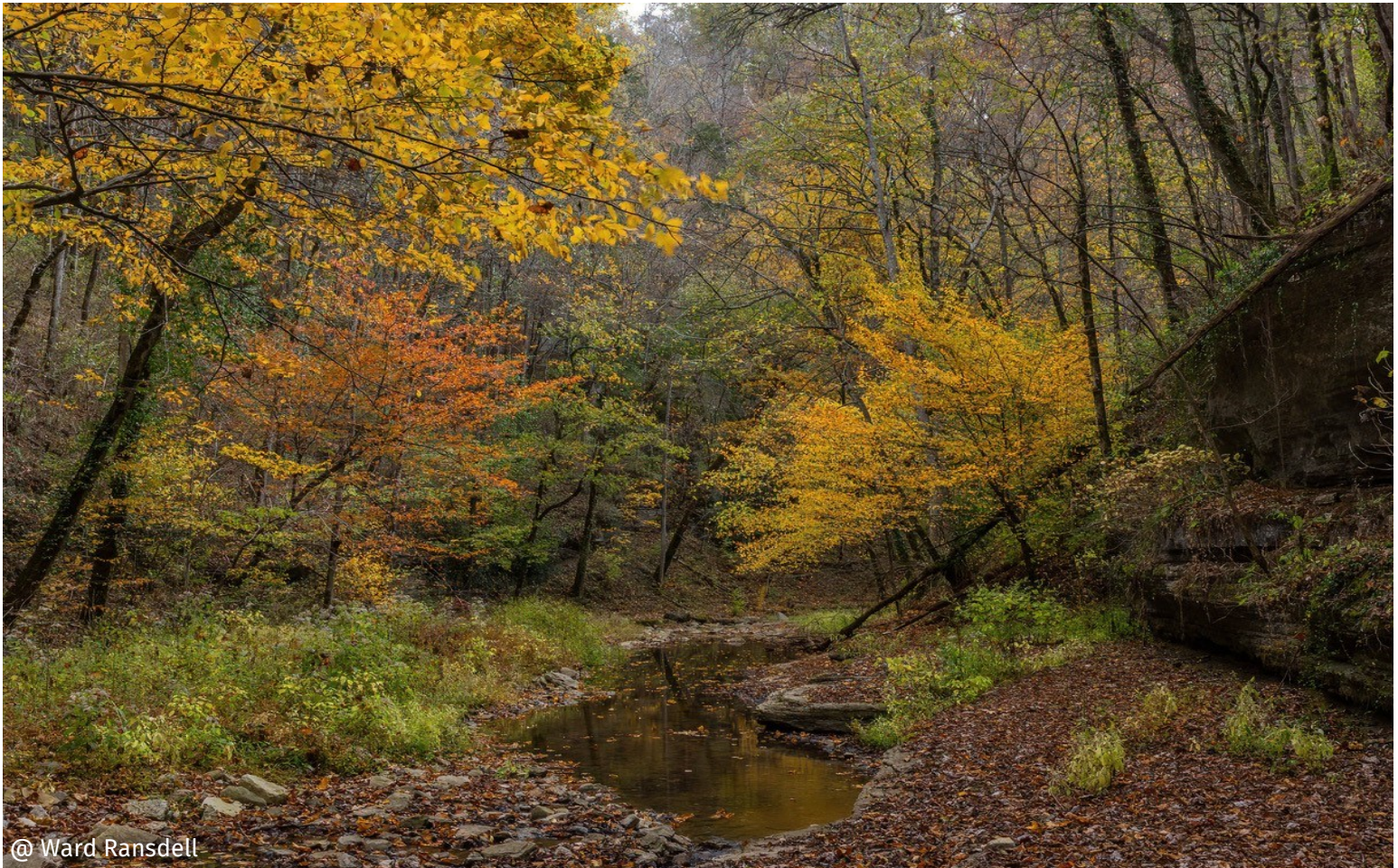


# KHLCF and the Kentucky Economy

Natural lands and water resources conserved by KHLCF provide a host of economic benefits that have a measurable impact to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its communities. They include services such as drinking water protection, flood control, wildlife habitat, air pollution removal, jobs, and strengthening local economies. Based on a report from the 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife-Associated Recreation, an estimated **4.3 million people spent \$11.2 billion** on fishing, hunting, or wildlife watching activities **in Kentucky** in 2022. That includes money spent on equipment, clothes, lodging, food, and other trip related expenses. Anglers spent \$2.5 billion, hunters \$2.3 billion, and wildlife watchers \$6.4 billion.

Another study, conducted by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, found that consumer spending on outdoor recreation contributed **\$5.1 billion of gross domestic product (GDP) to Kentucky's economy** (2% of Kentucky's GDP). Specifically, boating/fishing generated \$210M, hunting/shooting/trapping generated \$157M GDP, and hiking/climbing/tent camping generated \$48M GDP. Kentucky ranked 30th among states in value added to the economy. Additionally, outdoor recreation generates nearly 52,000 jobs in Kentucky (2.5% of all Kentucky jobs).

KHLCF sites are important destinations for Kentuckians and the nearly **2 million visitors** to the state who engaged in these activities. Some of the most visited KHLCF sites include Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, the Green River, Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area, properties along Pine Mountain, John James Audubon State Park, and Livingston County Wildlife Management Area and State Nature Preserve.



@ Ward Ransdell



# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Historic Accomplishments

Since 1995, the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) Board has played an integral part in protecting and conserving over 95,000 acres of Kentucky’s natural areas and habitats on 175 tracts in 70 counties. KHLCF funds both the acquisition of property and management, including hiking trail development and habitat improvement.

Summary of the Kentucky Heritage Conservation Fund Efforts as of 1995—June 2024			
Applicant	Number of Projects	Acreage Covered	Funding Amount
County Governments	35	7,333.11	\$13,693,295.13
Multiple Agency Partners	6	14,781.09	\$11,673,455.86
Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	49	11,788.03	\$10,155,385.42
Wild Rivers Program	17	6,430.28	\$8,389,489.94
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	8	40,701.18	\$7,915,255.59
Department of Parks	16	5,342.18	\$7,047,138.74
Division of Forestry	6	3,662.77	\$6,213,849.35
Colleges/Universities	8	2,078.70	\$4,952,276.55
Conservation Districts	8	1,484.44	\$4,624,699.85
Metro Governments	8	1,013.24	\$3,288,294.45
City Governments	10	542.55	\$1,709,119.25
Non-profits	4	764.48	\$1,557,385.50
Totals:	175	95,922.05	\$81,219,645.63





# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Projects and Acquisitions

No Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund properties were acquired but three were awarded in FY2024.

FY2024 KHLCF Projects Awarded			
Project	Agency	County	Acres
Wolf Creek State Forest Branch Addition	DOF	Breathitt	466
Jim Scudder SNP – Sparks Tract	OKNP	Hardin	50
Isaac W. Bernheim Foundation – Bernheim-Barman Tract	Bernheim	Nelson	182



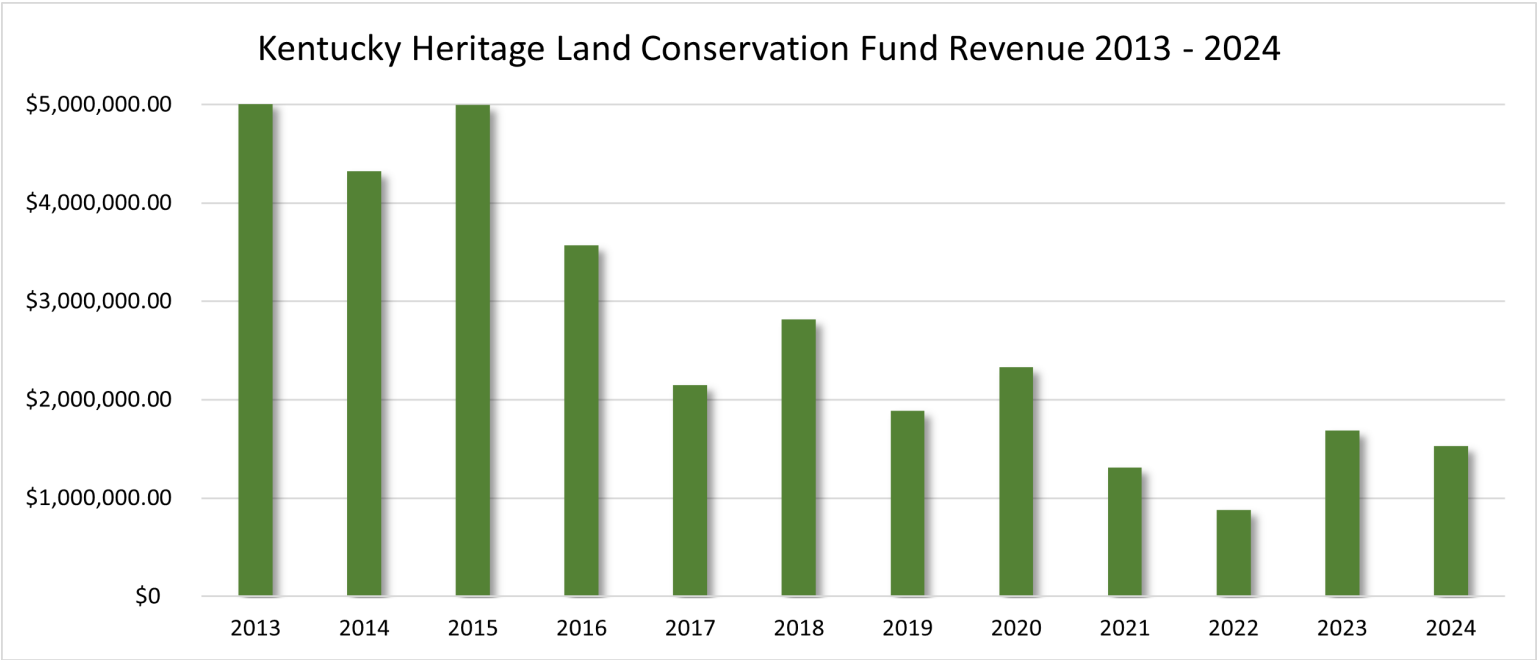


# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

## Annual Revenue

Funding for the KHLCF is generated from the sale of nature license plates, the state portion of unmined mineral tax environmental fines, interest income, and donations. By statute, the Kentucky Environmental Education Council receives the first \$150,000 collected from environmental fines and the Office of Energy Policy receives the first \$400,000 of unmined minerals taxes. In addition to the annual revenue presented below, the Kentucky General Assembly appropriated \$2 million into the KHLCF.

KHCLF Annual Revenue 2013-2024							
Fiscal Year	License Plates	Fines	Un-Mined Tax	Interest	Other	KEEC/OEP Deductions	Totals
2013	\$431,100.00	\$2,332,183.00	\$2,820,758.00	\$(14,433.00)		\$(550,000.00)	\$5,019,608.00
2014	\$412,370.00	\$1,709,373.00	\$2,676,912.00	\$71,526.00	\$71.00	\$(550,000.00)	\$4,320,252.00
2015	\$402,118.00	\$2,773,396.00	\$2,287,058.00	\$85,541.00	\$945.00	\$(550,000.00)	\$4,999,058.00
2016	\$288,182.00	\$2,070,527.00	\$1,637,571.00	\$126,302.00		\$(550,000.00)	\$3,572,582.00
2017	\$379,370.00	\$1,586,457.00	\$676,305.00	\$59,298.00	\$25.00	\$(550,000.00)	\$2,151,454.00
2018	\$365,590.00	\$2,262,555.00	\$636,307.00	\$100,261.00	\$385.00	\$(550,000.00)	\$2,815,098.00
2019	\$361,050.00	\$1,492,233.00	\$333,392.00	\$182,467.00		\$(483,392.00)	\$1,885,750.00
2020	\$361,460.00	\$1,909,592.00	\$166,097.00	\$60,986.00		\$(166,097.00)	\$2,332,038.00
2021	\$349,170.00	\$961,284.00	\$281,899.00	\$(52.00)		\$(281,899.00)	\$1,310,402.00
2022	\$365,120.00	\$667,373.00	\$6,559.00	\$(7,781.00)		\$(150,000.00)	\$881,271.00
2023	\$386,960.00	\$1,417,391.00	\$(939.00)	\$35,813.00		\$(150,000.00)	\$1,689,226.00
2024	\$391,625.00	\$1,131,006.00	\$197,650.00	\$140,857.00		\$(334,365.00)	\$1,526,773.00





# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

## Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024					
County	Project	Acres	Agency	State Senate District	State House District
Allen	Carpenter Cave Conservation Area	14.35	Private with Conservation Easement	16	22
Ballard	Axe Lake Swamp State Nature Preserve	458.45	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	2	1
Ballard	Boatwright Wildlife Management Area	1,432.81	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	2	1
Barren	Brigadoon State Nature Preserve	187.46	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	9	23
Barren	Mutters Cave State Natural Area	108.28	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	9	23
Bath, Fleming, Nicholas	Clay Wildlife Management Area	813.65	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	27, 28	72, 74
Bell	Kentucky Ridge Forest Wildlife Management Area	3,504.51	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Kentucky Division of Forestry	29	87
Bell	Kentucky Ridge State Forest	288.24	Kentucky Division of Forestry	29	87
Bell, Harlan, Letcher	Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail	2,108.70	Kentucky State Parks	29	87
Boone	Big Bone Lick State Historic Site	228.52	Kentucky State Parks	20	60
Boone	Boone County Cliffs State Nature Preserve	75.42	Boone County Fiscal Court	11	66
Boone	Dinsmore Woods State Nature Preserve	104.52	Boone County Fiscal Court	11	66
Boone	Gunpowder Creek Nature Park	125.91	Boone County Fiscal Court	11	66
Boyle	Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site	511.95	Kentucky State Parks & Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	12	54
Breckinridge	Breckinridge County Wildlife Education Area	25.19	Breckinridge County Fiscal Court	5	10
Breckinridge	Yellowbank Wildlife Management Area	1,331.15	Breckinridge County Fiscal Court; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	5	10
Bullitt	Apple Valley Glades State Nature Preserve	60.36	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	38	49

# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

## Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024					
County	Project	Acres	Agency	State Senate District	State House District
Bullitt	Knobs State Forest and Wildlife Management Area	2,035.93	Kentucky Division of Forestry; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	38	49
Bullitt, Jefferson	Jefferson Memorial Forest	669.79	Louisville Metro Government	10, 33, 37, 38	26, 28, 37, 38
Bullitt, Jefferson, Oldham	The Parklands of Floyds Fork	332.85	Louisville Metro Government & The Future Fund Land Trust	7, 36, 38	26, 29, 36, 49
Bullitt, Nelson	Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest	591.91	Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest	14, 38	49, 50
Caldwell, Christian	Pennyrile State Forest	200.62	Kentucky Division of Forestry	3	8
Calloway	Blood River Seeps State Nature Preserve	192.49	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	1	5
Calloway	Fort Donelson National Battlefield (Fort Heiman Unit)	179.80	U.S. National Park Service	1	5
Campbell	Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area	137.88	Campbell County Conservation District	24	67
Campbell	St. Anne Woods and Wetlands Research and Education Center	146.49	Campbell County Conservation District	24	68
Campbell, Kenton	Morning View Natural Area	223.05	Kenton County Conservation District	17	78
Carlisle, Fulton, Hickman	Obion Creek Wildlife Management Area	1637.89	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	1, 2	1
Carter	Carter Caves State Resort Park	100.50	Kentucky State Parks	18	96
Carter	Olive Hill Lake Conservation	214.83	City of Olive Hill	18	96
Carter	Tygarts State Forest	255.04	Kentucky Division of Forestry	18	96
Christian	Bob Overton Conservation Area	54.82	Private with Conservation Easement	3	16
Clark	Civil War Fort at Boonesboro	25.38	Clark County Fiscal Court	28	73
Clark	Lower Howards Creek Heritage Park	168.66	Clark County Fiscal Court	28	73
Clark	Lower Howards Creek State Nature Preserve	227.99	Clark County Fiscal Court	28	73



# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

## Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024					
County	Project	Acres	Agency	State Senate District	State House District
Crittenden, Union	Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area and State Forest	6,730.58	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Kentucky Division of Forestry	1, 4	12
Cumberland, Metcalfe	Marrowbone State Forest and Wildlife Management Area	1,955.63	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Kentucky Division of Forestry	15, 16	21
Daviess	Adkisson Greenbelt Park	22.41	City of Owensboro	8	7, 13
Daviess	Yellow Creek Park	1.43	Daviess County Fiscal Court	8	13
Estill	Lily Mountain Nature Preserve	565.87	Estill County Conservation District	30	91
Fayette, Madison	Floracliff Nature Sanctuary	348.63	Floracliff Nature Sanctuary	28, 34	73
Fayette, Madison	Raven Run Nature Sanctuary	365.09	Lexington/Fayette Urban County Government Parks and Recreation	34	73
Fleming	Park Lake Mountain Nature Preserve	821.11	Fleming County Fiscal Court	27	72
Fleming, Nicholas, Robertson	Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park	866.71	Kentucky State Parks	27	70, 72
Fleming, Robertson	Shorts Goldenrod State Nature Preserve	228.00	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	27	72
Franklin	Cove Spring Park	88.75	City of Frankfort	20	56, 57
Franklin	Feindel Conservation Area	14.72	Private with Conservation Easement	20	56
Franklin	Julian Savanna State Nature Preserve	42.43	Private with Conservation Easement	20	57
Franklin	River Cliffs State Nature Preserve	210.20	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves & Private with Conservation Easement	20	57
Franklin	Rockcross Hills State Nature Preserve	84.17	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	20	57
Franklin	Swallowfield Conservation Area	72.20	Private with Conservation Easement	20	56

# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

## Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024					
County	Project	Acres	Agency	State Senate District	State House District
Garrard, Jessamine	Tom Dorman State Nature Preserve	911.11	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	22	55, 80
Garrard, Lincoln	Logan Hubble Park	122.94	Lincoln County Fiscal Court	21, 22	80
Graves	Terrapin Creek State Nature Preserve	269.23	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	1	2
Grayson	Lone Oak Barrens State Nature Preserve	33.64	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	5	18
Green	Glenview Heritage Land	168.09	Green County Fiscal Court	9	24
Green	Wyatt Jefferies Woods Park	57.14	Green County Fiscal Court	9	24
Hancock	Jeffreys Cliff	239.56	Hancock County Fiscal Court	8	14
Hardin	Eastview Barrens State Nature Preserve	119.21	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves; The Nature Conservancy	10	18
Hardin	Jim Scudder State Nature Preserve	231.06	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves & Hardin County Fiscal Court	10	25
Hardin	Springhouse Barrens State Nature Preserve	54.08	Private with Conservation Easement.	10	18
Harlan	Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve	3,504.01	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	29	94
Harlan	James E. Bickford State Nature Preserve	347.80	Pine Mountain Settlement School	29	94
Harlan	Kentonia State Forest	762.99	Kentucky Division of Forestry	29	94
Harlan	Martin's Fork State Natural Area	1,600.64	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	29	87
Harlan	Stone Mountain Wildlife Management Area and State Natural Area	1,025.79	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	29	87
Harlan, Letcher	Hi Lewis Pine Barrens State Nature Preserve	426.18	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves & Kentucky Natural Lands Trust	29	94
Harrison	Griffith Woods Wildlife Management Area	391.35	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	27	70



# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

## Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024					
County	Project	Acres	Agency	State Senate District	State House District
Hart	Frenchman Knob Preserve	65.87	Hart County Fiscal Court	9	24
Hart	Green River State Natural Area (Boiling Springs)	121.37	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	9	24
Hart	Green River State Natural Area (Davis Bend)	165.52	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	9	24
Hart	Green River State Natural Area (Rush Island Bottoms)	139.25	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	9	24
Hart	Hidden River Cave	10.14	City of Horse Cave	9	24
Hart	Upper Green River Biological Preserve	1,247.58	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves & Western Kentucky University	9	24
Hart	Upper Green River Biological Preserve (Lawler Bend)	371.56	Western Kentucky University	9	24
Henderson	Green River State Forest	404.29	Kentucky Division of Forestry	4	11
Henderson	John James Audubon State Park	650.99	Kentucky State Parks	4	11
Henderson	John James Audubon State Park State Nature Preserve	338.31	Kentucky State Parks	4	11
Henry	Drennon Creek State Nature Preserve	328.96	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	7	47
Henry	Kentucky State University Environmental Education Center	294.68	Kentucky State University	7	47
Henry, Owen	Kentucky River Wildlife Management Area	533.26	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	7, 20	47
Hickman	Obion Creek State Nature Preserve	1,598.97	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves & Murray State University	1	1
Hickman	Three Ponds State Nature Preserve	528.25	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	1	1
Hopkins, Muhlenberg, Ohio	Peabody Wildlife Management Area	42,598.15	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources & Western Land Services & Patriot Coal Corporation	3, 4, 5	4, 14, 15
Jefferson	McNeely Lake Park	26.79	Louisville Metro Government	38	29, 37
Jefferson	Putney Pond and Woodlands	24.36	City of Prospect	6	48

# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

## Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024					
County	Project	Acres	Agency	State Senate District	State House District
Jefferson	Rolleigh Peterson Educational Forest	112.67	Louisville Metro Government; Kentucky Division of Forestry	36	36
Jessamine	Camp Nelson National Monument	58.51	U.S. National Park Service	22	55
Jessamine	Jessamine Creek Gorge Nature Preserve	267.49	Jessamine County Fiscal Court	22	55
Larue	Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Park - Boyhood Home Unit	227.98	U.S. National Park Service	14	24
Larue	Larue County Environmental Center	215.90	Larue County Fiscal Court	14	24
Larue	Thompson Creek Glades State Nature Preserve	169.08	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	14	24
Laurel	Sinking Creek State Natural Area	301.00	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	21	71, 85
Laurel	Whitley Branch Wetland Restoration Project	75.57	City of London	21	90
Letcher	Bad Branch State Nature Preserve	2,829.07	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	29	94
Letcher	Lilley Cornett Woods	543.03	Eastern Kentucky University	29	94
Lewis	Crooked Creek State Nature Preserve	728.53	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	18	96
Lincoln	Bouteloua Barrens State Nature Preserve	260.16	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	21	80
Lincoln	William Whitley House State Historic Site	81.32	Lincoln County Fiscal Court	21	80
Livingston	Livingston County Wildlife Management Area (Reynolds Tract)	873.13	Livingston County Fiscal Court	2	3
Livingston	Livingston County Wildlife Management Area and State Nature Preserve (Bissell Bluff SNP)	563.24	Livingston County Fiscal Court	2	3
Livingston	Livingston County Wildlife Management Area and State Nature Preserve (Newman's Bluff SNP)	993.81	Livingston County Fiscal Court	2	3



# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

## Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024					
County	Project	Acres	Agency	State Senate District	State House District
Logan	Baker Natural Area	66.16	Logan County Conservation District	32	16
Logan	Logan County Glade State Nature Preserve	41.61	Logan County	32	16
Marion	Marion County Wildlife Management Area and State Forest	1,293.14	Marion County Fiscal Court; Kentucky Division of Forestry; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	14	51
McCracken	Perkins Creek Nature Preserve	80.56	City of Paducah	2	1
McCreary	Little South Fork State Natural Area (Tucker SNA)	23.05	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	25	52
McCreary	Rock Creek State Natural Area	89.92	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	25	52
McCreary, Wayne	Little South Fork State Natural Area (Burnett Branch SNA)	1,067.88	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	15, 25	52
McCreary, Wayne	Little South Fork State Natural Area (Steele Hollow SNA)	2,191.02	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	15, 25	52
McCreary, Whitley	Cumberland Falls State Resort Park	119.88	Kentucky State Parks; Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	25	52, 82
Menifee	Broke Leg Falls	15.85	Menifee County Fiscal Court	28	74
Metcalfe	Dry Fork Gorge	79.97	Metcalfe County Fiscal Court	16	21
Monroe	Old Mulkey Meetinghouse State Historic Site	16.93	Kentucky State Parks	16	21
Nelson	Town Creek Greenway	13.22	Kentucky State Parks; City of Bardstown	14	50
Nicholas, Robertson	Blue Licks State Park State Nature Preserve	54.12	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	27	70, 72
Ohio	Highview Hill	255.50	Ohio County Fiscal Court	5	14
Ohio	Ohio County Park Nature Area	115.45	Ohio County Fiscal Court	5	14
Oldham	Morgan Conservation Park	227.59	Oldham County Fiscal Court	6	59
Powell	Natural Bridge State Park State Nature Preserve	1,238.55	Kentucky State Parks	30	91
Powell	Pilot Knob State Nature Preserve	742.13	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves & Powell County Fiscal Court	30	91

# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – 2024					
County	Project	Acres	Agency	State Senate District	State House District
Powell	Powell County Conservation Tracts	82.83	Powell County Fiscal Court	30	91
Powell, Wolfe	Natural Bridge State Resort Park	270.06	Kentucky State Parks	30	89, 91
Powell, Wolfe	Red River State Natural Area	754.33	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	30	89, 91
Pulaski	Buck Creek Nature Preserve	35.20	Pulaski County Fiscal Court	15	71
Pulaski	Dr. William H. Martin State Natural Area	459.20	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	15	85
Pulaski	Frances Johnson Palk State Nature Preserve	250.13	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	15	85
Pulaski	Hazeldell Meadow Preserve	44.03	Pulaski County Fiscal Court	15	71
Shelby	Clear Creek Park	27.02	Shelby County Fiscal Court	7	58
Shelby	Shelby Trails Park	75.79	Shelby County Fiscal Court	7	58
Simpson	Flat Rock Glade State Nature Preserve	98.59	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	32	22
Taylor	Clay Hill Memorial Forest	153.61	Campbellsville University	16	51
Taylor	Tebbs Bend Nature and Recreation Area	172.14	Taylor County Fiscal Court	16	51
Warren	Crumps Cave Research and Education Preserve	2.01	Western Kentucky University	16	19
Warren	Lost River Cave Valley	2.02	Warren County Fiscal Court	32	17
Whitley	Archer-Benge State Nature Preserve	2,229.69	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	25	82



Artwork from Floracliff's "Creating Art in Nature" sessions





# KHLCF Highlights: Partners

## Kentucky State Parks

Kentucky State Parks regularly partner with OKNP trails manager to conduct trail maintenance. OKNP also spearheads bridge and staircase construction projects at KSP bi-annual trail maintenance workshop. Below some of the recent activities KSP participated in:

- ⇒ January 9-12, 23-26, 2023, trail maintenance at Bad Branch SNP, Letcher County
- ⇒ February 13-16, 2023, trail maintenance at Blanton Forest SNP, Harlan County
- ⇒ June 14, 2023, trail maintenance at Tom Dorman SNP, Garrard County
- ⇒ July 27, 2023, sprayed kudzu on the Green Tract at Pine Mountain SRP, Bell County
- ⇒ August 2, 2023, sprayed kudzu on Eagle Falls Trail in the Wild Rivers Corridor, McCreary County
- ⇒ November 13-16, 2023, trail maintenance at Blanton Forest SNP, Harlan County
- ⇒ March 25-28, 2024, trail maintenance at Blanton Forest SNP, Harlan County



## Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, Fayette County

Floracliff continues to prioritize stewardship, programming, community science, and research. This past year they have hosted programs regarding spring wildflowers, moth surveys, Bluegrass Biodiversity Seminars, winter tree ID, golden hour hikes, and donor/volunteer appreciation events to name a few. Research projects have included the Central Bluegrass Butterfly Count, Monarch tagging, Project FeederWatch, and Project NestWatch. In addition, Floracliff documented for the first time an American black bear, harvester butterfly, and a mining bee (*Andrena gardener*) that had not been documented on iNaturalist in Kentucky.



## Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site, Boyle County

OKNP hosted a fieldtrip for the Kentucky Prescribed Fire Council at Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site (BSHS) to discuss the role of prescribed fire in maintaining habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. During this trip, participants tagged six monarchs. Since 2019, a total of 158 monarchs have been tagged at Perryville BSHS. Additionally, Friends of Perryville Battlefield partnered with OKNP to organized volunteers for a workday restoring grasslands by removing non-native woody species. This work is beneficial to pollinators and wildlife on the property and restores the viewshed of the park to its wartime landscape.



# KHLCF Highlights: Partners

## Hazeldell Meadow Preserve, Pulaski County

Regular trail maintenance occurs on the preserve as the trail continues to be a popular walking location. Currently Dr. Krupa with the University of Kentucky continues his 13 year study at Hazeldell. Here he studies the relationship between crayfish, spiders, and sundew in addition to monitoring the sundew population.



## Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, Bullitt County

Habitat on two tracts of land at Bernheim that were purchased with HLCF money in 2015 and 2018 continue to improve. The forest is recovering well from past logging, pollinator prairie restoration via prescribed fire and forestry mulching was recently conducted, and cedar glades are being restored. A small population of Kentucky glade cress



(*Leavenworthia exigua laciniata*, federally threatened) is being managed and has expanded in the past few years. Research on snails, bats, and undescribed species of isopods in springs and caves is on going.



## Morning View Heritage Area, Kenton County

Morning View Heritage Area (MVHA) provides 3.5 miles of well-maintained hiking trails and serves as a venue for education programs and environmental training. In addition, MVHA is annually featured in the Kenton County Farm Harvest Tour. Last year they hosted hands-on activities featuring aquatic animals and plants so participants could understand MVHA's restoration efforts. MVHA continues to manage invasive plants, are exploring opportunities to partner with local universities and citizen science groups to update biological inventories, and are planning to establish a new prairie of native grasses and pollinator habitat.



# KHLCF Highlights: Trails

## Brigadoon State Nature Preserve

Brigadoon SNP is in Barren County, KY and has been part of the Old Growth Forest Network since 2016. The one-mile trail on this preserve takes you along the ridgetop where you will see mature oaks, hickories, and beech trees standing tall. The trail will cross a creek and start to take you back up the ridgeline and in the springtime time, wildflowers cover the forest floor. The trail will allow users along the way to see parts of Barren River Lake and is a great location for birding. The visitation to this site has seen a steady increase in the last few years. Work on-site over the past year includes trail clearing and blazing, and parking lot renovation.



*New kiosk installed at Brigadoon State Nature Preserve*

## Logan County Glade State Nature Preserve

Logan County Glade SNP is in the heart of Russellville, KY and is 42 acres with a 1/2 mile trail that runs through the property. The trail will take you through a limestone glade and up a slope where you can see parts of the small town below then back down through the glade. Logan County Glade has seen an uptick in visitor use and it is mainly due to the trails being cleared on a regular basis. Work on-site this year includes trail clearing and blazing, invasive species management, and volunteer training on trail and land management.



*New kiosk installed at Crooked Creek State Nature Preserve*

## Crooked Creek State Nature Preserve

Located in the northeast region of Kentucky in Lewis County, this is one of the easiest trails to hike that we have across the state. The trail starts off through a field and leads hikers into the forest where you will go through an oak barren. This preserve has an abundance of deer and turkey that are often seen along the trail. Hikers will also see the effects of prescribed fire on the forest as OKNP burns sections of the preserve to maintain native plant communities and control invasive species. The trail was re-blazed this year to make it easier to follow. The trails are maintained on a regular basis with the trails being kept clear of any downfall and pruned back when needed.



# KHLCF Highlights: Trails

## Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve

Blanton Forest SNP located in Harlan County, is one of the few places left in the state where part of the preserve still has old growth forest that can be seen by hiking the Watts Creek trail. Blanton Forest has over 4 miles of hiking trails. Hiking the Knobby Rock Trail provides stunning view of the Pine Mountain region. The Sand Cave loop continues up the mountain around rock cliffs, through a rock maze, and passes a rock shelter that is a great place for break before heading back down. Along the way you will pass huge trees and cross streams where the water is clear and cold year-round. This year, trails were cleared and re-blazed, a new kiosk and bridge were constructed, and over 100 steps were replaced.



*New Bridge installed at Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve*



*New steps installed at Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve*



# KHLCF Highlights: Prescribed Fire

Historically, fire played a crucial role in the distribution of natural communities, plants, animals, and insects across the Kentucky landscape. Due to decades of active fire suppression and fragmentation of the landscape, Kentucky’s fire-dependent natural communities, along with the organisms that inhabit them, are at risk of disappearing. Prescribed fire provides the necessary disturbance in these grasslands and other natural communities to keep them from disappearing by reducing woody encroachment, controlling some invasive species, and stimulating the growth of native plants.

Over the past fiscal year, OKNP’s prescribed fire crew conducted or assisted on nine prescribed burns on KHLCF properties for a total of 444.5 acres (Table 1). Burn objectives were typically to maintain open habitat for rare species conservation within a glade, prairie, or barrens complex. The following information highlights a few of the burns.

Summary of prescribed burns on KHLCF sites in the fiscal year July 2023 to June 2024			
Site Name	County	Acres Burned	Date of Rx Burn
Thompson Creek State Nature Preserve	Larue	14.5	11/3/2023
Apple Valley Glade State Nature Preserve	Bullitt	17	11/28/2023
Little South Fork State Natural Area	McCreary & Wayne	306	2/20/2024
Bouteloua Barrens State Nature Preserve	Lincoln	43	2/26/2024
Crooked Creek State Nature Preserve	Lewis	28	3/13/2024
Sinking Creek State Natural Area	Laurel	24	3/12/2024
Springhouse Barrens State Nature Preserve	Hardin	9	3/20/2024
Lone Oak Barrens State Nature Preserve	Grayson	3	3/20/2024





# KHLCF Highlights: Prescribed Fire

## Thompson Creek Glades State Nature Preserve

**County:** Larue

**Property Size:** 169 acres

**Burn Unit Size:** 14.5 acres

**Site Significance:** Thompson Creek Glades SNP protects a high-quality limestone glade complex and is home to several rare plants including Great Plains ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*), barrens silky aster (*Symphyotrichum pratense*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*), and Crawe's sedge (*Carex crawei*).

**Partners:** OKNP installed breaks, wrote burn plan, and led burn. KDFWR staff assisted on burn crew.



OKNP fire crew members along the fire break at Thompson Creek Glades SNP in November 2023.

## Apple Valley Glades State Nature Preserve

**County:** Bullitt

**Property Size:** 60 acres

**Burn Unit Size:** 17 acres

**Site Significance:** Apple Valley Glades SNP protects a unique dolomite glade and barrens system that is rare in Kentucky. There are numerous species of concern on the site and within this unit including Crawe's sedge (*Carex crawei*), Ringseed rush (*Juncus filipendulus*), Great Plains ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*), and Kentucky glade-cress (*Leavenworthia exigua* var. *laciniata*). The preserve protects critical habitat for the federally endangered KY glade-cress as its global range is comprised of Jefferson and Bullitt counties.

**Partners:** OKNP installed breaks, wrote burn plan, and led burn. KDFWR staff assisted on burn crew.



OKNP fire crew member during the burn at Apple Valley Glades SNP in November 2023.



# KHLCF Highlights: Prescribed Fire

## Bouteloua Barrens State Nature Preserve

**County:** Lincoln

**Property Size:** 182 acres

**Burn Unit Size:** 43 acres

**Site Significance:** Bouteloua Barrens SNP protects the largest remnant natural grassland community in the Outer Bluegrass Region of Kentucky. There are numerous species of concern found on the site and within this unit including the eponymous side-oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), false gromwell (*Lithospermum parviflorum*), and Crawe's sedge (*Carex crawei*).

**Partners:** OKNP led burn. UK Arboretum provided staff to assist on burn crew.



Test burn at Bouteloua Barrens SNP in March 2024.

## Springhouse Barrens State Nature Preserve

**County:** Hardin

**Property size:** 54 acres

**Burn Unit Size:** 9 acres

**Site significance:** Springhouse Barrens SNP was purchased to protect the ecologically significant post oak/blackjack oak barrens community and the open limestone glade. Several rare species are known from the site, including a globally rare invertebrate and several rare plant species monitored by OKNP. Woody encroachment threatens the available habitat for these species.



OKNP fire crew member on Springhouse Barrens SNP in March 2024.