



www.mayacreek.org

310 acres of wild Missouri forest dedicated to sustainable living education, natural building, and reconnecting with the land

Maya Creek is 310 acres of oak and hickory forest in central Missouri. It is entirely hills, with many directional slopes, ephemeral creeks, and niche environments. Rare salamanders, otters, birds of prey and flying squirrels.

It lies at the northern tip of the Ozarks, on occupied Ozark and Missouri land. The land was purchased in the early 1970's by a group of Buddhist conservationists, and is still referred to by locals as "the old hippie farm." Legally, it is an LLC with a Board of Directors, and run like a conservancy.



Sylva Lining is Tricia's business, which occupies 2 acres, including houses and buildings. This area also serves as the hub and community space for people and any domesticated animals.

We provide camping, education, host events, and sell timber and non-timber products. We make art and medicine and use permaculture methods for our farm. We are also a wildlife release space for a local large rehabilitation hospital.

Tricia has been farming and dragging Cameron along through it for 15 years. Most of that time has been spent teaching urban farming which involves meeting hundreds of people at their homes and giving out soil, plants, advice, and support.

We are attempting to make a living and a life in partnership with the the land.

Priorities

Aggressive plant management

- Clearing honeysuckle (bush and vining), autumn olive, multiflora rose, poison ivy, blackberry bramble.
- Keeping the native plants that are around these plants intact. Ginseng, goldenseal, echinacea, bee balm, elecampane, so much more.



Income generating activities

- Timber and non-timber products
- Hosting and camping space
- Education experiences
- Herbs dried, tinctured, frozen, and value added products.
- Plants, seedlings, seeds
- Patreon and social media



Sylva Lining (2 acres ish) in Maya Creek (310 acres)

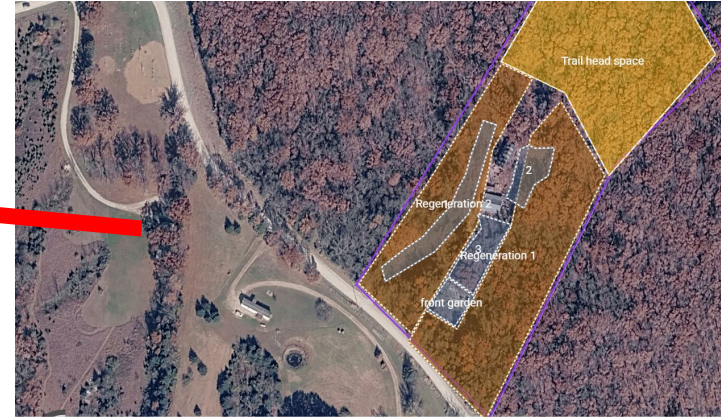
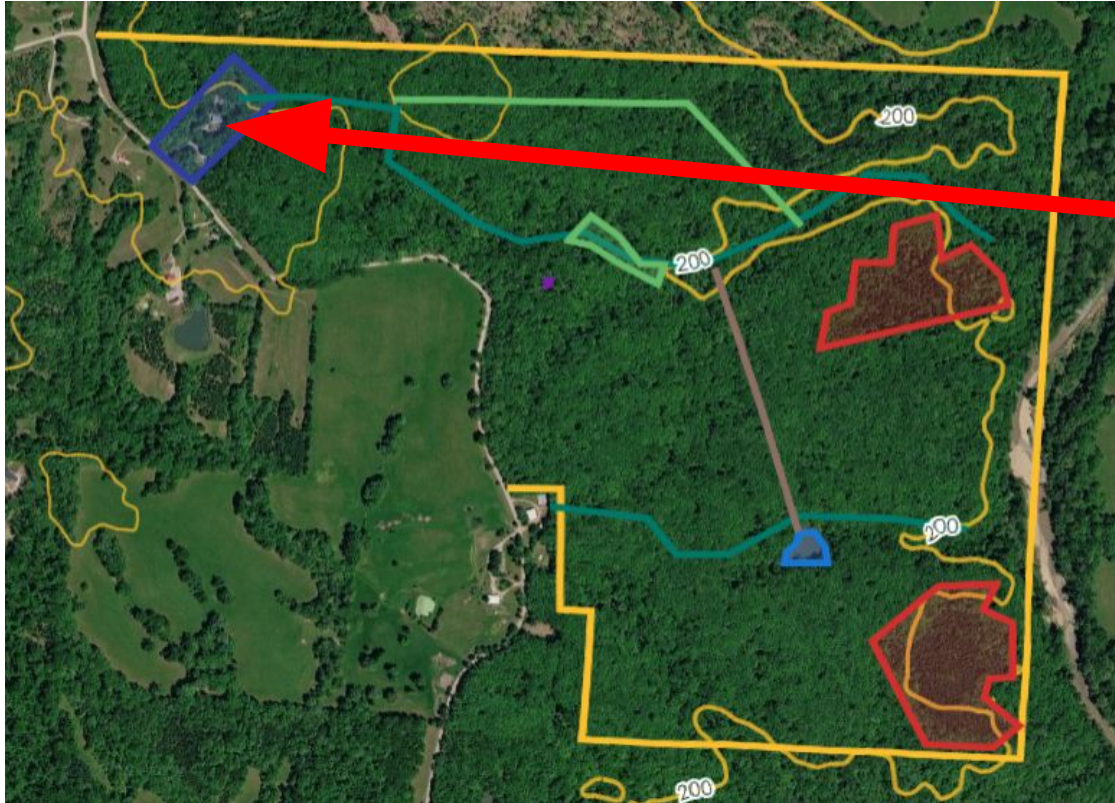
Accomplishment 1

- Sylva Lining has signed a contract with Conservation Fieldscapes to work on a portion of the property to plant Native trees, Native plants and herbs, and manage invasives and the soil improvement. We are just starting year 1 of the 3 year project.

Accomplishment 2

- Maya Creek has applied for the EQUIP program for :
 - Hiring Matts Healthy Woods for a forest plan to include specifically where we will manage invasive spaces, apply burns or select harvest, with the purpose of opening up areas for wildlife diversity.
 - After this is done we can apply select harvest with a timber company for staves and veneer. With the Oaks and the cedar and other trees can be made into other lumber projects. The tops will be used for mushrooms and mulch and wildlife.

Map of maya creek and of Sylva Lining at the north west corner



Non-Timber Products

The complete list includes 200 species. All kinds of stuff, but with primary focus on:

- **Salve:** comfrey, yarrow, broadleaf plantain, calendula, lavender, rose, etc.
- **Tinctures:** sweet gum, lemon balm, golden rod, wild lettuce etc.
- **Ginseng** (trying to find wild and plant more)
- **Sumac** (several species)
- **Baby native plants**
- **Teas:** Chamomile, mints, passion flower etc.
- **Sochan, echinacea, bee balm, elecampane, etc.**

Challenges:

- Many are already established, while others are just starting out.
- It takes time to find the right place for the right plant, which includes trial and error of trying things out in a variety of spaces.
- Hills interfere with straight lines, preventing row cropping and mechanization.
- Adding livestock risks vulnerable plants.
- Off grid, water is from rainwater catchment.
- Insufficient use of fire, to keep out maple saplings and other invasives trying to take over.



Current Events:

We have just signed the Conservation Field Scapes grant and are trying to figure out our next steps on that.

We are going to Fall markets! You will see me at the Chestnut Festival in October! And many other events in central Missouri.

Awaiting our Equip grant.

Having Helping Weekend this coming weekend with mutual aid friends to spread Mulch and compost!

We have bunnies for fertilizing purposes! So our first livestock.

Patreon: patreon.com/MizTrish is the best place to keep up to date! And to support!

Prospective Funding and Resources

- **Lincoln University Cooperative Extension Specialty Crops Program:**
 - Gave me 200 plants, but due to an error in shipping, most didn't actually work.
- **Conservation Fieldscapes Program:**
 - Trying to get mulching equipment to turn invasive plant matter into mulch and biochar
 - Focusing on cultivating paw paw, bee balm, goldenseal etc.
- **The EQUIP program:**
 - Needed to pay a professional forester (Matt's Healthy Forest) who will make a big plan using EQUIP and surveys.
 - Need help with invasive management, burn plan, etc. and would like to include select harvest of trees.

Prospective Funding and Resources

- Patreon
- Fundraisers
- Events and hosting
- Farmers' markets
- Craft and artisans' markets
- Crowdfunding specific items has been very successful.
- We do not intend nor want a bank loan of any kind for this project.

Management Practices

- Non-timber products:
 - Planting
 - Mulching
 - Watering
 - Weeding
 - Harvesting
 - Processing
 - Marketing
 - Selling
 - Insurance and
 - Regulations
- Timber products:
 - Woodworking equipment - hand tools to sawmill
 - Storage, drying, transporting (build and buy)
 - Marketing, selling, distribution (still need to research)
- Permaculture style guilds and education space.
 - Minimal Till, Composting onsite, and soil amendments that are organic and sustainable.
 - No herbicides or pesticides are used.
 - We do not have large equipment right now but will have a timber company help us with tree removal and selling
- Volunteer and Woofing labor or exchanging lodging for labor. We are also building a community of people who stay permanently or short term and if you are interested please contact Trish: 423-619-0180
 - we hope to employ people in the future with : admin, lumber, processing, distribution, and invasive management.

Management Practices

- “Sylva Lining at Maya Creek”
 - Some funds go back to Maya Creek (land and LLC)
 - Some Tricia earns for herself and Sylva Lining
- Any income from timber harvest stays with the land, to keep it healthy and sustainable
- Free use of any eastern red cedar and other non-marketable timber
- Herbal plant goods for Sylva Lining
- There is ONE farm number with 3 lots. SL is in one lot.

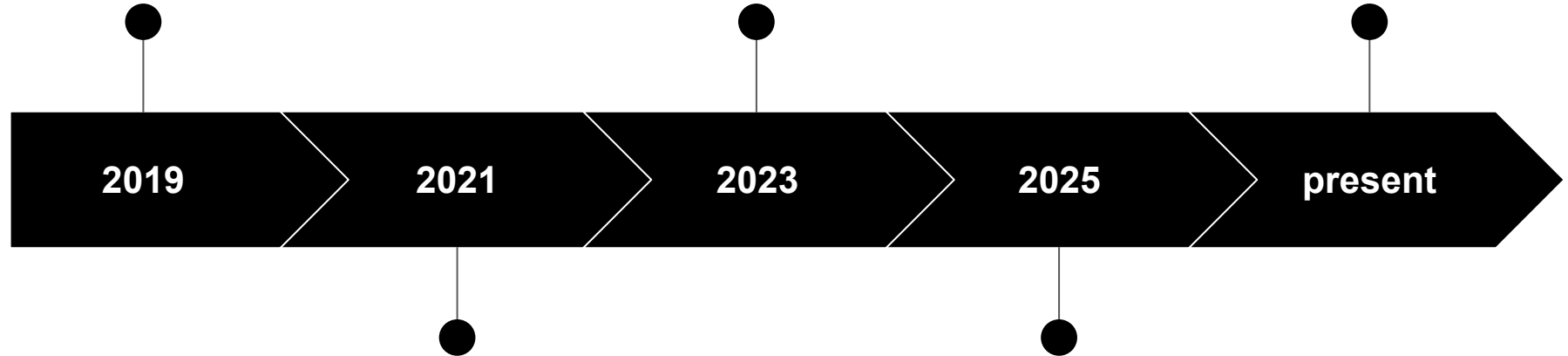
Challenges and considerations in Management

- EQUIP grant and CFS can be done on non-overlapping fields on the same land
- Using goats or pigs will destroy the rest of the plants as well as invasives
 - Great if what's going in is completely different
 - Not appropriate here
- Livestock requires funds for animals themselves, vets, fencing, water, winter care, etc.
 - Off-topic for us, currently more trouble than benefit
 - Borrowing some sheep from a friend for the summer has been tempting as a middle ground, Or fostering some goats on some spots selectively and rehoming before winter.

Trish come's on the scene
with Cameron and we work
on the houses and join the
board

Trish starts Sylva
Lining with a rough
and disorganized start

S.L. is awarded
conservation field
scapes grant first year.



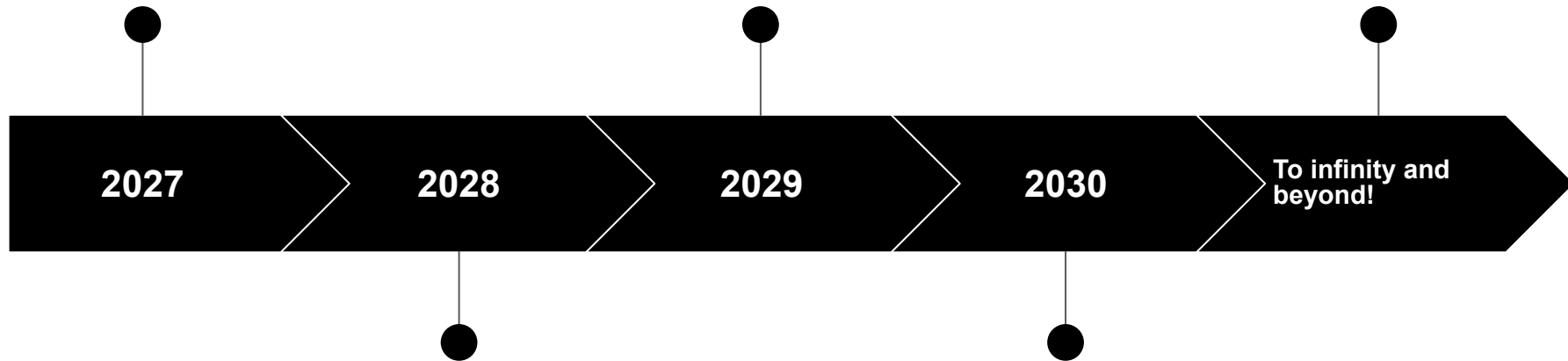
Have completed the
houses enough to live in
them and making a garden

With help and motivation we
have applied to EQUIP and
other agroforestry classes
etc. And Trish got a
Certificate as a Herbalist

We hope to be making enough money at SL to stop doing odd jobs, Trish Turns 50 and doesn't want to work outside the farm

Our besties are living with us and we have improved the solar and we will also have improved our income and native plants!

Maya Creek is a Sustainable ecovillage with education, herbal and forest products, residents, and wildlife.

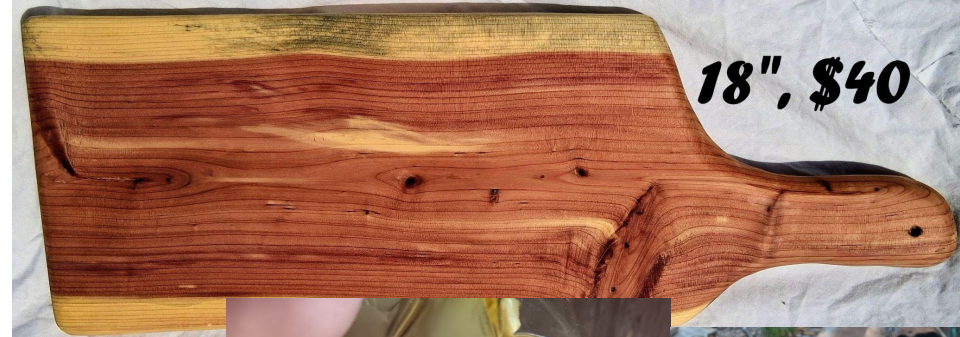


Please be well under way in our EQUIP grant! Please !!!! Complete year 3 of Conservation field scapes successfully

A better processing space and staff for S.L. Better in roads, trails and spaces for wildlife in Maya Creek.

Value-Added Products and Wholesale

- **Witch hazel: alcohol, bottles, labels**
 - **Cost to make ??? EVERYTHING is varying.**
 - **Currently selling for \$5.00 per oz in 2 sizes, or \$40 for half gallon wholesale to a shop**
- **Salve: comfrey, plantain, yarrow, olive oil, beeswax, containers, labels**
 - **Cost to make per container ??? Maybe \$5 at the 4oz end of sizing**
 - **Selling for \$5, \$10, \$25 various sizes**
- **Teas - many kinds, usually seasonal**
 - **2oz bag sells for \$5**
- **Supplement with art, crafts, and other farm goods seasonally**
- **Cameron is doing woodworking and selling bird houses, charcuterie boards, and other woodcrafts**



What's Next??



- Try to get some mulching going
- More planting spaces for more plants
- Find markets for those plants and products
- Our besties move here to make a home!
- Better water and solar systems
- I HATE FARMERS MARKETS!
 - Gotta find something else
- Land rich and money poor
- More dwellings for humans
 - Additional community members, hire, WOOFers, etc.