

Friends of Hartman Reserve Action Plan  
Updated August, 2021

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**

**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 -**

**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.**

**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

**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.