



# LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT

Land Management Council  
July 2025

Prepared by



## Overview

Kirkwood Community College's extensive and unique land resources offer a wide range of educational, ecological, and recreational benefits that extend across and beyond the campus community.

In 2023 Kirkwood Community College completed a Climate Action Plan (CAP) that outlines the College's strategy to mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to the current and future impacts of the changing climate. Kirkwood also recognizes the unique potential of its land resources to promote climate resilience. As part of our Climate Action Plan, Kirkwood set the target to increase the percent of campus land designated as a carbon sink from 8% to 10% by 2030.

### Target:

**10% of campus land designated as carbon sink by 2030**

Sustainable land management is a priority for Kirkwood. This report summarizes current land utilization on campus, highlighting future plans for campus land, and details the alignment of land management with institutional goals and community needs.

Table 1. Main Campus Land Use Overview

	Acres	Use Description
Prairie	41.5	Native prairie maintained to support conservation and sustainability education
Forest / Riparian	13.4	Natural landscapes maintained near waterways for conservation and sustainability education
No-Mow	12.9	Turf areas that are not routinely mowed
Open/Green Space	120	Parks, turf, and outdoor study areas
Academic and Support Facilities	24.7	Classrooms, labs, faculty offices, administrative offices, maintenance
Recreational Areas	19.8	Sports fields, outdoor lab spaces
Parking	74.45	Student, staff, and visitor lots
Row Crops	408	Land used to grow corn, soy, and other crops
Pasture	90	Land used to graze livestock
<b>Tree Count</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>Landscape Trees Inventory</b>

Table 2. Atherton Wetland Property Overview

	Acres	Use Description
Prairie	189.3	Native prairie habitat
Wetland	485.7	Wetland, forest / riparian, mixed habitat

Table 3. Agricultural Land - Palo

	Acres	Use Description
Row Crops	73	Land used to grow corn, soy, and other crops
Pasture	50	Land used to graze livestock
Conservation Reserve Program	8	Acres enrolled in the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Table 4. Regional Centers

	Acres	Use Description
Buildings	7.1	Benton, Iowa, Jones, Linn, Washington County Regional Centers
Green Space	12.4	Turf area
Parking lot	14.6	Student, staff, and visitor lots

# Sustainable Land Management Council

In 2024, Kirkwood convened its first Sustainable Land Management Council to drive the implementation of the College's vision to create regenerative landscapes and habitats and demonstrate best practices for responsible land management. This group of faculty, staff, and students is tasked with identifying and reaffirming a vision for campus land use and will coordinate the prioritized implementation of vision-aligned land use strategies. The Sustainable Land Management Council is responsible for:

- Coordinating land use data collection and analysis of key metrics
- Identifying or reaffirming a vision for campus land use. Setting measurable targets for implementation.
- Coordinating the implementation of vision-aligned land use strategies.
- Monitoring progress toward short- and long-term management targets

## What to expect in 2025-26

- New native prairie areas will be seeded on main campus.
- A facilities master planning process is underway, which will guide the college's next phase of building renovations, expansion, and land management and maintenance.
- Exploring on-site solar development and renewable energy procurement options to support the College's net-zero emissions goal.
- Campus community members will have the opportunity to propose land management projects for consideration by the Sustainable Land Management Council beginning in the fall of 2025.

### Questions?

Please contact Sustainable Land Management Council co-chairs Brad Kinsinger ([bradley.kinsinger@kirkwood.edu](mailto:bradley.kinsinger@kirkwood.edu)) and Brett Eilers ([brett.eilers@kirkwood.edu](mailto:brett.eilers@kirkwood.edu)).