



## THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

Mississippi Valley Conservancy (MVC) is excited to be moving forward with our work on the Kickapoo River Watershed funded by The McKnight Foundation in partnership with the Kickapoo Grazing Initiative, Wallace Center Pasture Project, the Lower Kickapoo Initiative and Valley Stewardship Network.

The McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota based family foundation, seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. In 2013, The McKnight Foundation gave about \$86 million in grants. Through grantmaking, collaboration, and strategic policy reform, The Foundation enriches people's lives through the arts; encourages protection of the natural environment; and promotes research in selected fields by assisting nonprofit organizations and public agencies.

MVC and collaborating partners will be able to reach out to landowners for site visits, conduct workshops and pasture walks, and establish demonstration sites. This initiative will provide free guidance to landowners including whole farm planning, managed grazing plans, economic assessment of grazing systems, strategies for regional development of farm markets, recommendations for funding through farm bill programs, species and habitat inventory, site assessments, and permanent land protection opportunities. Demonstration sites will showcase conservation practices and the resulting soil and water quality benefits; restoration techniques; and also demonstrate the economic benefits conservation practices.

The overall goal of these actions is to improve the Kickapoo River watershed water quality. Not only will a successful Kickapoo River Watershed conservation initiative be an important model for other Upper Midwest watersheds and communities, it will benefit the overall Mississippi River Watershed.

Landowner feedback throughout the project will guide and drive our efforts, so that we can tailor the program to be as effective, efficient, and beneficial as possible.

Landowners within the Kickapoo River watershed interested in learning more about the project should contact Abbie Church at Mississippi Valley Conservancy at 608-784-3606 extension 2 or by email at [achurch@mississippivalleyconservancy.org](mailto:achurch@mississippivalleyconservancy.org)



## Project Partners and Collaborators:

[McKnight Foundation](#)

[Kickapoo Grazing Initiative](#)

Cynthia Olmstead – [info@kickapoograzinginitiative.com](mailto:info@kickapoograzinginitiative.com)

[Wallace Center Pasture Project](#)

Rod Ofte – [rod.ofte@norsegroupconsulting.com](mailto:rod.ofte@norsegroupconsulting.com)

[Valley Stewardship Network](#)

Shelly Brenneman – [shelly@kickapoovsn.org](mailto:shelly@kickapoovsn.org)

## Other partners we work with:

[Women Caring for the Land](#)

[Trout Unlimited](#)

[NRCS/USDA](#)

[UW Extension](#)

[Grass-fed Beef Cooperative](#)

