HeartLands Conservancy is growing, and we are excited to announce a call for nominations to the organization’s board of directors and committees!

**WHO WE ARE**

HeartLands Conservancy is a leading environmental nonprofit and conservation land trust headquartered in Belleville, IL, serving southwestern and southern Illinois. The organization works to empower and collaborate with the people of southern Illinois to advance and protect the health of our distinctive communities and nationally significant cultural and natural resources. This is accomplished through three program areas that use planning, conservation, engagement, and technical services to assist communities and organizations.

In 2023, the organization adopted a new strategic plan, which includes ambitious goals for equitably improving the health of our region’s land, water, and communities. Since 1989, HeartLands Conservancy has conserved over 10,000 acres of natural areas, green spaces, and farmland and partnered with many communities toward a thriving future.

HeartLands Conservancy’s fifteen (15) permanent and seasonal staff members include professionals in conservation science, urban planning, landscape design, forestry, land management, environmental science, and public health who collaborate and partner with government agencies, residents, community groups, and universities on land conservation, environmental, education, community planning, water quality, environmental monitoring, and other conservation-related projects.

We have a **strong board** with reputable, connected, and high-performing members. We are growing our organization and service area and as a result, we are growing our
board! We are excited to initiate this open call for board member nominations as a part of our new strategic direction.

**WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR**
We are looking for multiple people who want to help build the next chapter of increased impact, growth, and sustainability for HeartLands Conservancy.

Qualities we are seeking:
- Mission-driven with a passion for conservation and communities in southern Illinois.
- Committed to making time to be fully engaged during and between meetings, contributing financial resources, and serving as an ambassador for the organization and the cause.
- Collaborative decision-maker and strategic thinker.
- People of diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

**WHAT WE WILL ASK OF YOU**
- Inform our strategic direction, oversee our financial health, and ensure that best practices in management and leadership are followed.
- Commit to a multi-year term, representing the best interests of the organization, its staff, partners, and volunteers.
- Be willing to help make connections to secure funds and ready to make a personally significant financial contribution.
- Actively collaborate with current board members and cultivate new members.
- Serve on at least one board committee. Committees include Governance, Finance & Audit, Development, and Programs & Services and typically meet virtually once per month.
- Be willing to devote sufficient time to their duties and responsibilities, which include (among other duties):
  - attendance at least 75% of board meetings per year (there are 4 board meetings each year)
  - attend at least one 1 annual event, such as Field to Fork
  - be prepared to serve to the end of their 3-year term
  - serve as an informed and compelling ambassador to expand HeartLands Conservancy’s, impact, influence, and effectiveness in our region.

Please [visit this link](#) to tell us about your experience and passion for this work. We’ll be reviewing the first round of nominations July 26, 2023. Interested nominees are encouraged to submit the form by July 23, 2023. However, the form will remain open until all positions are filled; therefore, please submit your form at any time.
We plan to reach back out by the end of August 2023, for more information to those who appear to be the best fit for advancement in the process. Those not contacted by September will be contacted at a later date. Offers to join the board or committee will be extended by the end of November 2023. Official board or committee service will begin in January 2024, and onboarding training will be conducted in January.

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