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Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri Earns National Accreditation

Local Nonprofit Certifies Strong Commitment to Public Trust and Conservation Excellence

Columbia, Missouri, February 16, 2022 – One thing that unites us as a nation is land: Americans strongly support saving the open spaces they love. Since 1993, Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri has been doing just that for the people of Mid-Missouri. Now Greenbelt has achieved national accreditation – joining a network of over 450 accredited land trusts across the nation that have demonstrated their commitment to professional excellence and to maintaining the public’s trust in their work. Greenbelt is just the third Missouri land trust to achieve this distinction.

“Accreditation demonstrates Greenbelt’s commitment to permanent land conservation in Mid-Missouri,” said Mike Powell, Executive Director. “We are a stronger organization for having gone through the rigorous accreditation program. Our strength means special places – such as Hundred Acre Woods Nature Preserve – will be protected forever, making Mid-Missouri an even greater place for us and for future generations.”

Greenbelt provided extensive documentation and was subject to a comprehensive third-party evaluation prior to achieving this distinction. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded accreditation, signifying its confidence that Greenbelt’s lands will be protected forever. Accredited land trusts steward almost 20 million acres of land – the size of Denali, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Everglades and Yosemite National Parks combined.

“It is exciting to recognize Greenbelt with this national mark of distinction,” said Melissa Kalvestrand, executive director of the Commission. “Donors and partners can trust the more than 450 accredited land trusts across the country are united behind strong standards and have demonstrated sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance, and lasting stewardship.”

Greenbelt is one of 1,363 land trusts across the United States, more than 450 of which are accredited, according to the Land Trust Alliance’s most recent National Land Trust Census. A complete list of accredited land trusts and more information about the process and benefits can be found at www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

About Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri

The mission of the Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri is to conserve the streams, forests, grasslands, and farmlands that represent our distinctive landscape for present and future generations. Greenbelt is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization governed by a board of directors, with representation from landowners and supporters of the conservation community.

Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri began in 1993 as the Greenbelt Coalition, an advocacy group supporting conservation ideals and the vision of creating a network of “greenbelt” lands in and around Columbia, Missouri. Working in partnership with the City of Columbia, Greenbelt laid the groundwork for the public trail in the Hinkson Creek valley. In 1997, the Greenbelt Coalition accepted its first donation of private land, and the concept of a land trust emerged. In 2004, we completed the transition and became Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri. Since then, we have conserved nearly 800 acres of vital natural and agricultural land in Mid-Missouri, and are adding more all the time. For more, visit <https://greenbeltmissouri.org>

About the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission inspires excellence, promotes public trust and ensures permanence in the conservation of open lands by recognizing organizations that meet rigorous quality standards and strive for continuous improvement. The Commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts. For more, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

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