

## HOW YOU CAN HELP THE KC WILDLANDS

1. Learn about Kansas City WildLands mission. Visit them at [www.kcwildlands.org](http://www.kcwildlands.org). No internet access? Call Linda Lehrbaum, Kansas City WildLands coordinator at 816-561-1061, ext. 116 for information.
2. Take part in a Community Workday. The next one is the Summer Community Restoration Workday on Saturday, September 10th. If you have a civic or social group that wants to get involved, call to talk about special group opportunities.
3. Contribute to the WildLands initiative – volunteer your time or make a tax-deductible donation.

Joining KCP&L as Kansas City WildLands partners are 30-plus educational, civic, corporate and governmental organizations. The complete list is available on the WildLands Web site, click on "Partners."



# Preserving the natural wonders in our own backyard

*How far would you have to travel to see a prairie, glade, savanna or forest?*

The answer is not far at all. They're right here in our community. Relatively undisturbed prairie, glade, savanna and forest still exist on public lands in the Metro area. That's the good news. The bad news—these natural places are being overtaken by trees and brush, invaded by exotic plants and deprived of the natural processes that maintain them. A group of concerned Kansas Citians, The WildLands Coalition, is working hard to assure that these natural landscapes survive and thrive.

Dedicated to protecting and preserving, WildLands is taking a two-fold approach. Its programs promote recognition and appreciation of these natural wonders by the urban public while encouraging volunteer involvement in their care. "We're protecting and managing what are the last best places around our city," says Larry Rizzo, Natural History Regional Biologist, Wildlife Division of The Missouri Department of Conservation. "These are the most biologically diverse places we still have left around the city. They're the places that most resemble what this area looked like before it was settled."

Kansas City Power & Light is proud to be the first corporation to partner with WildLands. "Their goal of identifying areas of native habitat in the metro area and returning them to their original landscape ties closely to our company's commitment to the environment," says KCP&L environmental biologist, Joe Werner.

On a recent workday, WildLands volunteers planted wildflowers in three metro locations—putting back plant species that were once in abundance but now are not. "We know they were there. In some areas close by, in the same community, they still are. We harvest the seeds from plants in those areas. Seedlings are grown by our WildLands partner, Powell Gardens, then volunteers plant them—returning them to their original locale for everyone's enjoyment," Rizzo says.



Tips

**Keep cool this summer.** Make sure your attic or crawl spaces have adequate ventilation. Did you know when they are poorly ventilated it adds to your summer cooling costs? It also can trap moisture in your attic, making insulation less effective. It's a fast, economical way to help you save.