

# **WILDERNESS PARK MANAGEMENT OVERALL GOALS**

Establish and maintain a variety of habitats that will provide a broad array of wildlife.

Manage bur oak communities to encourage regeneration of seedlings.

Maintain the park as a “natural” environment area.

Maintain and restore prairie remnants especially the sandstone prairie area.

Restore some old field areas to native prairie grasses.

Eradicate invasive exotics such as honeysuckle, buckthorn, leafy spurge, and musk thistle.

Develop management strategies of areas of the park that harbor “sensitive ” species and develop management strategies to protect those areas.

Follow management practices that maintain/increase “roughness” value of stormwater conveyance area along Salt Creek to enhance flood control benefits of the park.

Encourage the function of Salt Creek as a natural system by maintaining and enhancing its meanders, oxbows, wetlands and vernal ponds.

Maintain mature tree stands to provide habitat for Coopers’ Hawks, barred owls and woodland birds.

Conduct scientific monitoring of the park and its resources. Inventory plants and animals in the park including mammals, snakes, amphibians, lichens, mosses, ferns, etc.