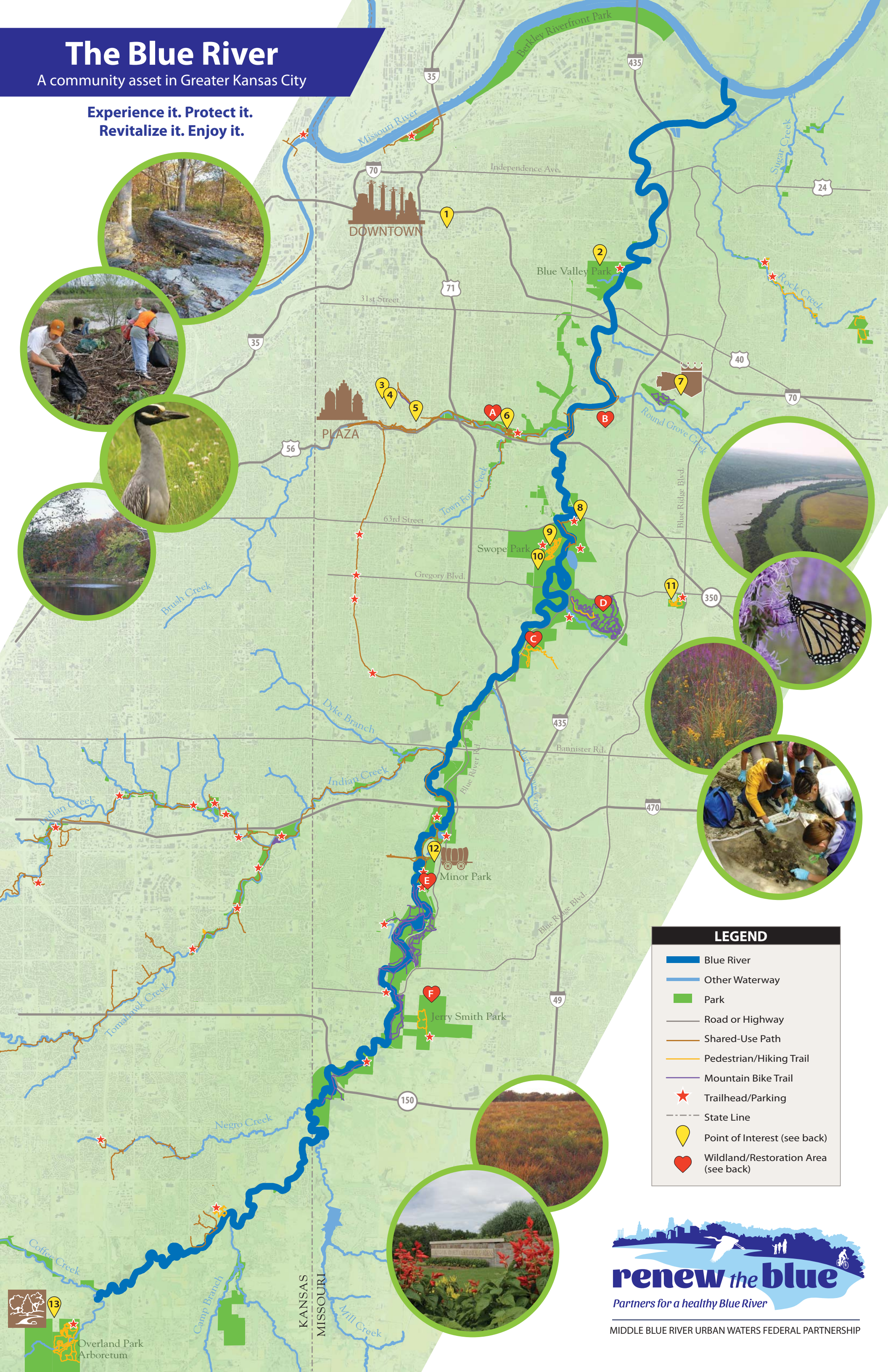


# The Blue River

A community asset in Greater Kansas City

Experience it. Protect it.  
Revitalize it. Enjoy it.



LEGEND	
	Blue River
	Other Waterway
	Park
	Road or Highway
	Shared-Use Path
	Pedestrian/Hiking Trail
	Mountain Bike Trail
	Trailhead/Parking
	State Line
	Point of Interest (see back)
	Wildland/Restoration Area (see back)



MIDDLE BLUE RIVER URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP



## Experience the River: Visit these Wildlands and Restoration Areas

- A Brush Creek Oxbow and Island** | On Brush Creek trail 0.3 miles west of Brush Creek Community Center.  
Green Works in Kansas City students and other community partners have applied their environmental knowledge to restoring the island and oxbow along a segment of Brush Creek. The U-shaped oxbow's flow was restored by the removal of sediment. The oxbow and connected island, stream edge and parkland have been planted with native trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers and wetland plants that beautify the stream and boulevard. Kansas City Parks has added trails, and the Healthy Rivers Partnership has cleared invasive shrub honeysuckle from the south bank opposite the oxbow.
- B Municipal Farm** | East of I-435 in the Eastwood Hills neighborhood.  
The city of Kansas City owns 440+ acres that was once home to a city corrections facility, municipal farm and tuberculosis hospital. The area has a sustainable reuse plan approved by the city council, and up-to-date conceptual plans that envision the area as a hub of agriculture, nature recreation and regional trails. Habitat restoration will be an integrating feature, connecting wildlife corridors and protecting water quality along the Blue River. The Municipal Farm restoration is linked with restoration at the nearby Brush Creek and Blue River confluence. *This area is not yet open to the public, except for a community gardening area.*
- C Blue River Glades** | Blue River Road about 1.1 miles south of Swope Memorial Golf Course — parking on roadside.  
Adjacent to Swope Park's southern boundary, the Blue River Glades natural area contains a rare limestone glade community (think of prairie in a forest with thin soil over large rock outcroppings). Its gnarled Chiquapin Oaks are nearly 300 years old and sit atop extraordinary slabs of Bethany Falls limestone. This community has been under active restoration by Jackson County, Kansas City WildLands and others for at least two decades. It is managed via periodic prescribed burning and removal of exotic invasive species, including shrub honeysuckle.
- D Rocky Point Glades** | Enter at Camp Lake of the Woods on the east side of Oldham Road, just southeast of Swope Park Shelter #7. Park at the gate and follow the entrance road to Hogan Cabin. Look for the marked trail behind the cabin.  
This series of limestone glades with oak savanna is tucked away in Camp Lake of the Woods in Swope Park. It has been under restoration by Kansas City Parks and Kansas City WildLands for more than a decade. By clearing away overgrowth of trees and shrubs, removing exotic shrub honeysuckle, performing controlled burns, and planting native species grown from seed from the more diverse Blue River Glades nearby, the restoration has opened up beautiful vistas into surrounding parkland.
- E Blue River Parkway** | Enter the trail at Minor Park tennis courts on Blue River Road, 0.2 miles south of Red Bridge Road.  
Jackson County Parks, Kansas City WildLands and other partners have been conducting an accelerated restoration effort in the bottomland forest of the Blue River Parkway corridor south of the Minor Park tennis courts, removing invasive exotic honeysuckle and planting native trees and shrubs. These forests have an Ozarkian character, and are home to several nesting bird species.
- F Jerry Smith Park** | 139th Street, 0.75 miles east of Holmes Road  
Jerry Smith Park contains the only remnant of native prairie in Jackson County. Forty acres have been under intense restoration by Kansas City Parks and Kansas City WildLands since 1998. Restoration activities include tree removal, prescribed burning, control of invasive plants and the planting of locally grown, native flowers. The park features amazing vistas, three seasons of blooms, a one-mile hiking loop, a lookout station and interpretive signs.



### Middle Blue River Urban Waters Federal Partnership — Partner Organizations

City of Kansas City, Missouri  
» Parks and Recreation  
» Planning and Development  
» Water Services  
Heartland Conservation Alliance  
Mid-America Regional Council  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
National Park Service  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7  
U.S. Forest Service  
U.S. Geological Survey

### MAP SITE MARKER KEY

- Points of Interest**
- 18th & Vine District
  - Blue Valley Historic Park
  - Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art
  - Nelson Atkins Museum of Art
  - Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center
  - Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center
  - Truman Sports Complex
  - Byram's Ford Historic District
  - Kansas City Zoo
  - Lakeside Nature Center
  - Cave Spring
  - Minor Park Wagon Swales
  - Overland Park Arboretum
- Wildlands/Restoration Areas**
- Brush Creek Oxbow
  - Municipal Farm
  - Blue River Glades
  - Rocky Point Glades
  - Blue River Parkway
  - Jerry Smith Park

## Get Involved!

You can help “Renew the Blue” by volunteering with any of the organizations listed below. A more detailed list is available online at [www.marc.org/renewtheblue](http://www.marc.org/renewtheblue)

### Blue River Watershed Association

Learn how our behaviors impact the river and what you can do to minimize these impacts and help bring the Blue River back to its former glory. [brwa.net](http://brwa.net)

### Heartland Tree Alliance

Take action for a healthy community forest by planting, mulching and pruning. A program of Bridging the Gap. [bridgingthegap.org/volunteer](http://bridgingthegap.org/volunteer)

### Healthy Rivers Partnership

Physically connect to the river with hands-on opportunities to clean up litter along riverbanks and streams. [healthyriverpartnership.com](http://healthyriverpartnership.com)

### Project Blue River Rescue

Join the largest one-day cleanup in Missouri in the first weekend of April each year. Contacts are online at [lakesidenaturecenter.org/folnc.html](http://lakesidenaturecenter.org/folnc.html)

### Friends of KCMO Parks

Participate in your community by volunteering at Swope Park and other parks along the river. Email [parks.volunteer@kcmo.org](mailto:parks.volunteer@kcmo.org) or call 816-513-7515.

### Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

Learn about garden amenities and visit the Blue River headwater trails. Search Arboretum Volunteer Opportunities at [opkansas.org](http://opkansas.org)

### Heartland Conservation Alliance

HCA proactively conserves, protects and restores natural lands to benefit the entire community. [HeartlandConservationAlliance.org](http://HeartlandConservationAlliance.org)

### Stream Teams

Help with litter pickup, tree planting, marking of storm drains or join the water quality monitoring team. [mostreamteam.org](http://mostreamteam.org)

### Kansas City Wildlands

Help restore and manage the remnants of prairie, glade, savanna and forest along the Blue River corridor. [bridgingthegap.org/kansas-city-wildlands](http://bridgingthegap.org/kansas-city-wildlands)

### Urban Trail Company

Help build trails on varied terrain in natural places for hiking, walking, running and mountain biking. [urbantrailco.com/volunteer](http://urbantrailco.com/volunteer)

For more detail on where to access trails shown on this map:



Visit [marc.org/bikemap](http://marc.org/bikemap) or scan this QR code to get the Regional Bike and Trails Map web app on your phone.

Connect with us on social media:

