

## Nature First

### Goal:

Nature First seeks to convert areas of Kansas City's park property that would generally be maintained by mowing into stands of native grasses.

### Project Description:

In 2003, Kansas City Parks and Recreation began Nature First. This program meets one of the City Council's climate protection recommendations of converting 300 acres into native plantings. Specific projects include:

- Lakeside Nature Center in Swope Park
- Indian Creek Trail Greenway, at 99th and Holmes
- Remnant civil war battlefield north of Swope Park
- 99th and Holmes Rain Garden
- Santa Fe Trail swales in Minor Park at Holmes and Red Bridge Road
- Tower Park Rain Garden
- Tony Acuirre Community Center Rain Garden

### Community Benefits and Lessons Learned:

This program offers many benefits for Kansas City and its citizens. The Nature First project utilizes Missouri's native plants to provide diverse habitat for birds and other native wildlife, helps reduce erosion and pollution, educates citizens about plants native to Missouri, and offers ideas for alternative landscape using native plants. Additionally, native plants are ideal for reducing landscape maintenance and expenses, such as mowing.

### Funding Sources and Partnerships:

KCMO Parks and Recreation  
KC WildLands

### Contact:

KCMO Department of Parks and Recreation  
4600 E. 63rd St.  
Kansas City, Mo. 64130  
(816) 513-7530



*Santa Fe Trail in Minor Park now features native plants.*



*Native seed is planted to enhance native regrowth.*