

The Nature Conservancy
Kentucky Chapter
Shelly Morris
Director of Floodplain
Strategies



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

- ❖ Non-profit conservation organization
- ❖ Founded in 1950
- ❖ Kentucky Chapter founded 1975
- ❖ Chapters in all 50 states and 79 countries and territories around the world
- ❖ The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters upon which all life depends.
- ❖ Our vision is a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives.

Our Approach

- Non-confrontational
- Pragmatic
- Science-based
- Nonpartisan
- Solution-oriented



The Conservancy works with its partners and stakeholders to find common ground and solutions that benefit people and nature.

The Nature Conservancy



1MM+
active members

600+ scientists



3,700 employees



1,400
preserves
managed



5,000
river miles protected

50

U.S. state chapters



69
countries



120MM
acres of land
protected



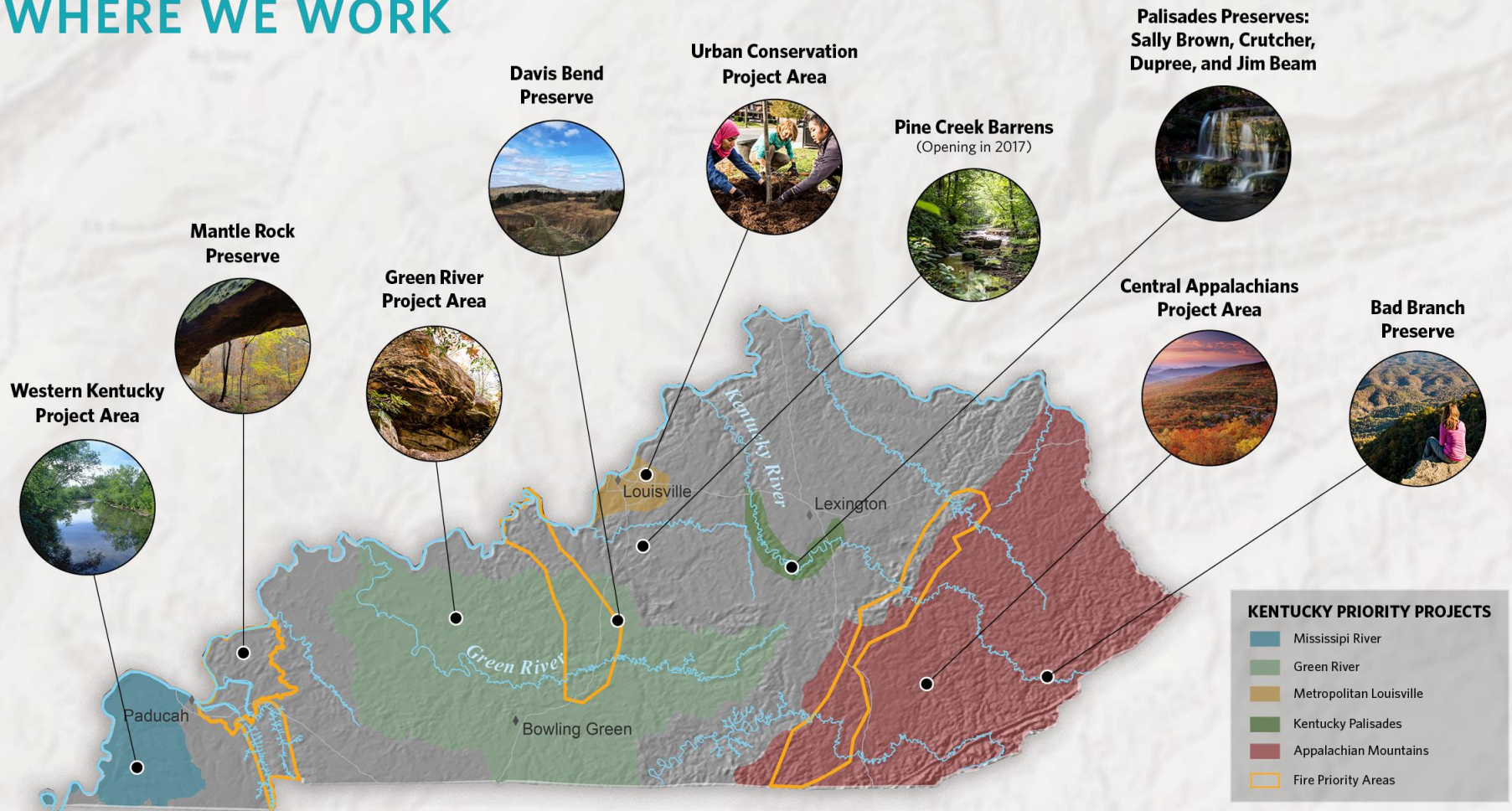
100
Marine conservation
projects in 21 countries &
all U.S. coastal states

The Nature Conservancy



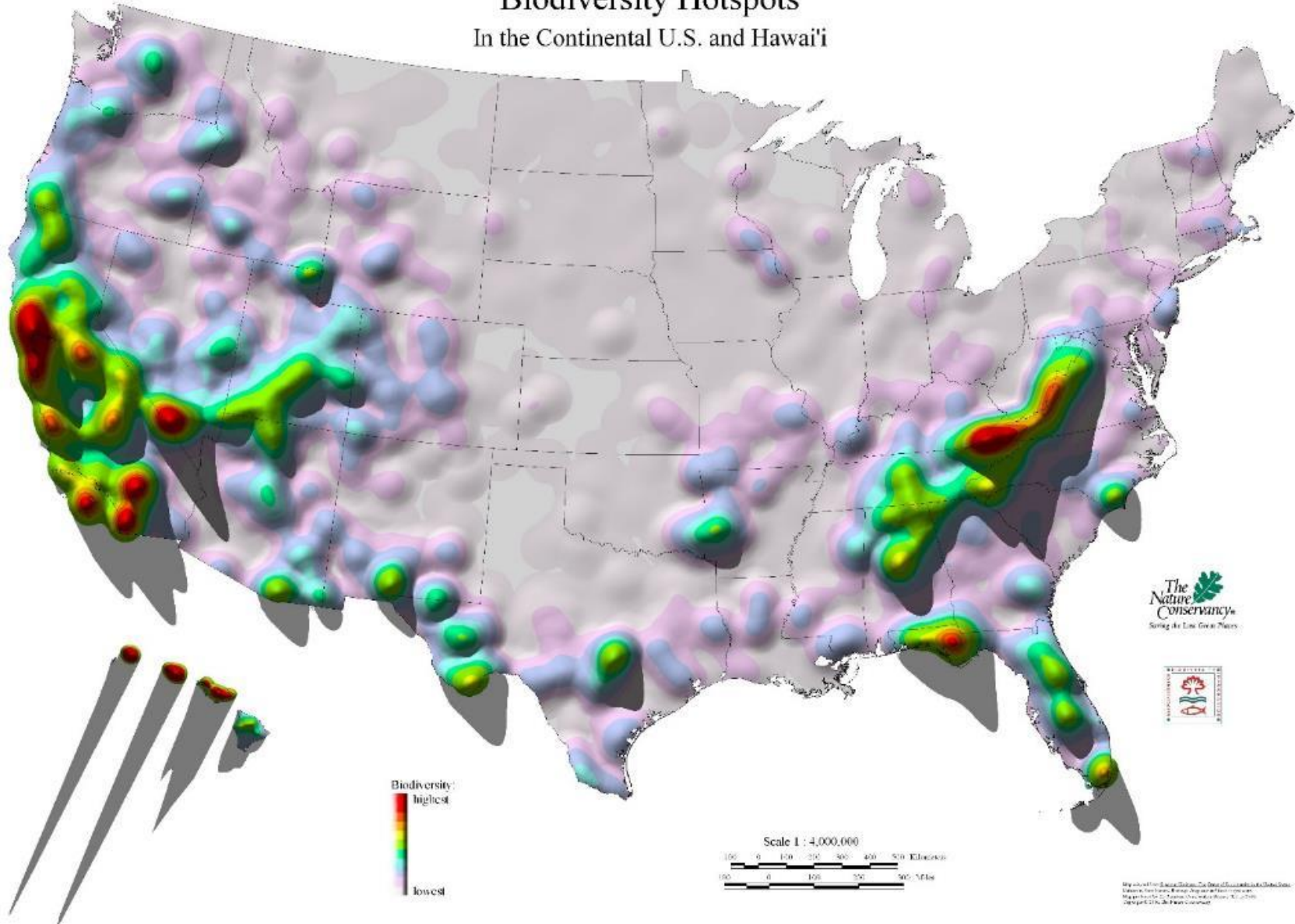
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WHERE WE WORK



CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS

Biodiversity Hotspots In the Continental U.S. and Hawai'i



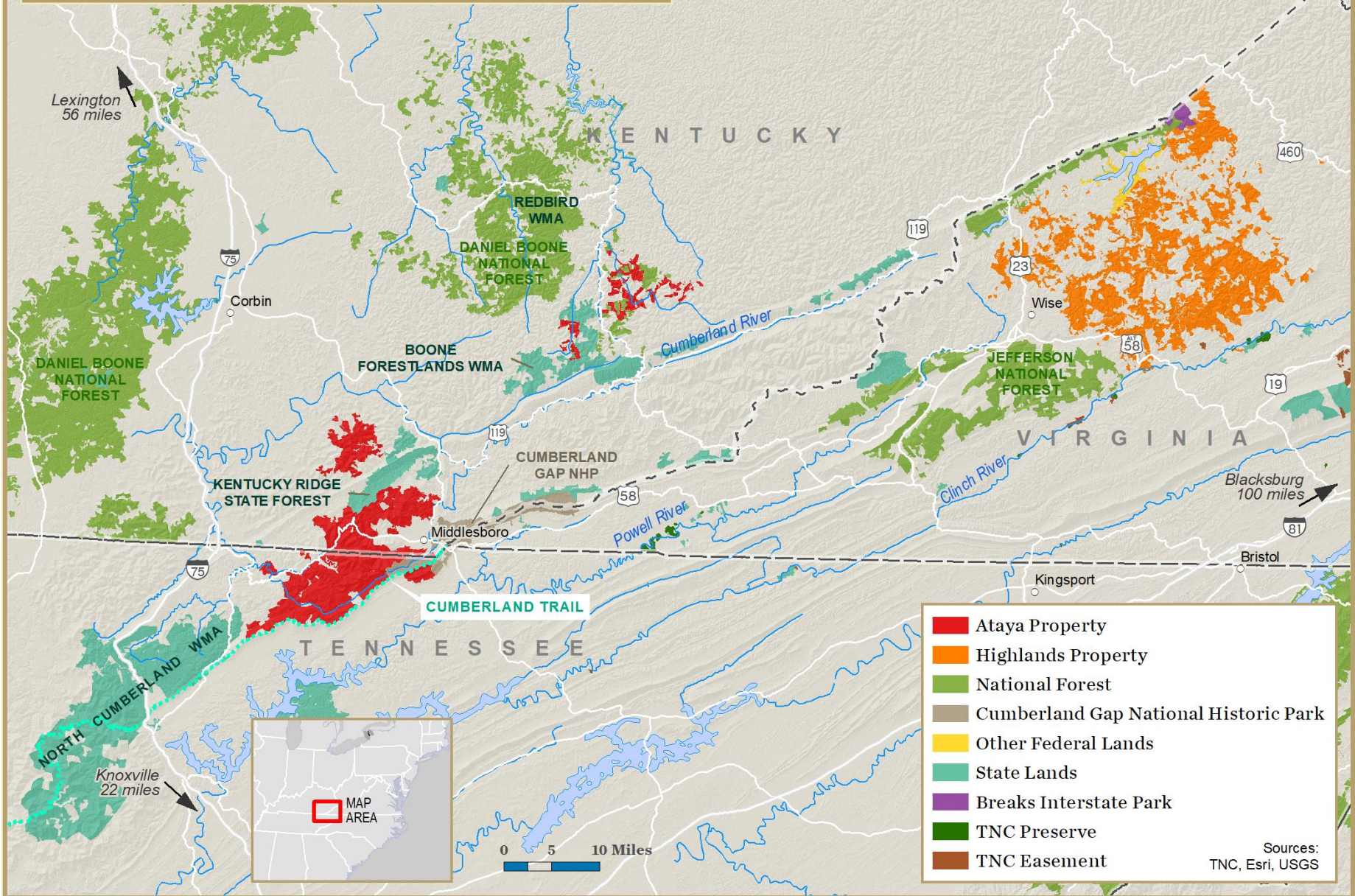
Central Appalachian Mountains



The Conservancy is bringing voluntary forest carbon markets to Eastern Kentucky to establish a strong network of protected lands and waters that can withstand development, climate change, and other pressures.

Ataya and Highlands Properties: Geographic and Conservation Setting

253,000 ac KY/TN/VA



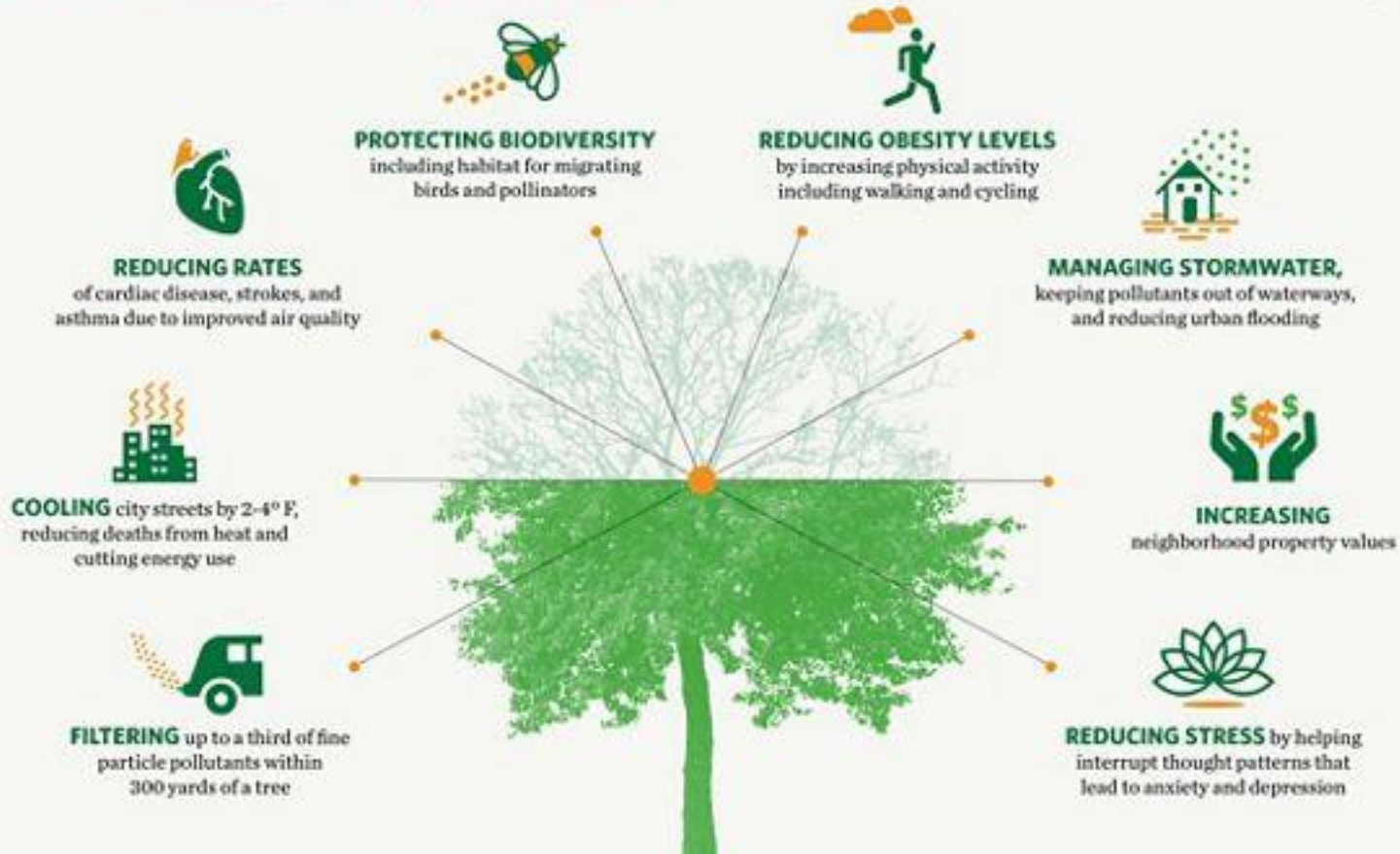
- Ataya Property
- Highlands Property
- National Forest
- Cumberland Gap National Historic Park
- Other Federal Lands
- State Lands
- Breaks Interstate Park
- TNC Preserve
- TNC Easement

Sources:
TNC, Esri, USGS

Metropolitan Louisville

Benefits of Urban Trees

Research has linked the presence of urban trees to...



Louisville is the country's fastest-growing urban heat island. The Conservancy is restoring the city's tree canopy and embarking on a groundbreaking study of potential links between trees and human health.


Green River Aquatic Protection



The Conservancy is working with several partners to remove obsolete locks and dams to secure clean drinking water, restore river flows, enhance habitat for fish and freshwater mussels and improve recreational opportunities.

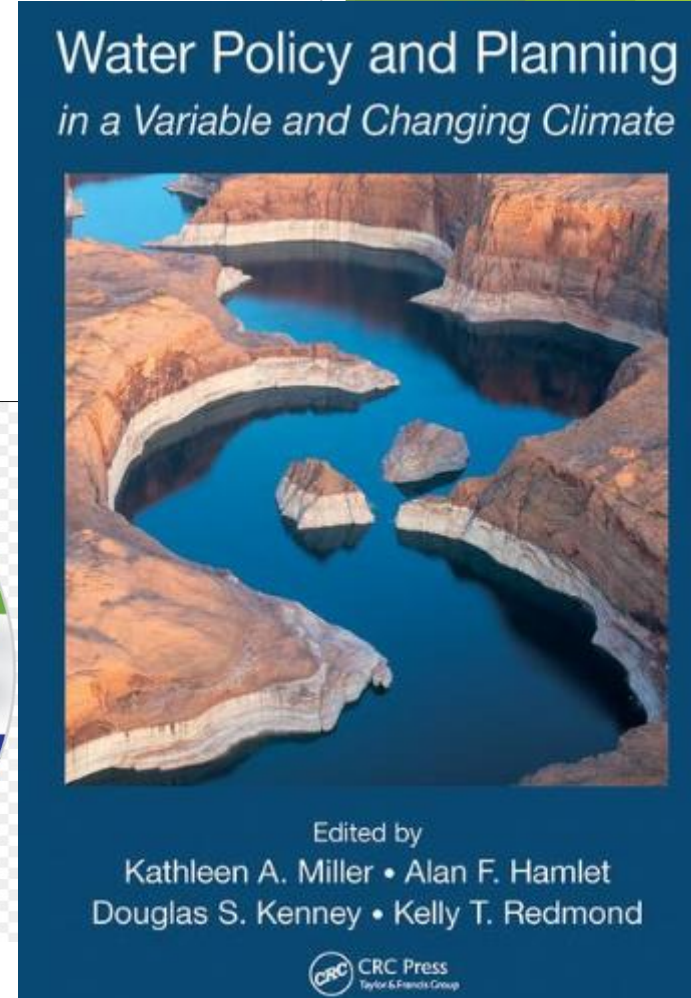
Strategically Launch Kentucky's Agriculture Program

The Nature
Conservancy 
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**Soil Health Program
Relationship building
Market based solutions**

Strategically Launch Kentucky's External Affairs Work



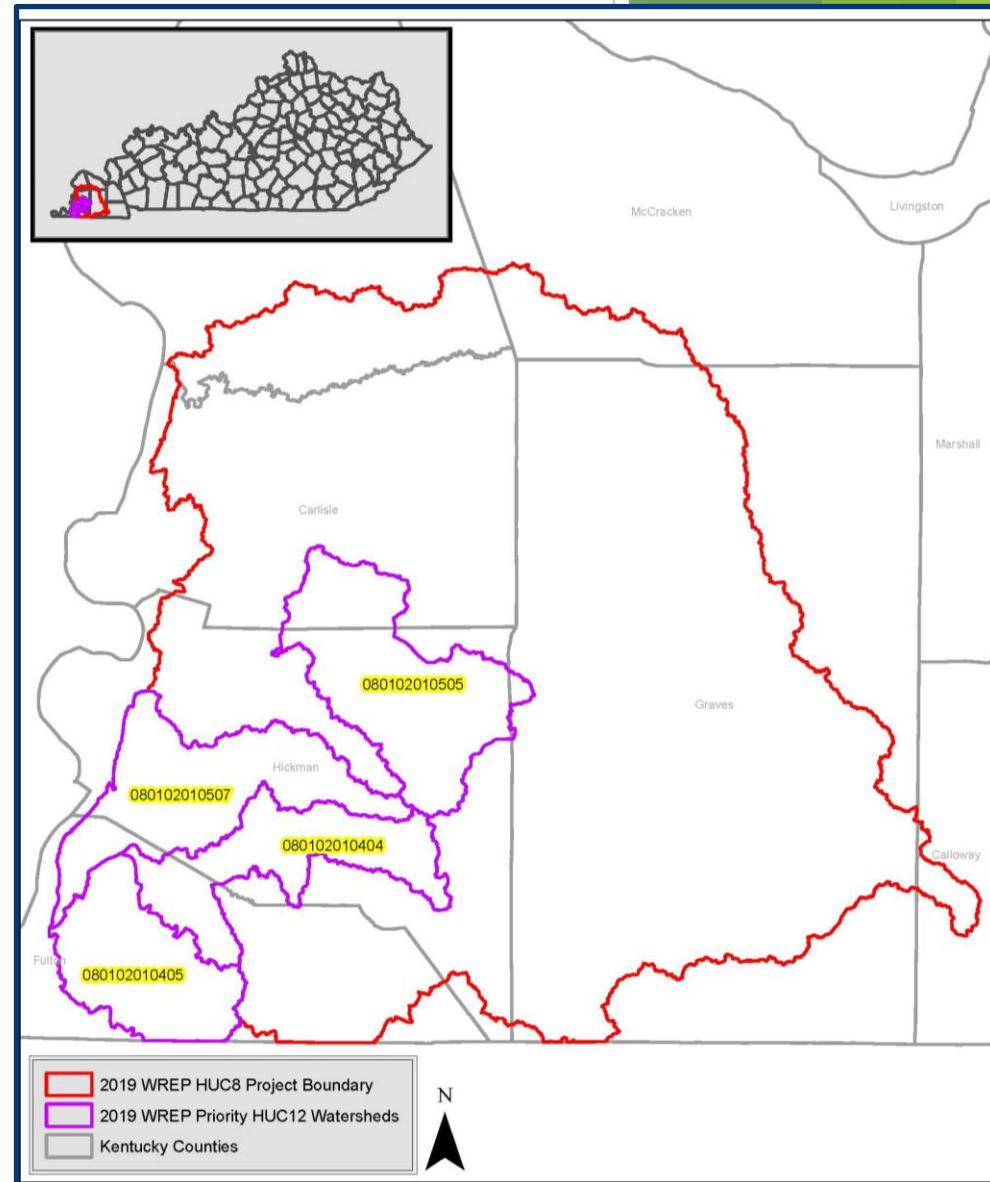
Stewardship, Land Management, and Fire

- ▶ Fire is a critical land management and restoration tool that benefits native habitats, pollinators and songbirds.
- ▶ This year, the new Fire Strike Teams plans to administer 60 burns at Conservancy nature preserves and other conservation lands.



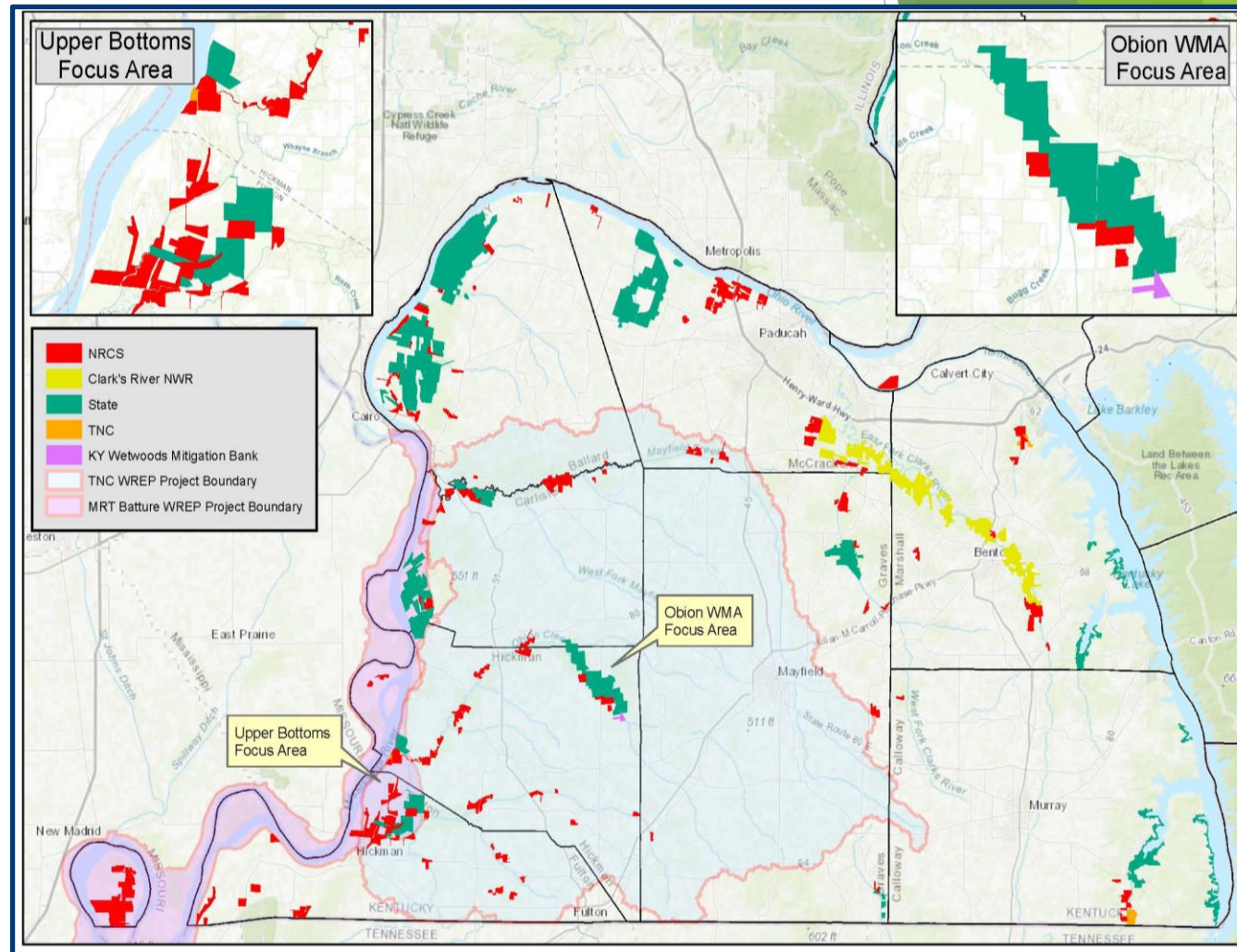
Mississippi River Floodplains

- ▶ In collaboration with NRCS and other partners, the Conservancy is working to restore and protect western Kentucky wetlands and floodplains in an effort to improve water quality and protect wildlife habitat, locally and nationally.
- ▶ Primary tools are the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE - formerly WRP) and Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP)



2019 WREP Area

- 2019 - Now 9,315 ac under NRCS Wetland Easement within Project Boundary (7,433 acres enrolled since 2011)
- 2,644 ac enrolled in Upper Bottoms Focus Area
- \$26M+ in federal funding
- 1.3M trees planted or planned



Thank you!



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<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/kentucky/>