

Information From Mike DeKalb's January Presentation

The Friends of Wilderness Park is most grateful to Mike DeKalb for the presentation he gave at our January meeting. For those of you who missed the meeting, here are some bits of information from his presentation.

- The Lincoln/Lancaster Comprehensive Plan is necessary for zoning and must be in place before zoning can be put in place. It is the blueprint for how Lincoln and Lancaster County will grow, where and what we will develop and how we will not develop. Because we have a joint city/county Planning Department, efforts can be better coordinated and some sprawl can be avoided.
- Lincoln has a minimum of abandoned neighborhoods partly due to our Comprehensive Plan.
- Nebraska law provides for extraterritorial jurisdiction. This allows Lincoln to have jurisdiction for 3 miles outside the city. Unlike Omaha, Lincoln grows contiguously. We do not provide sewer and water to areas unless they are adjacent to the city.
- Lincoln is currently adding about one square mile of growth a year, growing closer to both Roca and Waverly. Both Roca and Waverly have one mile jurisdiction outside of their communities. Whichever community had the jurisdiction of an area first retains that jurisdiction. Therefore, even though the Roca and Waverly jurisdiction areas might overlap with that of Lincoln, they both retain their original jurisdictions. This means that Lincoln's floodplain regulations are not in effect within those one mile jurisdictions which is significant to us as Roca lies upstream from Wilderness Park.
- Every five years a minor update to the Comprehensive Plan is conducted and every ten years a major update is conducted. We are just beginning the process for a major update. Federal mandates require that the update be completed and in place by December 2011.
- The Planning Commission will be the base of this update. Committees will be appointed from the Planning Commission. Not as many outside consultants will be hired as in the past.
- Committee meetings and Community Workshops will begin in June. Watch the newspaper and this newsletter for updates on key events involving the update of the Comprehensive Plan.

It is up to us the citizens to be involved. There will be many opportunities to attend meetings and offer input to revisions of the Comprehensive Plan.

<p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Hero Award</p> <p>Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance announced the Neighborhood Hero Award at their annual meeting January 30. Community Crops was awarded the organization category of the award for their spreading the knowledge of organic garden to Lincoln's communities and supporting the gardeners w/ seeds, information and a water source.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Schramm State Park Trail Navigation Run</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 27, 9:00am check-in, 9:30 start Distance: 3-4 miles Fee: \$15 before 2/22; \$25 after 2/22 Racers are given maps to find locations in the park Must have valid park sticker; Compass recommended Info: www.angrycowadventures.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Birds on the Go at DeSoto</p> <p>Wachiska Audubon's February field trip is to the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge on the wide plain formed by pre-historic flooding and shifting of the Missouri River. Each spring and fall since the end of the last Ice Age, migrating waterfowl have traveled this traditional flyway. We hope to see some of the first brave migrants of the year.</p> <p>We'll also look for wintering species like common mergansers, common goldeneyes, and bald eagles along the open water of the river. The visitor center offers historic exhibits, wildlife movies, and a great place to warm up. Bundle up and join Wachiska for a short winter hike on the premises.</p> <p>The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages over 500 refuges for wildlife. DeSoto is the closest to our area. It is located 20 minutes north of Omaha on Highway 30, several miles east of Blair. There is a \$3/vehicle entry fee. Meet at the DeSoto Visitor Center at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 28. Anyone preferring to carpool or caravan should meet at 9:45 a.m. in the east parking lot of Oak Lake at Charleston Street and Sun Valley Boulevard in Lincoln. If you have questions call John Carlini at 475-7275.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wachiskafest Coming on Valentine's Day</p> <p>"Poetry, Flowers, Chocolate, and Cheese!" is the theme of the sixth annual Wachiskafest fundraiser to be held on Sunday, February 14, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Pioneers Park Nature Center. Admission is \$7.50/person. Grace Brauer will be reading her published poetry. Grace teaches at the University of Nebraska. Her books, <i>The Women at the Well</i>, <i>Retreats & Recognitions</i>, and <i>Beholding Eye</i>, will be available for purchase. Attendees will also view images of wildflowers by Neal Ratzlaff and Roland Barth from The Audubon Society of Omaha. They have coauthored two books on the plants of Omaha's Fontenelle Forest and Neale Woods Nature Centers: <i>Field Guide to Wildflowers</i> and <i>Field Guide to Trees, Shrubs, Woody Vines, Grasses, Sedges and Rushes</i>. These books will also be for sale after the program. These references are helpful in identifying the plants in Wilderness Park. When entering the north entrance to Pioneers Park from West Van Dorn, keep to the right and follow Nature Center signs for 1.4 miles. Enter the parking lot on the north side of the road. The Malinovskis Auditorium is located in the Prairie Building which is nestled on the prairie, a short distance west from the parking lot. For further information, call Linda Brown at 489-2381 or email lindar1brown@gmail.com.</p>

Friends of Wilderness Park would like to prepare some material about Wilderness Park which would be useful to school teachers. We already have all the needed information. We just need to put it into an attractive, accessible format. Can you help out. Please call Janine at 435-5612 or Mary at 477-8282 if you can help

Here's a way to help the environment. Go to ecosearch.org for your web searching. This site is powered by Google, returns the same search results as Google but also donates 100 percent of search revenues (created by ads displayed alongside query results) to nonprofit Environmental Groups, such as Rainforest Alliance and Sierra Club.

Have you ever thought of a speaker that you would like to hear or a topic you would like to hear about at our monthly meetings? We know there are a lot of very smart people with good ideas reading this newsletter; if you have any recommendations for speakers or topics, please call Mary.

Want to help in a low-tech way that allows you to chat with other members? We can always use help folding newsletters! Call Mary if you can help.

The Friends of Wilderness Park Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.



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◀ Should read "3.20.10" ☺

Event in Omaha

Majora Carter, referred to as New York City's most influential environmentalist, and in Newsweek's "25 to watch" will be speaking at the Joslyn Art Museum on Thursday, February 25, 2010 at 7 p.m. in Omaha. Carter is known as an incredible speaker who brings much passion and expertise to her presentations. She spearheaded Bronx's only and first riverfront park, and the Bronx Stewardship training program among many initiatives. Let us know if you go. We would love to hear about it.

Friends of Wilderness Park

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