

1989

MISSION STATEMENT

FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.

The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary is a wild garden and sanctuary for native-flora and fauna, administered by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Its purpose is to educate by enhancing visitors' appreciation and understanding of Minnesota's native plants and their natural environments. The absence of formal landscaping and the natural atmosphere are important elements of the Garden, contributing significantly to visitors' opportunities for insight into indigenous Minnesota plant life and for quiet contemplation.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden is an organization of private citizens whose purpose is to advance, promote and safeguard the interests of the Garden. It is the position of the Friends that:

1. The Garden should remain an environment containing as many of the plants native to Minnesota as can be managed in a 13-acre setting approximating a natural wilderness, gradually exotic species should be eliminated.
2. The Garden's collection of plants should be grouped symbiotically in as many natural environments as is feasible on this site.
3. The Garden requires continuing on-site management which leaves the appearance of being minimal, and which favors techniques that damage the environment the least.
4. The Garden is enhanced by a diversity of wild fauna.
5. The educational role of the Garden dictates that all plant species be identified by their scientific names and, where appropriate, by regionally popular names.

The Friends seek to further the interests of the Garden in a variety of ways. The Friends activities have included and/or should include the following:

- A. Directly relating to the Garden itself, and in cooperation with the Minneapolis Parks offices:
 1. Assist the Gardener in achieving mutual horticultural goals.
 - a. Purchase of plant materials.
 - b. Financing of plant inventory.*
 - c. Assistance with physical maintenance of plant collection.
 2. Arrange for publication of interpretive guidebook used by visitors as they walk the paths.

3. Promote appropriate signage in the Garden and in Wirth Park.
 4. Assist with managing the maintenance of Garden paths, benches and fountains.
- B. Directly relating to the Martha Crone Shelter, and in cooperation with the Minneapolis Parks offices:
1. Finance building of the Shelter.*
 2. Provide and train volunteers who staff the Shelter, thus permitting visitors access to its resources.
 3. Assist Naturalists in reaching mutual interpretive goals.
 - a. Purchase of books and other interpretive media and equipment.
 - b. Assistance with management of displays.
 - c. Input for program ideas.
 4. Arrange for physical improvements of the Shelter.
 5. Assist in maintaining the Shelter cleanliness.
 6. Provide insurance for the Shelter contents.
- C. Relating to public awareness and support of the Garden.
1. Publicize the existence of the Garden and its purpose.
 2. Publish the newsletter, The Fringed Gentian.
 3. Support research into the Garden's history.*
 4. Maintain a liaison with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.
 5. Provide educational grants to natural science students and teachers.*
 6. Consider educational grants to students training in subjects compatible with the goals of the Friends.

* These are the things which the Friends have done in the past, but which the Friends may not have the need or opportunity to do again.

Adopted January 21, 1989
Revised April 15, 1989