

Organizations and Agencies Offering Land Conservation Assistance in the St. Louis Region

PRIVATE (non profit) Organizations:

The Conservation Fund (TCF) www.conservationfund.org **Contact:** Tom Duffus (218) 722-2393 or tduffus@conservationfund.org
TCF is dedicated to protecting America's land and water legacy – its natural, cultural, and historic heritage – through a partnership-driven approach that has led to the conservation of more than 5 million acres of the nation's most important land and water resources. This approach focuses on conservation priorities identified by TCF partners – federal, state and local agencies and local land trusts. One of these priorities has been the conservation of important resources along the Mississippi River, including the Chain of Rock's Bridge. Options offered: Through management of the Mississippi River Revolving Fund, TCF provides transactional and financial assistance to its partners for acquisition projects.

Ducks Unlimited (DU) www.ducks.org **Contact:** George Seek (660) 938-4646 or seekg@grm.net
DU works internationally to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. DU has protected over 11 million acres throughout North America, including 92,000 acres in Missouri. Locally, DU works with state and federal agencies, other nonprofit organizations, and landowners to conserve wetland resources in the MO/MS rivers Confluence floodplain, with an emphasis on the wetlands of St. Charles County. Options offered: donated conservation easements.

Great Rivers Habitat Alliance (GRHA) www.grha.net **Contact:** Dan Burkemper (314) 241-2122 or dan@grha.net
GRHA was established in 2000 by citizens concerned about the rapid expansion of development in the floodplains of the St. Louis Metropolitan area. GRHA works to protect wetland habitat and to promote sensible land use in the confluence region of the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois Rivers. GRHA works primarily in St. Charles and Lincoln counties. Options offered: land acquisition, conservation easements, habitat restoration. GRHA also promotes policy changes within local government to limit floodplain development.

Great Rivers Land Trust (GRLT) www.greatriverslandtrust.com **Contact:** Ally Ringhausen (618) 467-2265 or pcwp@direcway.com
GRLT was established in 1992 by private citizens concerned about land use in the St. Louis Metropolitan Region. GRLT works in Missouri and Illinois to protect the Mississippi River watershed. GRLT's primary focus area is scenic and ecologically valuable land along the Alton Lake Heritage Parkway. Options offered: Conservation easements and land acquisition.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) www.nature.org **Contact:** Jim Wildman (314) 968-1105 or jwildman@tnc.org
TNC is an international, member-based organization whose mission is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the land and waters they need to survive. Since 1951, TNC has protected 116 million+ acres of lands and waters in the US and around the world. The Missouri Chapter has protected more than 150,000 acres across the state and currently manages 40 preserves totaling 20,000 acres. Options offered: With priorities (and priority areas) guided by science the Conservancy protects land through acquisitions, gifts of land, management agreements, conservation easements, cooperation with state and local units of government, and enrollment by private landowners in a voluntary registry program.

Open Space Council (OSC) www.openspacecouncilstl.org **Contact:** Ron Coleman (636) 451-6090 or ron@openspacecouncilstl.org
OSC is dedicated to conserving public and private open space in the St. Louis region. Created in 1965, OSC helps identify and acquire available land ideal for public use and works to deter poor land practices and detrimental development. OSC organizes Operation Clean Stream, the longest on-going river cleanup in America. Options offered: Assists with real estate transactions; conducts educational events; advises decision makers; secures private funding to acquire lands that benefit the public interest.

Ozark Regional Land Trust (ORLT) www.orlt.org **Contact:** Abigail Lambert (636) 451-0404 or aflambert@earthlink.net
ORLT is dedicated to protecting the unique natural character and resources of the Ozarks, and has a focus on rivers. ORLT assists landowners to identify, evaluate and implement voluntary land protection options. Since 1984, ORLT has protected over 15,000 acres of land across the Ozarks, primarily through conservation easements. Options offered: Conservation easements, gifts of land, community land trusts.

St. Charles County Land Trust (SCCLT) www.scclt.org **Contact:** Gary Heggs (636) 946-0077 or gary.heggs@gmail.com
SCCLT was created to promote open space protection and conservation values in St. Charles County. SCCLT is an all-volunteer organization that seeks to maintain the high quality of life in St. Charles County by promoting low-impact development in the county and open space protection in the planning process. Options offered: Donated conservation easements, gifts of land.

Trust for Public Land (TPL) www.tpl.org **Contact:** Bryan Fawks (314) 436-7255 or bryan.fawks@tpl.org
TPL is a national organization with a field office in St. Louis. TPL purchases properties from willing sellers and then resells the land to public agencies or nonprofit organizations for public open space. Since 1972, TPL has worked with willing landowners, local communities, and national, state and local agencies to protect more than 1.5 million acres across the country. TPL played a central role in creating the Great Rivers Greenway District and is an active partner in the Confluence Greenway Project. TPL has helped protect over 5,500 acres in the St. Louis Region. Options offered: Conducts real estate transactions, planning, coalition building, financing strategies, and public funding measures for land conservation.

GOVERNMENT Agencies:

Great Rivers Greenway District (GRG) www.greatrivers.info
GRG, established in 2000, works for a clean, green, connected St. Louis region. GRG is developing *The River Ring*, an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County. GRG is funded by a 1/10 of 1 cent sales tax. GRG collaborates with public and private landowners to create open space along natural and developed corridors. This interconnected system of greenways that link parks, public open space and communities provides economic, environmental and social benefits throughout the region. Options offered: Acquires land and conservation easements from willing sellers in designated project areas as well as implements projects in partnership with municipalities, government agencies and nonprofits. **Contact: Nancy Ulman (314) 436-7009 or nulman@greatrivers.info**

Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) www.mdc.mo.gov
MDC protects and manages the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of Missouri and facilitates the public's use and enjoyment of them. Conservation Areas throughout the state are acquired from willing sellers and managed for hunting, fishing, biodiversity conservation, birdwatching, hiking, and other related purposes. Staff offers technical and financial assistance to private landowners to achieve long-term conservation of natural resources and meet their land use objectives in ways that enhance land stewardship. Options offered: Information, training, and funding assistance to implement management practices. **Contact: Find one for your area on MDC's website or call the St. Louis Office (636) 441-4554.**

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) www.nrcs.usda.gov
(a division of the United States Department of Agriculture)
NRCS works with private landowners to help protect their natural resources. NRCS conservationists focus on agricultural land (crop, pasture, forest, and grazing land). They work through field offices to address soil erosion, water quality, wetland conservation, animal feeding operations, conservation plant testing and releases, and maintaining agriculture in rapidly growing areas. NRCS provides assistance in partnership with the 114 soil and water conservation districts of Missouri (see below). Options offered: Conservation Practices, management plans, contract agreements, and financial incentive programs. **Contact: St. Louis Co. (636) 922-2833 x5; St. Charles Co. (636) 922-2833 x3; Franklin Co. (800) 538-3584 x3; Jefferson Co. (636) 789-2441 x3; Lincoln Co. (636) 528-4877 x3; Crawford Co. (573) 364-6202 x3; Washington Co. (573) 438-9214.**

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) www.maswcd.net
SWCDs promote the establishment of soil and water conservation practices on agricultural and urban land by providing technical services, incentive programs, and information/education efforts to landowners, local governments, technical providers and educational groups. Each district is self-governed with a locally elected board that administers funds for soil conservation from both state and federal sources. **Contact: Same contact as NRCS (see above).**

Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks (DNR) www.mostateparks.com
DNR administers the state park system. DNR may acquire property adjacent to state parks and historic sites in order to protect existing resources. DNR also has legislative authority to hold conservation easements and other covenants to preserve open space. **Contact: Jennifer Frazier (573) 751-7987 or Jennifer.Frazier@dnr.mo.gov.**