

# Milestones

THE INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES,  
WETLANDS AND AQUATIC SYSTEMS  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI



**Five years ago:** Need for **rebuilding the fisheries program** at the University of Missouri (MU) identified by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Missouri Conservation Commission

- o MU, MDC and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF) started working on a **solution**
- o MCHF would hold endowment to fund professors at MU

Potential donors challenged group to **think beyond** only hiring professors

**Institute of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences concept developed** with four major components:

- o Faculty and Staff
- o Research
- o Career Pathways and Workforce Development
- o Public Policy

**Feasibility study funding approved by MCHF Board of Directors and was completed** August 2021 confirming interest and a need to fund an Institute for the future of clean water and conservation

Study determined **Institute needed to have a broader reach**, resulting in adding “Wetlands” to the name of the Institute

**Phase 1** of campaign began in January 2022 with goal of **\$10 million**; with overall goal of **\$30 million in 10 years**

**Case for Support finalized** April 2022 in collaboration with MCHF, MU and MDC



MCHF and Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) **declared April as Missouri Outdoors Month** as another avenue to fundraise and keep conservation top of mind. Additionally, Governor Parson proclaimed April 24-30, 2022 to be Missouri Outdoors Week.

June 2022: **\$5.5 million raised toward Phase 1 goal**

- o \$1 million lead gift from MDC
- o \$3 million from MU
- o 100% of MCHF Board of Directors financially committed to Institute

**MDC pledged a \$1.5 million match** in June 2022

Petitioned U.S. Senator Roy Blunt for federal funding in the amount of \$10 million for the Institute

Pending life estate donation estimated at \$5.3 million

Ducks Unlimited committed to help fund research

Johnny Morris verbally committed to supporting the Institute