



Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

To preserve, protect and conserve in perpetuity the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge.

Who we are

The Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge was established as a non-profit organization on June 1, 1974, by 40 people who shared the common goal of preserving and protecting the natural and cultural resources that are the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge. The organization has evolved over the years from hands-on administration of Nature Center programs to its present function as the Nature Center's chief financial supporter.

Board Leadership

President, Rick Shepherd

Vice President, Marty Leonard

Treasurer, Laura Harrison

Secretary – Recording, Pat Hyer

Secretary – Correspondence, Dagmar Higgins

How the FONC Support the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

- Pasture, feed, hay and veterinary services for the bison herd and all other ambassador animals.
- Purchase of the herd bull, and development of the west pasture well and the Birds of Prey Exhibit — all driven by special fundraisers.
- Funding for staff and intern positions.
- Publication of *Bluestem News*, *Summer Natural History Adventures*, Spring Break brochures and the trail maps.
- Funding of telecommunications equipment used for remote education programs.

- Restroom facilities at Lotus Marsh, Greer Island and the Big River Parking Lot.
- Purchase and maintenance of canoes, kayaks, racks and equipment. Friends volunteers also operate the monthly Canoe Fest.
- Stipends for staff to attend professional meetings and training courses.
- Renovation and design plans for a picnic area at Broadview Park and docks at both Greer Island and the Big River Parking Lot.
- Buffalo Boogie: certified 5K timed competitive run and a 1 mile fun walk.

Friends Membership

Membership to the Friends offers many benefits. In addition to supporting the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature & Refuge and receiving unlimited gate access for 12 months, members also receive the following:

- Discounted access to nature centers across the country (participating in the Association of Nature Centers of America)
- 10 percent gift shop discount
- Advance notice, discounted registration fees and pre-registration opportunities for Nature Center classes, workshops and events
- Invitations to special “members only” events, such as guided walks, canoe tours, the annual meeting and other celebrations
- One-year electronic subscription to the Nature Center's newsletter *Bluestem News* and *Phenology*

Visit www.naturecenterfriends.org for more information.