

2019 Friends of Hartman Reserve Annual Report

Our mission is to support Hartman Reserve and its services to our communities through volunteerism, expertise, advocacy, and gifts.

What a year it has been for the Friends of Hartman Reserve! Among the many exciting activities, camps and programs supported by the Friends were the Hartman Reserve Visiting Artist Program and an extremely popular “Forest Bathing” event led Dr. Susanne Bartlett, a local physician and now nationally known author and clinician. The Friends were also very happy to help enable professional development opportunities for Hartman staff. This year we were pleased to co- sponsor Connie Svoboda, Hartman Reserve Development Coordinator, to become a certified Forest Therapy Guide. Connie will regularly offer this exciting programming beginning in the spring of 2020.

This past year the Friends of Hartman Reserve Board of Directors addressed significant changes. Embracing our successful past while transforming our organization for the future has been at once challenging and exciting. Part of our assignment this year was to transition to a fully-autonomous organization with clear and defined roles between the Friends non-profit organization and Hartman Reserve, which is part of Black Hawk County Conservation. Working in partnership with Hartman and Conservation staff, we have achieved this goal. Throughout this process, it became clear to the Friends that without paid staff members handling our day to day bookkeeping and overseeing most all other aspects of our organization, we were going to need to make substantial changes in how we did business. Some notable changes include: the county assuming all Hartman staff salaries, the gift shop and inventory, and the Halloween Hikes, Under the Harvest Moon and the Maple Syrup Festival fundraising events. The donations to these events will now benefit Hartman Reserve through the County Conservation Board. Other financial changes include transferring restricted funds from the Friends accounts to the County. The County will oversee and manage these restricted funds and the purposes they are connected to (ie. The Lucy Price Fund, the Field Trip Trust, the solar panel project, and the Beale Memorial). Smaller yet significant changes also include changing our postal address, website, and removing Friends of Hartman Reserve materials from the nature center building.

Being mindful of honoring our donors and wishing to keep our operational costs to a minimum, we are excited to announce that through our memberships and donations over the years, we have created **The Friends of Hartman Reserve Endowment Fund** with the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa! This fund will ensure Hartman Reserve receives the annual financial support necessary to continue its excellent educational programming, community events, and special projects. It will also help support the preservation and management of Hartman’s beautiful natural space for many years to come.

We begin our 2019-2020 fiscal year with fresh eyes and a clean slate. We have created a new mission statement and revised our bylaws to better fit who we are now and moving forward. We will use these as scaffolding to base our new vision and strategic planning for the coming year. I am excited to engage in the positive and creative ways we can continue to support our beloved Hartman Reserve and look forward to another wonderful year with the Friends!

Kendra Wohlert, acting president
September 10, 2019