

KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND

Restore the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

"I just have to believe that with love for our natural heritage and a firm resolve to preserve it with wisdom and care, we can and will give the American land to our children, not impaired, but enhanced. And in doing this, we'll honor the great and loving God who gave us this land in the first place."

--President Ronald Reagan

Remarks to National Campers and Hikers Association in
Bowling Green, KY, July 12, 1984

The impact of our Natural Lands.

Land conservation already contributes billions of dollars to Kentucky's economy in the form of jobs, taxes, tourism, and other revenue. Protecting Kentucky's lands and waters is not just a "nice to have" -- it's an **essential investment** in the state's long-term prosperity.

Impact Snapshot

\$5.1 Billion **\$23 Billion**

In Value Added Impact from
Outdoor Recreation

Forestry, Bourbon, and more

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\$18 Million

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) provides the ONLY state funding to conserve Kentucky's key natural areas. KHLCF lands increase public access important for tourism and outdoor recreation, and its funds are often leveraged with federal and private funds. Unfortunately KHLCF has been decimated in recent years due to budget sweeps and declining sources of revenue. NOW is the time to make a strategic re-investment in this critically important conservation program.

We urge the Kentucky General Assembly to restore the \$18 Million swept in recent years from this essential conservation program in the 2024-2025 biennium budget.



Conservation Funding in Southern States

Kentucky lags far behind its southern neighbors in safeguarding natural lands. A key to state competitiveness is with the quality of life Kentucky can offer. In fact, the KY Chamber of Commerce lists quality of life as an important factor to build a truly prosperous Kentucky economy in "KY's Winning Strategy."

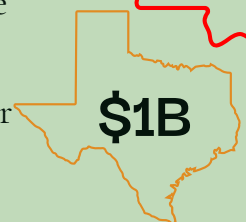
North Carolina approved \$60 Million in the 2024 and 2025 budgets for the Land and Water Fund, as well as \$60 Million annually for their Parks and Recreation Fund.



Mississippi's Outdoor Stewardship Act of 2022 created a fund that provides grants to land trusts. The state allocated \$10 Million in 2022 and \$15 Million in 2023 for this purpose. Due to high demand, the number of applicants far exceeded the available funding.



In November 2023, Texas voters approved \$1 Billion for their Parks Conservation Fund with 77% of voters approving.



We are a broad coalition of Kentucky's land trusts united in our strong commitment to conservation of the natural, cultural, historic, and working landscapes that define what is uniquely Kentucky, add tremendous value to our economy, provide equitable access to our public lands, and enhance public health and quality of life in our Commonwealth.