

Help Protect A Beautiful Stand of Red Oak Woodland Here In Lincoln

The Friends of Wilderness Park is involved in raising money for the purchase and protection of a beautiful stand of rare red oak forest located in the floodplain adjacent to and east of Wilderness Park and south of Warlick Blvd. Experts have said that this woodland is rare. It grows on one of the very few westernmost sites where native red oak grows and contains very large 200-300 year old trees. One of these is most likely a state champion red oak tree. This woodland represents a link between Wilderness Park, Densmore Park, and a future hike/bike trail connection between the Rock Island Trail from the east and the Jamaica North Trail in Wilderness Park. Protection of this floodplain would benefit the entire community.

If this property is sold for development, those who enjoy hiking in Wilderness Park will have their experience diminished, part of a valuable bird and wildlife habitat corridor will be lost, and floodplain will most likely be filled in. We have until July 2009 to raise \$99,680 for the western part of the part of the woods. After that, it will be offered to developers.



Any amount that you can pledge toward this effort would be greatly appreciated and you would know that your donation would be going toward the protection of important living organisms that will be here for our future generations as public parkland. Please designate any pledge for this effort as specifically for the red oak forest adjacent to Wilderness Park and send it to Friends of Wilderness Park, in care of Mary Roseberry-Brown, 1423 F Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. If any one would like a tour of the area please call Mary at 477-8282.

Friends of Wilderness Park Is Awarded Grant from the Lincoln Community Foundation

In November, the Lincoln Community Foundation notified the Friends of Wilderness Park that we have been awarded \$14,500.00 toward the purchase of the red oak forest. This award signifies the importance of protection of that forest for future generations to come. It is also important in that it represents the first step toward raising more funds toward the purchase of that land and other significant land both adjacent to Wilderness Park and along Salt Creek south of Wilderness Park.

Donate to Friends of Wilderness Park

Are you older than 70.5 years and would like to maximize the value of your donations without having taxes out of what you donate? As you consider your giving options, you should be aware of the IRA Rollover Provision which currently will apply to gifts made through December 31, 2009. Those who are older than 70.5 years may transfer funds directly from their IRA to Friends of Wilderness Park as a qualified charitable contribution. These funds are not subject to the usual income tax on IRA withdrawals, count towards an IRA's required minimum distribution, and they are excluded from adjusted gross income. Your IRA administrator must be the one to withdraw the funds and make the transfer. Friends of Wilderness Park is a qualified 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

Introducing Our FWP Board

Here are the FWP board members. In addition to the wonderful contribution of time which each of them makes to our organization, it is apparent that each of them is also very involved in our community:

- Dick Boyd - retired Insurance Claims Division Regional Manager-State Farm Insurance; president, Nebraska Sierra Club; president elect, Nebraska Division United Nations Association.
- Buffalo Bruce - staff ecologist-Nebraska Resources Council; Conservation Chair, Platte Valley Sierra Club.
- Mike Carlin - analyst, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; retired Navy Commander; programmer, KZUM radio; president, Hitching Post Neighborhood Association.
- Foster Collins - lighting and scene director, NET Television; member, Mayor's Environmental Task Force.
- Janine Copple - visiting instructor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; interpreter, International Communications, Inc; project coordinator, Nebraska Humanities Council
- Adam Hintz - co-owner, Meadowlark Coffee House; board member, South Street Business and Civic Association.
- Dr. Micah Kohles - veterinarian, Nebraska Animal Medical Center.
- Dan Lutz - retired Editor, Communications and Information Technology Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; board member, Preservation Association of Lincoln.
- Tom McCormick - caregiver, League of Human Dignity; secretary, Region V Services.
- Roxanne Mares - food service, Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- Rosina Paolini - physical therapy assistant, Tabitha Health Care Services; secretary, Citizens For Quality Parks and Trails; vice-president, Indian Village Neighborhood Association.
- Mary Roseberry-Brown - instrumental music teacher, Lincoln Public Schools and private violin teacher.

Friends of Wilderness Park has a Website!
The address is:

<http://www.friendsofwildernesspark.net>

Be sure to look us up. Michael Fairchild, a freshman at UNL, has graciously donated his time to be our webmaster.

February In The Park

This is a great time of year for viewing bald eagles. In recent years, members have sited bald eagles in Wilderness Park this time of year.

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Membership Application—Friends of

Wilderness Park

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Student/Senior \$5 _____

Individual \$10 _____

Family/Household \$15 _____

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Motivator \$50 _____

Benefactor \$100 _____

Patron \$500 _____

Friends of Wilderness Park

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