



# PHEASANTS FOREVER & QUAIL FOREVER

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## NEWS RELEASE

### Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever partners with Sikeston BMU and others for pollinator habitat project

Will aid in development of 11-acre prairie parcel in local community

**SIKESTON, Mo. – August 7, 2020** – Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever is proud to announce a partnership with the Sikeston Board of Municipal Utilities (BMU), Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the Bootheel Bobwhites Chapter of Quail Forever and Corteva Agriscience to restore prairie habitat in Sikeston.

The partners have identified an 11-acre tract behind the Bootheel Clubhouse Community Building on N. Ingram Road that was perfect for the pollinator plot. An adjacent, five-acre parcel is also being considered for additional prairie restoration.

Kelsey DeZalia, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II for Scott and Stoddard counties, collaborated with representatives from Sikeston BMU, Corteva, the Bootheel Bobwhites Chapter and MDC to bring this project to fruition.

“I’m very excited to be collaborating with our partners on this project. Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are dedicated to establishing quality native habitat, but are also devoted to community outreach and education,” said DeZalia. “This highly utilized and visible location offers a great opportunity to reach patrons of the park, as well as those who simply drive past. Our goals for this project are directed at benefiting both wildlife and the residents of the surrounding area.”

The site is currently being prepared for planting, with plans to seed a diverse mix of native wildflowers and grasses in early 2021. The diverse seed mix — made possible by a Corteva





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Agriscience Corteva Grows Communities grant — will attract a wide range of wildlife, including upland and grassland birds, pollinators and other native prairie species.

“There are so many avenues to put habitat on the ground, and our biologists and partners are phenomenal at finding the unique ones,” said Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Missouri State Coordinator Casey Bergthold. “This is just another shining example.”

The project will take a couple years for it to be fully developed, but even by the end of the first growing season there will be blooming wildflowers. Our biologists often use the phrase “*sleep, creep, leap*” to describe the growing stages through the first three years of a new planting.

While this pollinator plot may take several years to fully establish, the benefits to local wildlife are almost instant. This pollinator plot will produce high-quality habitat and abundant food sources for all sorts of native wildlife, not just beautiful wildflowers. When it comes to pollinator plots, patience pays off.

If you have any questions about the pollinator project happening in Sikeston or would like to learn more about establishing pollinator and wildlife on your own property, contact Kelsey DeZalia at [KDeZalia@quailforever.org](mailto:KDeZalia@quailforever.org).

### About Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever

[Pheasants Forever](#), including its quail conservation division — [Quail Forever](#) — is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation. Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever have more than 138,000 members and 760 local chapters across the United States and Canada. Since creation in 1982, Pheasants Forever has spent over \$900 million on 550,000 habitat projects benefiting 19 million acres nationwide. Visit the [Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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