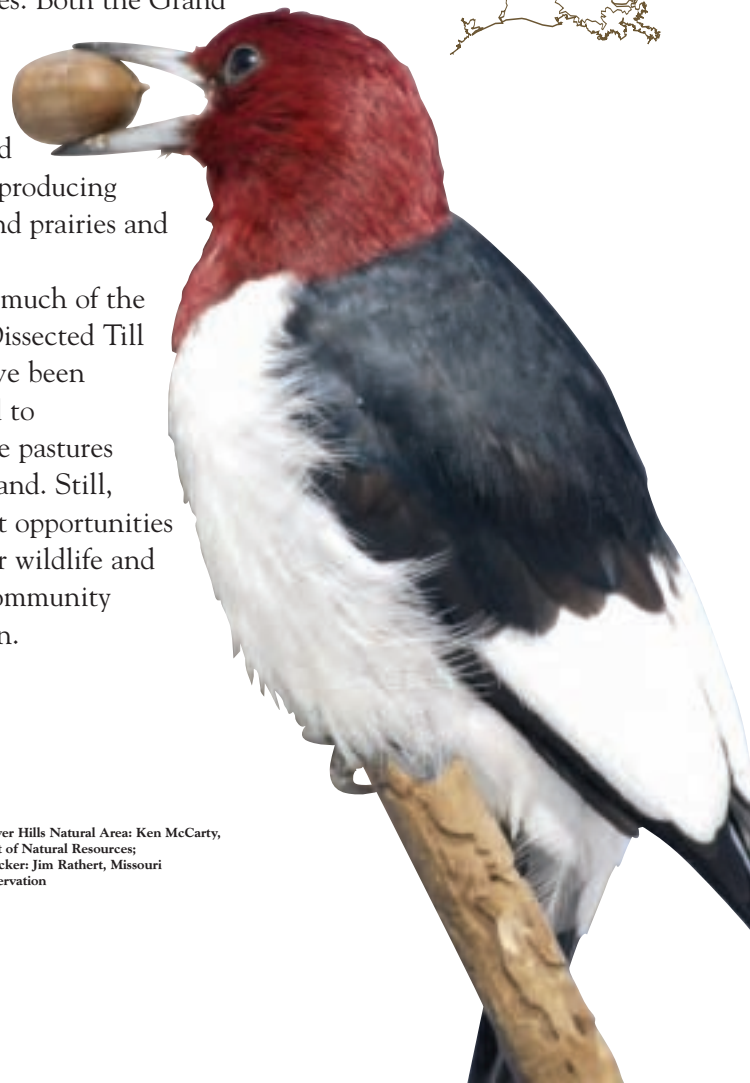
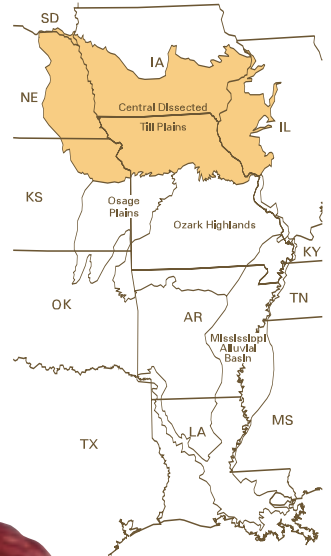


Central Dissected Till Plains

High prairie landscapes with savanna and woodland valleys characterize the Central Dissected Till Plains. These “till plains” are the result of deep soil deposited by glaciers more than 400,000 years ago. Winds blowing across the Great Plains lifted soil out of the glacial floodplains and onto adjoining hillsides, blanketing the land in a mantle of rich, silty loam. In some places this wind-blown soil, called loess, can be 25 to 100 feet thick.

On the Till Plains, wide floodplains of the Missouri River and Mississippi River developed complexes of sandbars, marshes and wet prairies. Both the Grand River and Chariton River functioned similarly, producing bottomland prairies and wetlands.

Today, much of the Central Dissected Till Plains have been converted to productive pastures and cropland. Still, significant opportunities remain for wildlife and natural community restoration.



Photos: Chariton River Hills Natural Area: Ken McCarty, Missouri Department of Natural Resources; Red-headed Woodpecker: Jim Rathert, Missouri Department of Conservation

Central Dissected Till Plains

Animal Targets of the Central Dissected Till Plains

Forest

Ringed Salamander • Four-toed Salamander • Wood Frog • Yellow-billed Cuckoo • Cerulean Warbler • Prothonotary Warbler

Woodland

Timber Rattlesnake • Red-headed Woodpecker • Eastern Phoebe • Great Crested Flycatcher • Eastern Wood-pewee • Baltimore Oriole • Orchard Oriole

Savanna

Eastern Tiger Salamander • Northern Bobwhite • Eastern Kingbird • Brown Thrasher • American Tree Sparrow • Field Sparrow • Harris's Sparrow • Indiana Bat

Prairie

Regal Fritillary • Great Plains Toad • Great Plains Narrow-mouthed Toad • Plains Spadefoot • Northern Crawfish Frog • Western Fox Snake • Northern Prairie Skink • Great Plains Skink • Illinois Mud Turtle • Northern Harrier • Greater Prairie Chicken • Upland Sandpiper • Short-eared Owl • Loggerhead Shrike • Bell's Vireo • Henslow's Sparrow • Grasshopper Sparrow • Dickcissel • Bobolink • Franklin's Ground Squirrel

Wetland

Northern Leopard Frog • Blanding's Turtle • Eastern Massasauga • Pied-billed Grebe • Little Blue Heron • Black-crowned Night Heron • Great Egret • American Bittern • Least Bittern • Common Moorhen • King Rail • Virginia Rail • Black Tern • Marsh Wren

River and Stream

Ebonysshell • Hickorynut • Rock Pocketbook • Wartyback • Elusive Clubtail • Blacknose Shiner • Blue Sucker • Brassy Minnow • Central Mudminnow • Flathead Chub • Ghost Shiner • Mooneye • Pallid Sturgeon • Plains Killifish • Plains Minnow • River Darter • Sturgeon Chub • Topeka Shiner • Trout-perch • Western Sand Darter



Eastern Tiger Salamander



Franklin's Ground Squirrel



Northern Bobwhite