

## Douglas County Conservation District



Healthy Soil • Clean Water  
Bright Future

If you have an event or webinar that you would like included in our newsletter please email the information to: [douglasccd1@gmail.com](mailto:douglasccd1@gmail.com).

April 16th—[Seed Drill Demonstration](#)—Dancing Cow Farm, 11:00am—Lunch Provided.

April 20th—[Spring Plant Sales](#)— Sunrise Project-1501 Learnard Ave. Lawrence KS 4:00pm-7:00pm

April 21st—[Conservation Conversations](#)- Farming Programs and You—Douglas County Fairgrounds— Flory building, 6:00pm

April 23rd— [Earth Day Wildflower Planting](#)— – Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park -1:00pm— 4:00pm

April 23rd— [8th Annual Kansas River Clean up](#)— N.2nd and Locust St. Lawrence KS— 9:00am— 1:00pm.

April 28th—[Local Workgroup Meeting](#)— Douglas County Fairgrounds— Flory Building, 2:00pm

April 30th—[Spring Plant Sales](#)— Sunrise Project-1501 Learnard Ave. Lawrence KS 10:00am-2:00pm

May 19th —[Conservation Conversations](#)— Bee Happy with your Pollinators—Douglas County Fairgrounds— Flory building, 6:00pm

May 28th and 29th— [The Real Food Experience](#)— Mother Earth News— Douglas County Fairgrounds- All day

June 4th- [Native Plant Sale](#)- by Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners— Douglas County Fairgrounds-9:00am-2:30pm

June 23rd- [Conservation Conversations](#)— Composting— What is it and How you can Benefit from it.—Douglas County Fairgrounds— Flory building, 6:00pm

Newsletter Quarter 2

VOL. 35 ISSUE 2

## Protecting the Natural Resources of Douglas County Since 1945

*Our Mission: To provide leadership and assistance in promoting individual responsibility for the conservation of Douglas County natural resources*



## State Cost-Share Sign-Up Has Begun!

Time to mark your calendar and start thinking about upcoming projects such as terraces, waterways, tile systems, livestock waterers, streambank protection, and more. Sign-up runs from now through June 1, 2022.

All cost-share practices must be built to Division of Conservation (DOC) approved standards. Specifications are based on USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide Standards and Specifications. Cost-share funds are allocated using a ranking process approved by the Division of Conservation. Landowners should receive notice of approved projects no later than July 1, 2022.

To apply for funding, please call us (785-843-4260 x6497) to discuss how we can help with your next conservation project! An application can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.douglasccd.com/cost-share-programs.html>.

The Kansas Division of Conservation (DOC) administers state cost-share programs through your Conservation District. The District provides landowners financial and technical assistance to implement approved conservation practices. Funding is provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.

Please watch our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/douglasccd/> for updates.



## Seed Drill Demonstration

**Saturday, April 16th**

**11:00am**



**Dancing Cow Farm**

**36E 2200Rd, Wellsville KS**

**Dancing Cow Farms**



Home to Scottish Highland Cows, Boer and Kiko Goats  
&  
A Bunch of Other Little Critters

**Est. 2010**

Come and join the Douglas County Conservation District as we give a live demonstration of the Drills that we have for rent.






Reserve your Spot now by calling 785-843-4260 or going to <http://www.douglasccd.com>





Spring is here and time to think about our pollinators. Pollinators are an essential part of our lives. They are an integrated part of the growing cycle. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, about 80% of all flowering plants and over three-quarters of the staple crop plants that feed humankind, rely on animal pollinators. Primary animal pollinators include ants, bees, beetles, butterflies, flies, birds, hummingbirds, and moths. Pollinator populations are, however, on the decline for various reasons including habitat loss, introduction and spread of invasive plant species, misuse of pesticides and disease. Providing wildflower-rich habitat is the most significant action you can take to support these important pollinators. Planting pollinator gardens and strips can boost the population and help keep our pollinators happy and healthy.

Remember to:

-  Plant native flowering plants, these are usually the best source of nectar and pollen for our local pollinators. Most native plants require little irrigation, bloom without fertilizers, and are unlikely to become weedy.
-  Plant in the sun - Your pollinator-friendly plants should receive full sun throughout most of the day. Butterfly adults generally feed only in the sun.
-  Provide long-lasting blooms - Sustain pollinators throughout the seasons. Plant a variety of plants that flower at different times providing nectar and pollen sources throughout the growing season.
-  Plant in groups - Clumps of flowering plants will attract more pollinators than single plants scattered in the landscape.
-  No insecticides - Insecticides have the potential to poison or kill pollinators

If you have questions or need to buy seed, give the DCCD a call at 785-843-4260 ext. 3

## Come Join the Local Workgroup Meeting.

Participate in a discussion with members from Douglas, Franklin, Miami, Shawnee, and Wyandotte counties.

We will be discussing recommendations to be sent to the NRCS State Conservationist as well as other state and local leaders.

Topics will include but are not limited to:

- Urban/Small Farm Discussion
- Climate Response Discussion
- Public Information and Outreach Discussion
- Identification of local priority resource concerns
- Training Needs

Let us know your conservation ideas and concerns.

April 28th at 2:00pm

Douglas County Fairgrounds, Flory Building

Please contact the Douglas County Conservation Office to register for the event, get information on how to attend virtually .

Phone:785-8434260 ext3.

Email: [Douglasccd1@gmail.com](mailto:Douglasccd1@gmail.com)





## There is a new face in the office. Welcome Hannah Pippert!



Hannah Is the new Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist for Pheasants Forever, INC. and Quail Forever. She is currently located in the FSA side of the office.

She grew up all over the US because her dad was serving in the USAF and landed in Lawrence, KS to attend college at KU. There she discovered and developed her lover for conservation, specifically prairie conservation. She graduated in 2018 with a degree in Environmental Studies and has been working in conservation since June 2020.

She spent the last year working in Johnson County, KS doing prairie and woodland conservation work- including quite a bit of invasive plant species management.

She lives just over the state line in Kansas City, MO with her husband, Matt and their dog, Molly. They love getting outside on the weekends and visiting natural areas around us!

She is completely a plant person and is so excited to continue to grow as a Kansas Farm Bill Biologist!

Feel Free to contact her at:

4920 Bob Billings Pkwy. | Lawrence, KS 66049

(c.) (719) 321-9780

[hpippert@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:hpippert@pheasantsforever.org)



**CALL OF THE  
UPLANDS®**



# Improving Pollinator and Grassland Habitat Quality at the Mutt Run Off Leash Dog Park

Article provided by: Michael Houts, and Jennifer Delisle.

## **Overview of activities:**

A grant from the Douglas County HCC to the University of Kansas has facilitated a yearlong effort to improve the pollinator and grassland habitat at the Mutt Run off leash dog park. Starting in the Summer of 2021, project staff have coordinated with the city of Lawrence parks department, monarch watch, and NativeLands LLC to create and implement a plan to greatly reduce monoculture of non-native brome grass on the site and replace it with a diverse mix of native grasses and flowering forbs to provide habitat for pollinators and educational opportunities for the public.

### **Summer/fall 2021**

The City of Lawrence Parks Department mowed the site three times to help reduce the amount of new non-native seed generated and spread across the site.

A coordinated effort between the city, KBS personnel, and Native Lands LLC conducted a burn of the entire site on November 9, 2021. This burn removed layers of thatch that would have greatly reduced the success rate of any new plant seeds trying to emerge. The burn also returned nutrients to the soil and helped remove a number of small trees (those not already removed by the mowing)

### **Winter 2021-2022**

The city disked ½ the site 4 times (4 passes to help break up large clumps) in December to help ensure seeds were able to make soil contact and reduce the amount of brome competition for the new native grass and wildflower seed. Only the east half was disked to create a stratified site preparation. With the site prepared two different ways, we both help ensure success by diversifying our methods, but we also create a casual experimental design where we can observe any differences in how well the new native plants establish themselves.

125 pounds of seed was applied to the site in February 12, 2022. A mixture of 20 different native plant species, 4 grass species and 16 flowering forbs. Most of the seed was planted using a seed drill, but the smallest seeds were hand broadcast throughout the site.

**Grassland and Pollinator Habitat Improvement project in progress**

*People, please stay on the trail as much as possible...  
Dogs, go wherever you want.*

**The addition of native grasses and wildflowers will improve habitat resources for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.**




**Summer 2021-Spring 2022**

- Control current non-native vegetation (mow)
- Remove trees and invasive weeds (July-Aug)
- Burn and till the site in (Sept-Oct)
- Seed with native plants (Jan)
- Plant seedlings in the spring\*

For more information and volunteer opportunities\*



University of Kansas, Kansas Biological Survey
Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council
Lawrence Department of Parks and Recreation
Monarch Watch

**Spring 2022**

A total of 2,000 additional native plants have been ordered to be planted as seedlings in May 2022. Of the 19 species of plants ordered to be planted as seedlings, 11 of them are unique additions, not included in the seed mixture. In addition to the purchased plants listed, another 250 milkweed plants are being donated by Monarch Watch that will be planted throughout the site. Native Lands LLC assisted with the selection of native species that would provide a mix of species blooming throughout the spring, summer and fall. The seedlings will be planted at two volunteer days held at the project site on May 14 and May 28. The project has coordinated with the Jayhawk Audubon Society and the Lawrence Nature Center to have the first planting session in conjunction with a public education event on world migratory bird day (May 14th). The event will share information about the connection between plants, insects, and birds, and this projects goals. The volunteer planting dates are also being advertised via [facebook events](#).

Grassland habitats should have a wide variety of grass and flowering plants. Having a mix of species provides variety in food/shelter choices, and since many species grow/bloom at different times, this diversity also helps ensure that the necessary resources for food, shelter, and reproduction are available throughout the year (Table 3). The timing of flower blooms is especially important, as nectar resources are needed year-round to support native butterfly, bee and moth populations.

Common Name	Scientific Name	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>									
Lead plant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>									
Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>									
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>									
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>									
Butterfly milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>									
Whorled milkweed	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>									
Spider milkweed	<i>Asclepias viridis</i>									
White wild indigo	<i>Baptisia alba</i>									
Side oats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>									
Lanceleaf coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>									
Bird foot coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>									
Purple prairie clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>									
Pale purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>									
Canada wild rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>									
False sunflower	<i>Helopsis helianthoides</i>									
Bee balm, horsemint	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>									
Rigid goldenrod	<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>									
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>									
Foxglove beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>									
Prairie phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>									
Grey headed coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>									
Black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>									
Sweet black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>									
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>									
Grey goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>									
Showy goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>									
Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>									
Prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>									
Aromatic aster	<i>Symphoricarpos oblongifolium</i>									
Sky blue aster	<i>Symphoricarpos</i>									
Golden alexander	<i>Zizia aurea</i>									

Table 3. Chart of the bloom time and color for the plants seeded and planted for this project.

Pictures of the process



View of the site in the summer of 2021



The burning of the entire project area in November 2021 to remove the dense cover or vegetation (brome, years of thatch, noxious weeds, and invading trees).



View looking south down till/no till line showing regrowth of brome on the untilled side.



# Conservation Conversations

## Conservation Programs and You

Come and join us as we explain the different conservation programs available and how you would apply for them. We will have guest speakers from the FSA, NRCS, and the Conservation District. Refreshments will be provided

### Details:

April 21st at 6:00pm

Douglas County Fairgrounds, Flory Building.



## Bee Happy With Your Pollinators!

Join us as we discuss the different ways that we can help the pollinators in our area survive and thrive. Guest Speaker: Tim Gogolski

### Details:

May 19th at 6:00pm

Douglas County Fairgrounds, Flory Building.



## Composting— What is it and How You can Benefit

Come and join us as we discuss what composting is. How you can benefit from composting. How to get started. And more.

Speaker: TBA

### Details:

June 23rd at 6:00pm

Douglas County Fairgrounds, Flory Building.



Seating is limited—registration is required.

RSVP at [Douglasccd1@gmail.com](mailto:Douglasccd1@gmail.com) or by calling 785.843.4260 ext. 3







## Welcome to our new Board Member Mackenzie Flory

Mackenzie comes to us with an extensive farming and agricultural background. We look forward to working with her as she brings a new voice to the Board of Supervisors.



### Volunteer planting days — May 2022 at Clinton Lake/Mutt Run Dog Park, Lawrence, Kansas

Help increase the park's diversity of native grasses and wildflowers!

The Kansas Biological Survey & Center for Ecological Research (KU) is leading a project to plant 11 acres with native wildflowers and grasses to improve habitat for monarch butterflies and pollinators. Attend one or both days to help add 2,000 native plants to this newly seeded grassland. **Bring the kids!**

#### Volunteer Planting #1: Sat., May 14, 10 a.m.–Noon

Held in conjunction with Lawrence's World Migratory Bird Day event featuring booths, activities for kids, info about native plants, pollinators and migratory birds.

#### Volunteer Planting #2: Sat., May 28, 5–7 p.m.

Evening volunteer planting—a great family activity.

**Location:** 1330 East 902 Road. From Lawrence: Clinton Parkway west to Clinton Dam road, south on dam road, first left onto 902 Road then first left into parking lot for Dog Park.

**Register:** Email Jennifer Delisle ([idelisle@ku.edu](mailto:idelisle@ku.edu)) so we know how many to expect (not required).

**Wear:** Long pants, closed-toed shoes, work gloves, hat.

**Bring:** Sunscreen, water, insect repellent and a trowel (if you have one).

Other tools provided.



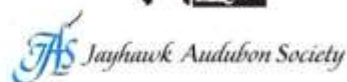
Learn more about the project here:



*This project is funded in part by a grant from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council.*



Project partners





The Monarch Watch is now accepting applications for free milkweed for Spring 2022 go to <https://monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs/milkweed/free-milkweeds/> for more information.

## Earth Day Wildflower Planting

Join Grassland Heritage Foundation, Native Lands LLC, and Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park in a celebration of Earth Day on **April 23rd** from 1:00– 4:00pm at Black Jack Battlefield- a National Historic Landmark just outside of Baldwin City, KS. We will be spending the afternoon planting native wildflowers and grasses into our prairie planting! AN RSVP is requested. Please RSVP using the following link: <https://forms.gle/pvcuGkPHdNXfegkcA>. Black Jack Battlefield is located at 163 E 2000 Rd, Wellsville, KS 66092



**REMINDER:** Please call the Douglas County Burn Hotline at 785-832-5394 before conducting any burning of fields, brush, sticks, twigs, leaves, grass or anything. The Burn Hotline is updated every day by 8 a.m.

## Welcome Back Farmers Markets!



You know it's Spring when the Farmer's Markets open up.

The Lawrence Downtown Farmers Market will open April 9th—Location: 824 New Hampshire— Open every Saturday from 7:30am-11:30am

North Lawrence Farmers Market Will Open April 24th - Location: 923 North 2nd St, Lawrence KS, Open every Sunday from 9:00am-1:00pm

The Lawrence South Park Farmers Market will open on May 3rd . Location: South Park, Open every Tuesday from 4:00pm-6:00pm

Downtown Topeka Farmers Market will open April 2nd.—Location: Parking lot of the Judicial Center between 10th street on the North, 12th street on the South, Topeka Blvd on the West and Jackson on the East, SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS. Open every Saturday from 7:30am-Noon.

Eudora Farmers Market will opening June 6th. Location: 1405 Church St. Eudora KS, Open every Tuesday from 4:00pm—6:30pm.

If you know of other farmer's markets in the area please email me at [Suzy.Mooney\\_DCCD@outlook.com](mailto:Suzy.Mooney_DCCD@outlook.com)



## Douglas County Conservation District

4920 Bob Billings Parkway, Suite A

Lawrence, KS 66049

Return Service Requested

### DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*Funding provided by the State Conservation Commission through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund. All programs and services of the Conservation District are available to anyone without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.*

**Douglas County Conservation District      785.843.4260, ext. 3**

**Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday**

Board of Supervisors:

Jordan Olsen: Chairperson

Lowell Neitzel: Vice Chair

John Bradley: Treasurer

David Brown: Member

MacKenzie Flory: Member

District Personnel:

Randy Winchester, District Manager

Suzy Mooney, Education & Outreach

Jeremy Gaines, Soil Technician

Natural Resources Conservation

Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist

Suzy Mooney, NRCS Clerk

Brooke Franklin, Natural Resource Specialist

Hannah Pippert, Pheasants Forever

Farm Service Agency

785.843.4260, ext. 2

David Sweany, County Executive Director

Debbie Chappelle, Program Tech

Jessica Siedschlag, Program Tech