



**Restoring Our Roots in Creation:
Pilgrimages You Can Take in Kansas**

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Introduction

Dear Pilgrims in Creation

Welcome to this guide of diocesan sites, prepared by the Land Use Mini Team of the Care of Creation Task Force. We hope that it not only inspires visits to these beautiful sites, but also inspires more sites to be recognized.

The work of the committee uncovered many beautiful gardens and locations for walking in creation. The focus for this booklet is to identify those sites in the diocese which are demonstrating three principles: restoration of native plants, incorporation of creation sensitive practices, and hospitality to the surrounding community.

Each of these sites is a miniature of God's creation in all its glory. They provide space for a community of plant and animal species that are interdependent and interconnected in a way that draws us closer to the divine.

We were made to be the stewards of creation; caring for it, nurturing it, and allowing it to prosper. We live in a time when we are confronted with the damage we have done through interacting with creation as consumers, rather than caretakers. We simply must turn the tide and begin to restore the very roots of who we are as creatures of God.

The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas has committed to healing the land over which we are the stewards, and we invite every parish and parishioner to do likewise. It is our hope that you find inspiration to take action in your own place in creation.

This resource will be an electronic resource, available at <https://episcopal-ks.org/care-of-creation/> so that we are able to update it as new sites are developed and brought to our attention!

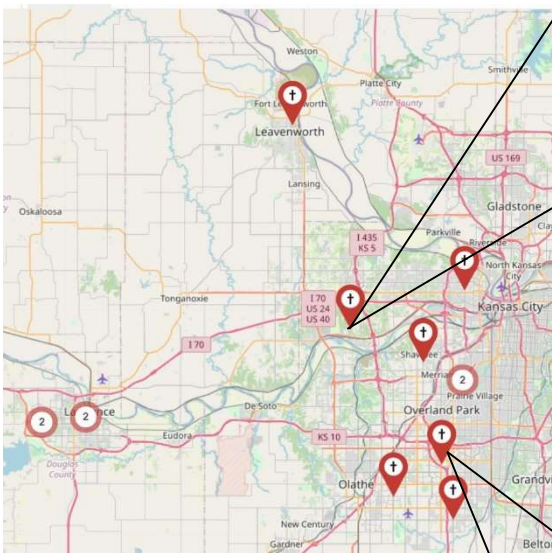
If you would like to be a part of this important work, contact Diocesan Missioner, Mother Jenn Allen for more information at jallen@episcopal-ks.org.

Blessings!

The Land Use Mini of the Care of Creation Task Force

Northeast Convocation

Saint Martin in the Fields



Saint Francis of Assisi



St. Francis of Assisi

17890 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS

St. Francis of Assisi's in the Pines is blessed to have about 22 acres of land. St. Francis celebrates God's creation through several ministries. They have a beekeeper that keeps his bees on the property, they charter a Scouts of America Troop that uses the land to camp out and have other outdoor activities, and they have a prayer trail. These ministries not only show activity at St. Francis, passive evangelism, but connects people with God's beautiful creation.

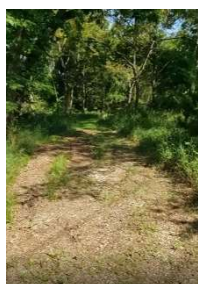


Bees are essential to our creation. They pollinate crops, trees, flowers, and vegetables, because of this they are extremely important for humans. The bees at St. Francis are honeybees and are not aggressive. St. Francis set aside a piece of property for a beekeeper to keep his hives. St. Francis has also built a bee pond where one can sit to read

a book from the outdoor library, pray, reflect, or just watch the bees come get drinks of water. The honey and the wax that it produces is harvested by the beekeeper and sold for maintenance of the hives and to build out other hives. He also is willing to educate the community on the importance of bees and how to start your own hive.



The scouts are very important to St. Francis. Much of the work and improvements at St. Francis is because of the Scouts and Eagle projects. The bee pond and outdoor library are just two examples of many that the Scouts started and maintain. They also built a safe fire pit and are in the process of putting together an outside altar. The prayer trail is cleared every year by the Scouts, and without them it would be overgrown and treacherous.

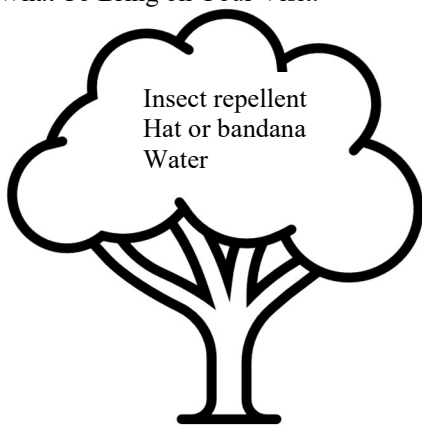


The prayer trail is on the further north part of the property. It winds through the trees and native grasses up and down the hills and through a creek, over a bridge to a trail end. The hiker then returns to the trail head the same way they went in. At the trail head is a bench where people can sit, pray and reflect. On the trail there are 14 numbered signs where people can pause, pray and reflect. In the outdoor library is an

introduction to the Prayer Trail as well as the Stations of the Cross so visitors can use them as a guide on the trail. The people of St. Francis continue to explore new prayer to be used on the trail and have been working with Fr. Evan Ash to build a prayer for the stations to celebrate and reflect on creation.

St. Francis celebrates the outdoors as much as they can. With a new parking lot, they have a great place to have outdoor services if the grounds are wet, and the shade the trees give off allow visitors to find refuge from the sun. St. Francis has many visitors throughout the year. Photographers are regulars to the outdoor space, bringing their clients and their client's pets to be photographed with God's amazing creation as a backdrop. All are welcome any time to enjoy this space.

What To Bring on Your Visit:



How to get there:

From the Southeast: *US-69 North to 179th Street exit, Turn right. Turn left onto Metcalf Place and St. Francis is on your left.*

From the Southwest: *I-35 North to Exit 210, US-56, turn right on 175th street. Turn left onto Metcalf Place and St. Francis is on your left.*

From the Northwest: *I-70 East to I-435 South. Take the US-69 South exit. Continue south to 167th St exit, turn left onto 167th St. Turn right onto Metcalf Ave, then right on Metcalf Place. St. Francis is on your left.*

From the Northeast: *Take the US-69 South to 167th St exit, turn left onto 167th St. Turn right onto Metcalf Ave, then right on Metcalf Place. St. Francis is on your left.*

St. Martin in the Fields

1501 Edwardsville Drive, Edwardsville, KS

At St. Martin in the Fields, the parish embraces their name by preserving their surrounding natural woods and grasslands. The church lies in the center of a beautifully wooded setting and the grounds provide outdoor worship space at the God's Light Fire Ring, a Girl Scout Gold Award project. The fire ring provides a gathering area and green space for neighbors to visit.



An Eagle Scout project is developing a labyrinth, the Lord's Compass. This area provides meditative space where the Lord can guide your path.

Both St. Martin in the Fields and St. Francis of Assisi are great examples of partnering with community organizations to build relationships and creation sites.



What To Bring on Your Visit:



How to get there:

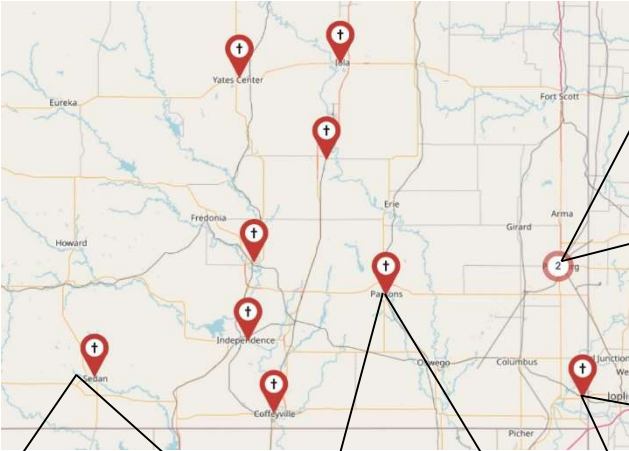
From the Southeast: *US-69 North to I-435 West, stay left for I-435 N. Take exit 9 for KS-32, turn right. Turn right on N 4th Street. St. Martin's will be on the right.*

From the Southwest: *I-35 North to I-435 West, stay left for I-435 N. Take exit 9 for KS-32, turn right. Turn right on N 4th Street. St. Martin's will be on the right.*

From the Northwest: *I-70 East to KS-7 South. Follow KS-7 S to the KS 32 exit, turn left. Turn right on N 4th Street. St. Martin's will be on the right.*

From the Northeast: *I-70 West to 57th St. Turn left onto 57th St., then turn right on Kaw Dr. Merge onto KS 32 W. Turn right on N 4th Street. St. Martin's will be on the right.*

Southeast Convocation



Saint Peter's



Saint John's



Saint Mary's

Red Buffalo Ranch

Located outside of Sedan, Kansas, the Red Buffalo Ranch is a working ranch with a herd of bison. A portion of the ranch has been set aside as a conservation easement in the Kansas Land Trust. The ranch has partnered with Episcopal Churches in the Southeast to provide an outdoor worship space. Although the service has faced some delays due to COVID, this is a great example of how parishes can partner with privately held and trust held lands to engage their parishioners in creation and learn about the importance of conserving the native grasses.



Parish Gardens at Parsons, Galena, and Pittsburg

St. Peter's in Pittsburg, St. John's in Parsons, St. Mary's in Galena each host parish gardens which provide space for gathering and meditation. Each of the gardens offers the community surrounding the parishes the opportunity to spend time in nature, seeking healing and restoration.



The gardens at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Pittsburg

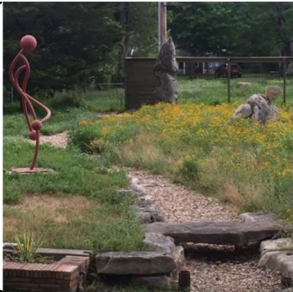
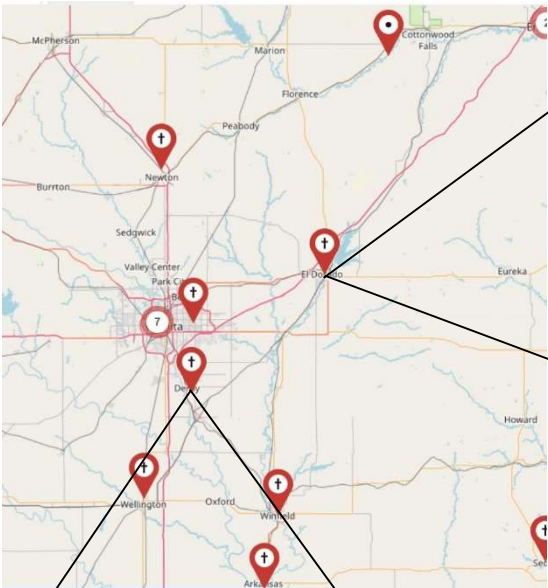


St. John's Episcopal Church in Parsons has a gardens for connecting with the sacred

Gathering Space at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Galena



Southwest Convocation



Restoring Roots
Backyard Prairie &
Sculptures Garden



Saint Andrew's

Restoring Roots Backyard Prairie and Sculpture Garden

Between 1237 and 1239 West Central Avenue, El Dorado, KS

Although we often think of prairies as being large expanses, there are many ways to establish areas with native plantings in more limited spaces.

After living in El Dorado for a few years, Peter and Judith Storandt had an opportunity to purchase two adjacent properties that had been vacant for some time and were no longer habitable.

Inspired by their visual experience of Kansas prairie land in its vastness, and by the candidacy of now-Bishop Bascom and her embrace of our prairie heritage, The Storandts decided to lay down an area of greenspace drawing on those influences.

After razing the old structures, and building some minimal privacy fencing, they engaged local stone sculptor and landscape artist Tobin Rupe to develop an overall scheme. His plan included a large area for native grasses and wildflowers, interspersed with three large stone figures, two benches, a meandering stone walkway, and a rock dry creek with two bridges in a ribbon pattern between the east and west ends of the lot.



This project demonstrates that even on a smaller scale, the rich variety of prairie plant species can bring beauty, inspiration, and peace as they attract birds, pollinators, and other desirable wildlife to an otherwise ordinary plot of urban land.

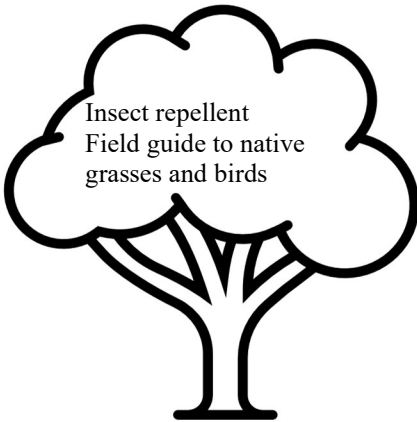
Having the sculptures and other features made of native stone reminds us that people can create and delight in what God has

provided naturally.

Visitors are welcome at any time to visit this place, as there is an entry gate on the West Central Avenue fence and a table with benches is available for those who might wish to linger and enjoy a picnic.



What To Bring on Your Visit:



How to get there:

From the Southeast: Take US-169 or US-69 North to US-54 West to El Dorado, stay on Central and the gate to the property is on the left after Race St.

From the Southwest: Take I-35 North to KS-254, turn right. Stay on Central and the gate to the property is on the right after Poplar St.

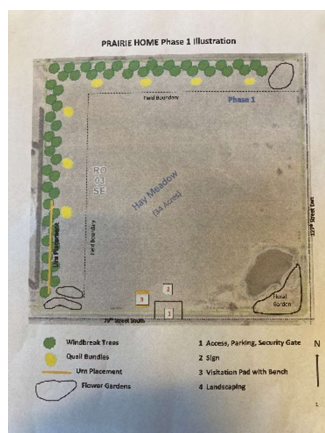
From the Northwest: US-77 South to KS-254, turn right. Stay on Central and the gate to the property is on the right after Poplar St.

From the Northeast: I-35 South to US-77 South to KS-254, turn right. Stay on Central and the gate to the property is on the right after Poplar St.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

1062 Chet Smith Avenue, Derby, KS

Nestled within native woodlands and across the street from Garrett Park, St. Andrew's provides a nice balance to the manicured park on the other side of the avenue. On their five acres of property, the church has a prayer walk, newly updated, and an outdoor worship area with altar.



In addition to their “wild” park setting, St. Andrew's is also partnering with Breakthrough on a 40-acre tract which includes space for scattering ashes a few miles from the church. The Scatter Garden provides space within restored prairie for the cremated remains of loved ones to be spread, as an affordable option for those who are unable to use, or disinterested in, traditional memorial garden services.

What To Bring on Your Visit:



How to get there:

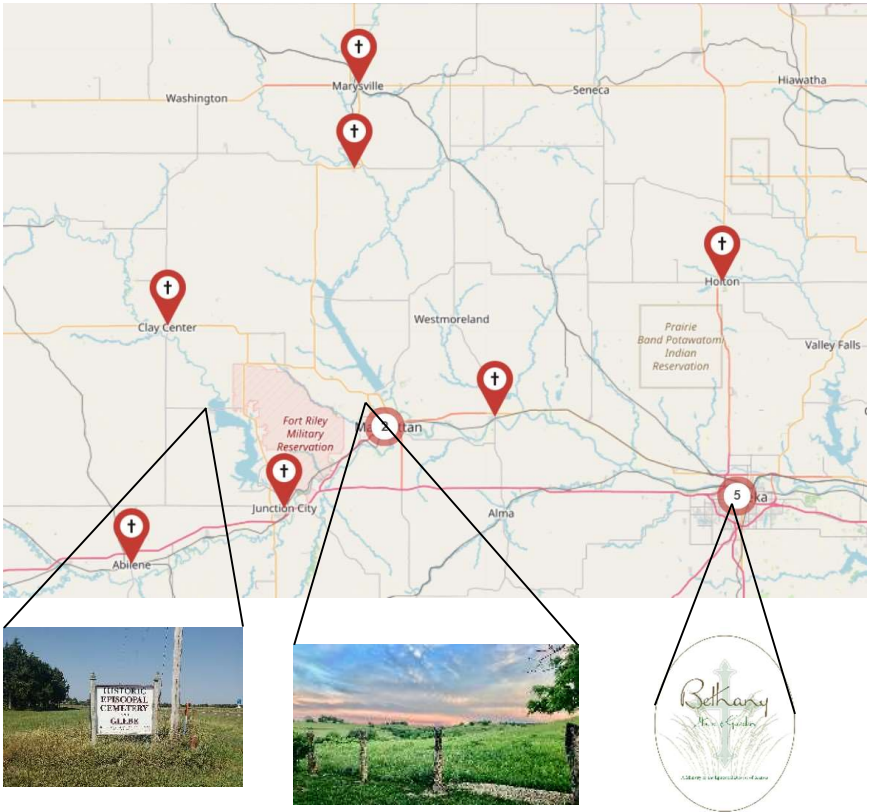
From the Southeast: Take US-169 or US-69 North to US-54 West to I-35 South. Take I-35 South to KS-15 South. Turn Left on E Madison Ave, turn right on N Woodlawn Blvd, turn left on E Chet Smith Ave.

From the Southwest: Take KS-15 South. Turn Left on E Madison Ave, turn right on N Woodlawn Blvd, turn left on E Chet Smith Ave.

From the Northwest: Take I-335 South to KS-15 South. Turn Left on E Madison Ave, turn right on N Woodlawn Blvd, turn left on E Chet Smith Ave.

From the Northeast: Take I-35 South to KS-15 South. Turn Left on E Madison Ave, turn right on N Woodlawn Blvd, turn left on E Chet Smith Ave.

Northwest Convocation



Prairiewood Tallgrass Preserve

1484 Wildcat Creek Rd, Manhattan

Outside of Manhattan Kansas, these 500 acres of restored prairie are owned and operated by Rebecca and Kail Katzenmeier as the Prairiewood Tallgrass Preserve. The Katzenmeiers offer lodging, event and meeting space. But they also open the trails on Sunday afternoons for visitors, holding free concerts and educational events. Their invitation to the wider community demonstrates their hospitality and their love of sharing this beautiful space.



The trails meander through the prairie and often the vista lacks any reminders of modern life. The pilgrim can find space to enter into nature without the



distractions of roads and houses on the horizon. The built environment at Prairiewood blends into the surrounding landscape. The overall impression is of peace and how the land was meant to be by the hand of the Creator. Whether in a group or as an

individual, the property provides a lovely break from the world of today and invites your soul into rest in creation.



The educational offerings give the participant the chance to learn about the benefits of prairie natives: water management, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and support of native birds and pollinators. To maintain the prairie grasses in the face of invasive non-native species takes commitment to the land and

a sense of stewardship. Visitors can gain an understanding of how to maintain a native prairie, in small or large scale, by visiting with the Katzenmeiers.



What To Bring on Your Visit:



How to get there:

From the Southeast: Take US-77 North to I-70 East. Take exit 303 for KS-18 E, turn left. Take the Scenic Drive exit. At the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto South Scenic Drive. Turn left onto Wildcat Creek Road. The entrance to Prairiewood will be on your left.

From the Southwest: Take US-77 North to I-70 East. Take exit 303 for KS-18 E, turn left. Take the Scenic Drive exit. At the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto South Scenic Drive. Turn left onto Wildcat Creek Road. The entrance to Prairiewood will be on your left.

From the Northeast: Take I-70 West. Take exit 313 for KS-177 North, take the KS-18/KS-177/Ft. Riley Blvd ramp to Tuttle Creek Blvd. Follow KS-18 West. Take the Scenic Drive exit. At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit onto South Scenic Drive. Turn left onto Wildcat Creek Road. The entrance to Prairiewood will be on your left.

St. John's Cemetery and Glebe

Wakefield, KS

Learn a little church history when you visit St. John's Cemetery and Glebe. Located near Wakefield, St. John's Episcopal Church was established in 1876 by hearty English settlers. They brought with them the English custom of reserving some farmland to support the rector. That land is called a glebe. This glebe is believed to be the only one of its kind west of the Mississippi.



The little congregation began meeting in a home in 1871 and collected funds locally and from England to erect a stone structure. Just before the building was completed a tornado leveled the new church to the ground.

Parishioners rebuilt and dedicated a wooden structure in 1876. St. Johns served the community for 44 years and

was a mother church for congregations in Clay Center and Wakefield.

By 1930 the rural congregation had dwindled, and the building was moved by a team of horses into Wakefield to become part of the St. George church. The decommissioned churches still stand today and are part of the Wakefield Museum. The exteriors can be seen at the corner of Fifth and Birch in Wakefield.

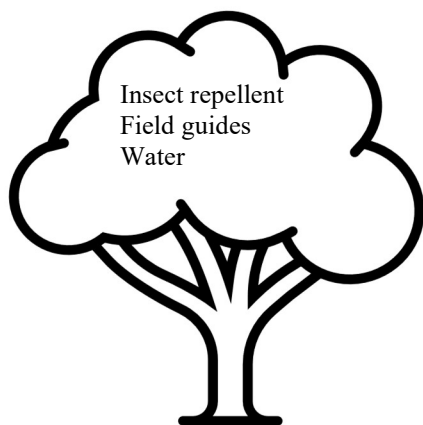
The glebe consists of 10 acres around the cemetery and another 10 acres across the gravel road to the east. A local farmer farms the land, and the proceeds now go to maintain the cemetery.



Jim Beck, a parishioner at St. Paul's, Clay Center, is a local historian and has researched this church history. He lives just four miles from the glebe and would be happy to meet visitors there. To plan your trip, contact him at jim.beck@twinvalley.net. There are no services at the site so you might include a visit to see the sister churches in Abilene or Clay

Center. St. Paul's Clay Center at 6th and Clark has a lovely prayer garden with benches and tables. Pick up lunch at adjacent Wendy's and have a meal in the garden.

What To Bring on Your Visit:



How to get there:

From the Southeast: Take US-77 North. Turn left on KS-82 West. St. John's Cemetery and Glebe will be on your left.

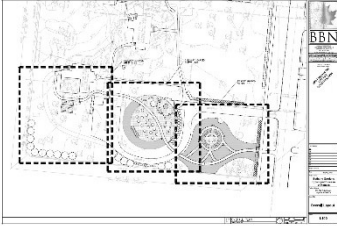
From the Southwest: Take US-77 North. Turn left on KS-82 West. St. John's Cemetery and Glebe will be on your left.

From the Northeast: Take I-70 West. Take exit 295 for US-77 North. Merge onto US-77 North. Turn left on KS-82 West. St. John's Cemetery and Glebe will be on your left.

Bethany House and Garden

835 SW Polk Street, Topeka

Bethany House and Garden, is located in Topeka at the Diocesan center, and is in development to provide prairie gardens, food gardens, and meditative space for the surrounding community. It will serve as a resource center to the diocese for water management, carbon sequestration, and use of



native grasses on church lands.

The hope of Bethany House and Garden lies in the engagement of the surrounding community. By providing a setting that



celebrates creation care, we intend to provide a space for all visitors to find healing, education, and transformation in the gardens.

Bethany House and Garden was designed after intense listening to the community surrounding the gardens and throughout the diocese. By planning the gardens in collaboration with our neighbors, we hope to increase the sustainability of our vision.



What To Bring on Your Visit:



How to get there:

From the Southeast: *Take US-169 or US-69 North to KS-68 West to I-35 North. Take I-35 North. Take exit 188 for US-59 North. Turn left onto the ramp to KS-10 West. Follow KS-10 to I-70 West. Take the SE 8th Avenue exit, turn left onto SW Polk Street, Bethany House and Garden will be on your left.*

From the Southwest: *Take I-35 North to exit 177 for I-470 West. Take exit 6 for Topeka Blvd. Turn left onto 8th Avenue. Turn left onto SW Polk Street, Bethany House and Garden will be on your left.*

From the Northwest: *Take KS-10 to I-70 West. Take the SE 8th Avenue exit, turn left onto SW Polk Street, Bethany House and Garden will be on your left.*

What you can do: A Creation Care Centered Life

Earth is a divine creation. All life, plant and animal, was designed by the Creator to be in collaboration with each other, codependent, working in concert to create what was at one time truly a Garden of Eden. Some of the Garden still exists but is rapidly transforming into ashes or becoming otherwise dysfunctional due to human activity. How is it, then, that those who claim to love God can justify allowing God's creation to be despoiled and, in some places, destroyed? No individual is going to "save the world," but in unison, we can try very hard to do just that. Following are a few of the ways we can begin. The footnotes provide the details and some great internet sites to learn more about these ideas.

1. Change the way your internet searches.¹
2. Turn off lights and decrease the use of appliances.²
3. Slow down your junk mail.³
4. Stop idling.⁴
5. Organize your trips.⁵
6. Buy what you need, not what you want.⁶

¹ Ecosia (<https://www.ecosia.org/?c=en>) is a search engine that plants a tree for every search you ask it to perform. How easy is this? It is very good, by the way.

² You have heard many times: turn off lights you're not using; television you're not watching; hang clothes on the line and many other "saving electricity" injunctions. Do it! Most of our carbon input into the atmosphere is due to electricity.
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2011/apr/28/industries-sectors-carbon-emissions>

³ The junk mail you don't want and the catalogs you don't want were once natural resources; they were once trees that were providing oxygen and sinking carbon. You can stop receiving these pieces by registering with organizations that will take your name off the lists. <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-stop-junk-mail> and <https://www.catalogchoice.org/>

⁴ Picture clouds of carbon ascending from cars lined up in the drive through lanes, just idling, waiting to get to the bank, restaurant, business window. Choice: park and go into the building or shut off your engine if you're going to be waiting over 10 seconds.
https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/idling_personal_vehicles.pdf

⁵ Instead of going to the grocery store every time you need an item, choose to go once a week. Rather than driving miles to search for products in stores, call ahead to the businesses and learn if they have what you're looking for. Save gas, save money, save the air you're breathing. <https://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/greenhouse-gas-emissions-typical-passenger-vehicle>

⁶ These phrases must go: "shop till I drop", "to die for" (we may just be doing that), and "must have". Everything you have ever seen has come from the Earth. Everything you see was once a natural resource. We are using in 7 months what the Earth can produce in a year. We are living beyond the planet's ability to support us. We are busting Earth's budget. Black Friday is a very bad day for the planet. Buy what you need, not what you want. <https://www.overshootday.org/>

7. Decrease or stop the use of pesticides and herbicides.⁷
8. Pick up trash that others leave.⁸
9. Use tree-free toilet paper.⁹
10. Stop using pesticides and urge elected officials to ban pesticides.¹⁰
11. Avoid fast food chains buying beef from the Amazon.¹¹
12. Have Meatless Mondays.¹²
13. Hosting Monarchs and fireflies.¹³

⁷ Unfortunately, Rachel was right. Remember Rachel Carson's best seller some decades ago entitled *Silent Spring*, the prediction that because so many pesticides and other toxic chemicals had begun to be used on our yards and gardens, there would be a time when we would no longer hear songs of the birds? Because of poisons and habitat destruction, we are hearing many fewer songs. <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back> and <https://theyee.ca/Analysis/2020/01/15/As-Birds-Vanish/>

⁸ Why should we pick up other people's trash? Check the parking lots of businesses and grocery stores. You will usually see a number of items that someone should have placed into the nearby, convenient trash receptacles. This loose trash often is washed into the local stream, which can go into a larger stream (Kansas and Arkansas Rivers) which go into the Mississippi River and into the ocean....and then into the bodies of sea turtles, dolphins and other sea life. Kansas is a coastal state because it is part of the large Mississippi watershed that flows to the Gulf. <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/4493>

⁹ Flushing forests. Most paper towels, facial and bathroom tissue is made from trees. It is estimated that 27,000 trees each day are cut to provide us with this paper. Companies such as Seventh Generation, Grove Collaborative, and Who Gives a Crap? are providing options to the destruction of forests. Tree free toilet paper is also available on Amazon. Forests are endangered because of fires, and we need air more than paper. Support these companies. <https://earthfriendlytips.com/best-eco-friendly-toilet-paper/>

¹⁰ It is estimated that one of every three bites of food produced has been the result of pollination. Our major pollinator is in trouble and the culprit is, once again, pesticides. The list of foods pollinated by bees is in the footnote. We can avoid using these chemicals, and this is also an issue for which we urge our elected officials to ban the pesticides that are killing our food pollinators. They've known for a long time, they just need to hear from you. <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2017/10/06/tainted-honey-bee-poisoning-pesticides-found-globally> and <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/which-crops-plants-are-pollinated-by-honey-bees.html>

¹¹ Does your fast food hamburger come from the Amazon? Some iconic fast food chains buy their beef from what was the Amazon rain forest before it was burned so that cattle could be raised. So much of the forest has been destroyed that the Amazon is now thought to be close to a tipping point - a condition that causes it to be ineffective at providing oxygen and storing carbon. Avoid supporting these chains. <https://www.mightyearth.org/2019/01/29/global-investors-push-fast-food-giants-to-cut-meats-environmental-impact/>

(Restaurant Brands International is Burger King)

¹² The production of meat adds to the carbon dioxide that is fueling global warming. No one has to become a vegetarian, but certainly, switching some meat dishes to plant based dishes is going to help. Perhaps designating one meal a day to plant based and starting from here. <https://timeforchange.org/eat-less-meat-co2-emission-of-our-food/>

14. Turn your flower garden into a vegetable garden.¹⁴
15. Read labels on the products you buy.¹⁵
16. Contribute to organizations protecting the environment.¹⁶
17. Decrease the destruction of natural habitats.¹⁷
18. Recycle plastics.¹⁸
19. Fertilize your lawn naturally.¹⁹

¹³ Monarch butterflies are in decline due to habitat loss, global warming, and pesticides. And remember how we used to watch hundreds of lightning bugs but now they are rarely seen? Lightning bugs/fireflies live in the ground and when we use toxic chemicals, we kill them. Give the toxic chemicals to your hazardous waste collection and plant milkweeds and other butterfly and bee food. <https://www.illinoisscience.org/2021/05/the-monarch-butterfly-population-is-in-decline-but-you-can-help/>

¹⁴ Famous San Francisco chef Alice Waters, on CBS Sunday Evening several years ago, suggested we convert the flowers to vegetables. Several people have done this in their front yards and it's a thing of beauty. And you can grow organic food. It may be wise for us to learn to grow a bit of our own organic food.

¹⁵ An excellent web site for listing chemicals in items that we didn't know were harmful for us is the Environmental Working Group (www.ewg.org) And by reading labels we can avoid food containing palm oil, the product that is causing massive forest destruction in Indonesia and other locations. Palm oil is adding to the threat of extinction. We should always know what's in the food and other products we buy.

<https://orangutan.org/palmoil/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ha6xUVqezQ>

¹⁶ Extinction is one of the most moral of all issues. We are responsible for 83% of wildlife, created by the same God who created us, to have become extinct in just a few decades. Now gone from the planet. Most of us are unable to be physically involved in saving a particular species or ecosystem, but we can certainly help those who are on the front lines. We can contribute to organizations that are working desperately to save a variety of species - the big names and those we've not heard of but who are essential. You may want to consider contributions to environmental organizations as part of your tithe. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/21/human-race-just-001-of-all-life-but-has-destroyed-over-80-of-wild-mammals-study>

¹⁷ The late Rev. Thomas Berry, author and friend, who was actively involved in Episcopal environmental efforts, said that we cannot expect to be healthy if the Earth isn't healthy. The Earth isn't healthy because we are destroying too much of it. Like a boomerang, diseases that originate in destroyed ecosystems are coming back to visit us. SARS, Ebola, HIV, a number of "new respiratory" diseases heretofore unheard of, and Covid are due to ecosystems that have been dramatically altered or destroyed. Viruses and bacteria migrate when their habitats are destroyed. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-pandemic-linked-to-destruction-of-wildlife-and-worlds-ecosystems/a-53078480>

¹⁸ Plastic containers of all sorts - for food and beverages, plastic bags particularly, are massive in number. And unfortunately, equally massive plumes of plastic waste are ending up in the ocean. Some cities offer plastic recycling options and but other locations require effort to recycle plastic. What you can keep out of the ocean and off the land is worth the extra effort to recycle.

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/marinedebris/plastics-in-the-ocean.html>

20. Go solar.²⁰

21. Vote and know who you're voting for.²¹

22. Know your footprint.²²

22. Pray.²³

¹⁹ Mow your leaves. Leaves take up huge space in landfills. They are full of nutrients, and you'll give your lawn a boost if you mow leaves in the fall, which mulches them, and leave them in place rather than sending them off to the landfill.

²⁰ Going solar - this is a big one. An increasing number of companies are advertising that they install solar panels. Costs vary depending on where you live and the size of your home, but it is worth looking into. The goal is that solar will not only reduce the carbon absorption of your home, but will save you money.

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowners-guide-going-solar>

²¹ Unfortunately, humans aren't going to turn around the heating of the planet by ourselves. Not everyone is going to participate and therefore, it is going to require governments - local to federal - to institute policies that will stop the rising temperatures and destruction of ecosystems. Support and vote for the candidates who are environmentally aware and willing to legislate on behalf of a healthier planet.

²² Know what impact you're having on Earth; know your footprint. Answer the questions in footnote 18 and see where you can improve. Learn where you are a "heavy weight".

We all can improve. <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/home/en>

²³ Include the Earth in your prayers. Pray for the planet and all the life that is trying to survive. And back up your prayers with your feet. Many times our prayer requests are such that we can't act to help. But we can put our energy behind Earth healing. Lighten your footprint. Become aware of issues and do all you can to make changes personally as well as support organizations on the front lines of saving critical life, both plant and animal.

Closing

Being a pilgrim in Kansas is an invitation to visit sites that draw you into creation in new and old ways. We hope to expand our invitation, by including more and more places to visit. If your parish or your parishioners have a space they would like to share, please let us know by emailing Mother Jenn Allen at jallen@episcopal-ks.org.

And being a creation care pilgrim doesn't mean just visiting natural sites. It also means exploring your day-to-day practices and journey toward living a life that reflects the stewardship for the creation for which we were so lovingly made.

We have a vision for a new future: A future where our we are partners in creation, with creation. A future where our actions are a prayer of thanksgiving. We yearn to restore the land so that we may find restoration for ourselves in creation.

Blessings on your journey!