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EAGLE CREEK PARK FOUNDATION, INC.

Eagle Creek Currents

Eagle Creek Park More... Outdoors Naturally

"The Eagle Creek Park Foundation provides volunteer and financial support to enhance, promote preserve and protect Eagle Creek Park."

President's Note

by Michelle Cloud, President

A new year and new challenges face the Eagle Creek Park Foundation. Our economy is suffering and municipal budgets face considerable challenges in providing our communities with the services and amenities that makes Indianapolis a great place to live. With personal budgets also being squeezed, finding family and personal recreation opportunities is also more of a challenge. Eagle Creek Park is a tremendous bargain in these tight financial times. Our little corner of Indianapolis is a refuge from the stress of work, traffic, noise and human turmoil, right in our backyard. The four seasons in the park connect us to the larger rhythm of the cycles of life and remind us of our great fortune to be a witness to the wonders of the natural world. It is the perfect venue for reconnecting with family, friends and ourselves. We can discover, explore, play and experience all in one place. Our challenge is to find ways to make your park even better and to provide opportunities for our members to expand their enjoyment of Eagle Creek Park.

The Foundation thanks its many donors and sponsors who make the wonderful facilities and events in the park



possible. We are in the planning process for our upcoming events. This past year The Foundation participated in the Fall Festival with a kid's tent and a Hamburger/ Hot Dog stand, in addition to the Golf Outing, the Kids Fishing Derby and the concerts at the marina. Through the many generous donations of the members of the Foundation and the supporters of Eagle Creek Park the Ornithology Center is nearing completion. We are looking forward to the Grand Opening this spring.

Also in this issue is an article by John Pankhurst, Secretary of the Eagle Creek Park Foundation's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC was the original organization of the Eagle Creek Park Foundation and has been instrumental over the past 35 years in providing the vital input that has been the *preserve and protect* part of our mission to *provide volunteer and financial support to enhance, promote, preserve and protect Eagle Creek Park*. Karen LaMere, Eagle Creek Park manager, provides an update on the changes happening in the park.

Lastly we want to wish Jim Weir all the best as he leaves the Foundation after 8 years as its Executive Director. His leadership helped make the vision of the Earth Discovery Center a reality and his commitment and efforts toward that goal are greatly appreciated.

Sam Chambers will continue to provide the administrative support he has so aptly done these many years and your Board of Directors will be actively seeking ways to partner with Indy Parks for the benefit of Eagle Creek Park.

Michelle Cloud, M.D.
President, Eagle Creek Park Foundation

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The Eagle Creek Park Citizens Advisory Committee

by John Pankhurst, Secretary Citizens Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is not only the oldest volunteer Eagle Creek Park committee, but also the first such Advisory or "Friends Group" in the Indy Parks system. It was first convened in 1973 at the request of Mayor Lugar's Administration. The Committee has met regularly since this time.

The committee, which became a standing committee of the Eagle Creek Park Foundation in 1997, provides advice to Indy Parks management with regard to Eagle Creek Park, and, if necessary, will take independent action to protect and preserve the park. Preservation of wildlife habitat is viewed as especially important. The committee has in the past taken such actions as opposing the ceding of park land to the Future Farmers of America, objecting to the development of land in North East Hendricks County that had the potential to adversely affect reservoir water quality, and insisting that reservoir limits on boat and engine size be maintained. It advised against putting a Frisbee golf course, and establishing mountain bike trails in the Park.

The Committee has been active in providing input into Park Master Plan updates. This was especially so with the 1997 update, which involved many hours of volunteer time to develop a plan that included development of a new Environmental Education Center as one of its recommendations.

The Committee consists of 21 voting members representing Area residents, Park users, and Natural Resource/Environmental groups, including birders. Membership of the committee is for one year, but there is no limit on the number of terms a member can serve. Although membership of the Committee is relatively stable, vacancies do occasionally occur, and members of the Foundation wishing to contribute to Eagle Creek Park by serving on this committee are encouraged to contact one of the Committee's officers.

The officers for 2009 are:

Chair: John Ulmer
Vice-chair: Rebecca Lomax Sumner
Secretary: John Pankhurst

Change

by Karen LaMere, Park Manager

Change has come to Eagle Creek Park. You will no longer have to drive or ride over a metal plate on Eagle Creek Parkway. In late fall Lilly Lake Dam was repaired. The underground pipes have been realigned, a fiberglass liner has been installed in the pipes, soil has now filled the sink holes and we are ready for the natural runoff from rain and snow melt to refill Lilly Lake. You will once again be able to rent pedal boats and cruise around the lake using foot power.

At the Earth Discovery Center we received a grant from the Eagle Creek Watershed Alliance to install a bio-swale. A bio-swale allows the parking lot runoff to filter through level spreaders, rain gardens, and a new prairie before trickling into the reservoir. Level spreaders allow the water to move across a series of gravel or stone beds thus slowing down the flow of water. The water then moves into rain gardens specially designed to filter the water and create a natural habitat for insects and birds. The final piece is a natural prairie that will be used to attract insects for our entomology classes. Remember change in the land comes slowly you may not see all of this happen in one year but give it time and

the results will be magnificent.

Change is also coming to the Eagle Creek Marina. Indy Parks is currently seeking RFP's for the concession area and the boat rental area. We are looking for one vendor to manage the concessions at the marina and another vendor to manage the boat rental business. I want to upgrade the concession area so it can be a place hikers, bikers, runners and birders can stop for a cool beverage or a warm cup of coffee on a chilly morning. The goal is to have a gathering area for visitors to sit and enjoy the water while waiting to rent a kayak, pontoon boat, sail boat or canoe. If you are interested in either operation please contact me at the park office. (327-7120).

Remember, change is inevitable in the natural world. Each year the trees become a little taller, some older ones may fall in a wind storm; this in-turn opens up a hole in the forest allowing the saplings underneath an opportunity to grow, filling in the gap. Over the years you have probably seen the ice skating pond fill in with cattails, the red bud tree nestled in among the Norway spruce die out and be replaced by other young maples. Change is a part of nature and Change is a part of Eagle Creek Park.

You will see many changes at the park this year. But remember it is still the wonderful place you love.



Introducing Your Eagle Creek Park Staff

Eagle Creek Park Office

Karen LaMere, Park Manager

Dee Miller, Jenny Love

Gates

Carole Anderson, LeAnn Mosby, Ann Hauiano

Earth Discovery Center

Carrie Kasnicka-Williams, Dawn Van Deman, Brit-tany Wierda, Andrea Hopper, Rosie Johnson

Ornithology Center

Kevin Carlsen, Dawn Davis

Retreats

Lisa Myers

Maintenance

Andrew Mertz

Pistol Range

Stephen Stillabower

Did You Know?

Eagle Creek Park, a municipal park, is over 5,200 acres and is larger than all but two state parks.

Brown County at 15,766 acres and Versailles State Park encompassing 5,988 acres are larger.



Ornithology Center

Dates to Remember

Scheduled classes:

Feb 20 and March 20: Coyote Calling,

Mar 27, April 24: 6-8pm Frogwatch classes are starting again – spring is almost here!

Every Sunday: 9:00 a.m. — Sunday Morning Birdwalk

February 21: 1–3 p.m. Smokey Mountain Pilgrimage Info Meeting

Feb 16: City holiday, EDC closed, park open

Feb 21: Indy “G” walkers Volksmarch 10K non competitive event hosted at EDC, 9-noon.

Feb 21: IUPUI Center for Earth and Environmental Sciences workshop for teachers, hosted at EDC

Mar 12: Indianapolis Hiking Club General Assembly, EDC 6-8pm

April 1: Coffee talk, 8:30-9:30am EDC, Presentation: Butterfly Way Station at the EDC. Come learn about this fantastic garden project that includes native larval and nectar plants.

April 3: Homeschool Jamboree – please call if you would like to volunteer!

April 21–26: Smokey Mountain Wildflower Pilgrimage

June 6: Kid’s All-American Fishing Derby

Aug. 6: ECPF Double Eagle Golf Outing

Oct. 3: Fall Festival



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Wow!!!

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www.eaglecreekpark.org

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& family

It has come to our attention that there may be a number of rules and safety violations occurring that never get reported. It is through examination of reported incidents that patrols are assigned. We can all do our part to keep the visitors and residents of the park safe by reporting incidents to the proper authorities..

Phone Numbers to Keep Handy

- ⇒ For boating and/or fishing violations, such as gill-net fishing, etc.; call the Conservation Officer at **1-800-847-4367 (TIP-IDNR)**, or the Park Rangers.
- ⇒ For land-based Indy Parks rules violations, such as, weapons, alcohol, speeding, etc.; call the Park Rangers at **327-3811**.
- ⇒ For maintenance issues, such as fallen trees/large branches on trails or roadways call **327-1620**.