

Friends of Hartman Reserve Action Plan

2021-2022 – NOTED IN RED

Guiding principle with our action plan: We need a clear definition with our separation with the county
This is a 2-year action plan

Purpose: To support the preservation and protection of this unique natural area

Goals:

- Coordinate with neighbors to protect the unique character of the Hartman Reserve neighborhood (ie: River Hills, street project with the city, etc.), as relates to Hartman Reserve
- Attend relevant meetings of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board
- Partner with Hartman Reserve on land use/trail development that includes the preservation of its wildness - wildlife, fauna and flora within its boundaries
- Coordinate with Hartman staff to support their volunteer needs
- Active engagement of the FOHR Board with Hartman/BHCCB in preservation-related activities

Timeline: Ongoing

Progress:

- **Funded landscape and redevelopment plan for top parking area including greenspace (native grass) for kids to play in and native pollinator plantings (Ben Rindels) – spring 2021**
- **Funded plants for landscaping – spring 2021**
- **Monitored the conversations/meetings with City, County, and Neighborhood regarding the street improvement project and its impact on access to Hartman Reserve and the natural environment**

Purpose: To support environmental education programs

Goals:

- Establish an Annual Youth Board project geared toward a certain demographic
- Connect our Friends Network, identify their areas of interest and expertise, to opportunities at Hartman

Timeline: Ongoing

Progress:

- **The Friends supported Torin Brown's Eagle Scout project to improve the pond area behind Buckles in the summer of 2020.**
- **The Friends Board supported the Bricks for Birds project with the purchase of a brick recognizing the Friends of Hartman Reserve.**
- **The Youth Directors created an audio tour of a trail, have added it to the Friends' website, have signs ordered and will install them on posts – spring 2021.**

- **Sent out e-Newsletters to our Friends network – February, May, and August 2021; updating Friends on projects and programs, ways to contribute, encouraging opportunities for board members and Friends network to share their talents/interests –**
- **Sent out E-newsletters sent out in Nov., Feb., and Aug. 2022.**

Purpose: To support accessible opportunities for public leisure and recreational activities

Goals:

- Sponsor Hartman Reserve partnership with Inclusion Connection
- Evaluate report of Inclusion Connection partnership and identify a specific project we can support
- Present a project to the ADA Compliance Commission in partnership with Hartman and the county
- Develop programming and a prepared environment (for example trails that are marked with difficulty levels/ distance) that support increased engagement with Hartman Reserve by seniors across all ability levels, from Independent Living, to Assisted Living, to Nursing Home residents.

Timeline: Ongoing

Progress

- **Friends approved a donation to Dementia Friendly Cedar Valley to begin our engagement with their organization and potential opportunities at Hartman**
- **Accessibility Committee has met several times to discuss improving assessible door options to the outside public bathroom. The Friends paid for the installation of the door assist in July, 2021**
- **The Youth Directors created an audio tour of a trail, have added it to the Friends' website, designed signs, installed them on posts, given the signs to Hartman staff for placement on trails**
- **Friends supporting 2021 Hartman Summer Camps by providing scholarships to at-risk/low income/minority participants**
- **Friends provided funding an ASL interpreter for participants signed up for 2021 Summer Camps**
- **Memory Café for people living with dementia and their caregivers began in July 2021. Thanks to the leadership and work of the Accessibility Committee, Dementia Friendly Cedar Valley, and other partnering groups of volunteers.**
- **Friends approved funding part of the Hobbit House and giant nest playscape that will be wheelchair assessible**
- **Friends approved funding \$900 for our continued work with Inclusion Connection for 2021-2022.**
- **Funded board members to participate in an Inclusive Trails Webinar – Oct. 2021**
- **Funded and volunteered for the 2021 Winter Wonderland event Dec. 4 and 11th – providing cookies and serving hot chocolate with toppings.**

- **Funded a Hartman Wishlist – 8 Shelving units, 5 lifejacket deck storage units, 20 locking storage units, 3 archery targets and 20 sets of snowshoes.**
- **Approved funding the field trips for schools for the 2022-23 school year**
- **Approved funding an accessible water fountain for humans and pets outside of the Interpretive Center – Working to get a replacement one installed.**
- **Renewed our partnership with Inclusion Connection.**
- **Investigating suggested ways to improve access around the Hartman grounds and facilities and possible braille signage**

Purpose: To support professional development for Hartman staff

Goals:

- Provide financial support, as able, to sponsor staff training and professional development

Timeline: Ongoing

Outcome: New or enhanced programming or services to diverse populations

Progress:

- **Friends approved funding an online class on Premier Pro for video editing to support for staff – spring 2021**
- **As part of the funding of the ASL interpreter for summer camps, sign language training for Hartman staff was provided to assist staff in communicating with camp participants as well –**
- **Friends approved funding registration for 4 interns to attend the MEEC**
- **Friends approved funding registration for Hartman Staff and Friends’ Board members to attend a diversity training offered by Hawkeye Community College**

Purpose: Financially support educational projects and programs at Hartman Reserve

Goals:

- Build the endowment to \$1 million
- Support Hartman Reserve educational programming through annual disbursement from endowment
- Annually sponsor selected fundraising activities or events, with approval of the Board

Timeline: Ongoing

Progress:

- **Endowment reached \$1 million dollar threshold**
- **Friends fulfilled its \$20,000 pledge to the Black Hawk County Conservation Board for 2020-21**
- **Friends approved a \$23,000 pledge to the Black Hawk County Conservation Board for FY 2022 to be paid January 2022**
- **Friends approved paying for all field trips for the spring of 2021 school year and all of the 2021-2022 school year**
- **Friends helped sponsor the 2020 Under the Harvest Moon**
- **Friends helped sponsor the 2020 and 2021 Visiting Artist programs.**

- Friends approved funding part of a Hobbit House kit and part of the giant nest playscape –
- Friends approved paying for the cost of printing pocket guides for Trail RX to give to wellness and health professionals in the Cedar Valley along with trail users
- Friends approved paying for summer camp registrations for summer 2021 overnight camps to potential campers from at-risk/low income/minority populations
- Friends approved paying for the taxidermy of a pelican for display and education
- Friends sponsored the 2021 Under the Harvest Moon, 2022 Maple Syrup Fest, 2022 Dining on the Deck, and Memory Cafe
- Friends approved a \$23,000 pledge to the Black Hawk County Conservation Board for FY2023 to be paid January 2023
- Approved funding the field trips for schools for the 2022-23 school year
- Paid for the installation of a power assist door for the lower bathroom accessible from outside
- Approved funding an accessible water fountain for humans and pets outside of the Interpretive Center – Working on getting a replacement installed
- Established a goal to hit \$2 million by Dec. 2023

Purpose: To support the functions and efforts of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board as provided for in Chapter 350 of the Code of Iowa.

Goals:

- Attend relevant meetings of the County Board of Supervisors
- Provide regular annual financial support to enable BHCCB budgeting

Timeline: Ongoing, annual

Outcome: Annual pledge and contribution to BHCCB designated for Hartman; demonstrated support for BHCCB in county; annual report from BHCCB/Hartman Reserve on how Friends' contribution is used

Next Steps: In fall, Board will vote on annual Friends' pledge to BHCCB budget designated for Hartman, respecting the county's budget timeline

Purpose: Support and advance the functions of Hartman Reserve by serving as a vehicle for community involvement

Goals:

- Build our Friends' network to 500 people
- Communicate to Friends' network through an email newsletter
- Host an annual event to build and celebrate the Friends' network
- Establish online presence for Friends of Hartman Reserve
- Through regular communication with Hartman staff we will identify special projects needing community involvement such as volunteers or material donations

Timeline: Ongoing

Progress:

- Friends website finished using Weebly - <https://www.friendsofhartman.org/>

Website built by Miranda Rokes

- **Friends e-newsletters were sent using Mailchimp in February, May, and August 2021**
- **Monthly communication with Amy Davison to know of the activities/projects going on at Hartman Reserve. Amy also prepared wish lists for the Friends to consider funding using Endowment funds and contributions to the Friends out of bank balances.**
- **Due to Covid, no gathering has been held. A Celebration for Donors will be held Sept. 14, 2021 in coordination with the Annual Meeting.**
- **A Friends of Hartman Reserve Facebook group was set up in the summer of 2021 for the purposes of promoting the Friends' events such as memory café, etc.**
- **Added PayPal to our website and direct links for donating**
- **Maintained/updated website with the assistance of Anna Blanford**
- **Sent an appeal letter to donors and a targeted group of "neighbors"**
- **Sent E-newsletters in Nov. 2021, Feb. and Aug. 2022 via Mailchimp**
- **Held a donor celebration on Sept. 13, 2022**
- **Continue to facilitate Memory Café by organizing volunteers; supporting Hartman Staff in the actual Memory Café programs**

New Goal: Inclusivity and Diversity

The Friends of Hartman Reserve, in partnership with Hartman Reserve Staff, will pursue opportunities to network and engage in conversation with individuals and organizations representing diverse populations in our communities to increase participation and access to Hartman's facilities, grounds, and programs. Bringing diverse voices and insight will contribute greatly to the Friends' Board and strengthen Hartman Reserve's impact and outreach into the community

Timeline – Added October 2021

Progress:

- **Tap into the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa's BIPOC Led Directory <https://www.cfneia.org/communityleadership/racialequity/BIPOCLedDirectory>**
- **Funded board members to attend Iowa Trails Summit on Inclusive Trails**
- **Board member representation at Advancing Racial Equity training through the Community Foundation**