

706 responses

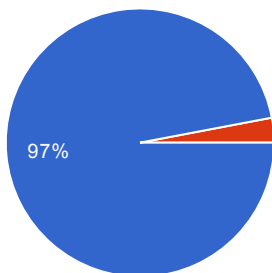
[View all responses](#)

[Publish analytics](#)

Summary

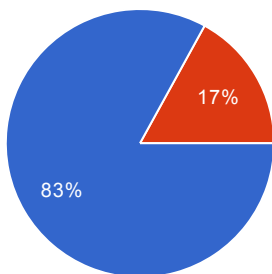
Wilderness Park is a 1,475 acre park that stretches along Salt Creek from 1st to 27th Street and from Van Dorn Blvd to Saltillo Road. Wilderness Park provides a natural environment of forest and native grassland with hiking, bike trails, and bridle paths.

1. Have you visited any of the parks or recreational areas in Lincoln or elsewhere in Lancaster County in the last year?



Yes	683	97%
No	21	3%

2. Do you have a favorite park or recreational area in Lincoln or Lancaster County?



Yes	586	83%
No	120	17%

If Yes, which is your favorite?

- Wilderness Park
- Pioneers Park
- Wilderness
- Wilderness park
- Holmes Lake

wilderness park

Wilderness

Pioneers

Wilderness Park

Pioneers park

Pioneer Park

wilderness

pioneers park

Branched Oak

Pioneers and Holmes Lake

Pioneers

Holmes

Pioneer

Pioneer's

Pioneer park

Holmes Lake Park

Wagon Train

Pioneers park

Antelope

Wilderness and Pioneers

Wilderness!

Pioneers park or wilderness

Wilderness or Wagon Train

In years past I have been to Wilderness park and I loved riding there. I heard that it had become unsafe because of unsavory people hanging out there. I hope it can become safe again as it was my favorite place to ride back then. For now though, I believe Branched Oak is my favorite place to hang out with my horses and ride!

Bridle paths

Branch Oak

Branched Oak Lake

Holmes Lake and Pioneers Park - toss up!

Wilderness Park and Holmes Dog Park

Pioneers and wilderness

1st street dog run

Pioneers / Wilderness

Wagon Train Lake

Oak Creek Dog Park

Wilderness Park and Pionees Park

Mahoney Golf Course

Antelope Park/Highlands Golf Course
South wilderness park
Wilderness Park!
Bike trails antelope valley Dietrich Williamsburg rock island mopac
Wilderness park, and pioneers
Antelope Park
Wilderness Pak
Pioneer, Wilderness , Roper
Wilderness park on Old Cheney
Many different trails at Wilderness are on heavy rotation for our family.
Mopac easy
Wilderness Park off of South 1st Street
Bike trails in Wilderness and city
Wilderness & Pioneers Parks
Pioneers Park and Wilderness Park
Tie between pioneers and wilderness
Wilderness for sure
I love to run all the trails
Mahoney Park
The whole trail system and Wilderness Park
Probably Wilderness Park since there most
Pioneers or wilderness
Bike trails and Wilderness park
Dog
Wilderness park
East Mopac
Wildwood Recreation Area
Pioneers Park & Antelope Park
Wilderness PARK
Max E. Roper Park
Old Cheney entrance
Holmes Lake area
Densmore Park
Mahoney city park
Pawnee
Trail system
Wilderness Park/Pioneers Park
Wilderness bike trails and Spring Creek
Antelope or Cooper

pioneers, wilderness, Bethany

I love them ALL.

Visiting the bison at pioneers Park

Shoemaker wetland

Billy Wolfe Trail

Nature Center

salttillo wilderness park

Old Cheney

Holmes Park

Pioneers, Holmes, Wilderness Parks

Holmes Lake & Park

Wilderness Park, Peterson Park is kinda neat also

Pawnee Lake

wilderness part

Killdeer Wildlife Management Area

Wilderness Park, antelope park, trago park

Wilderness , Lincoln Bike trails

Wilderness park. Primarily south by Saltillo and 14th St.

Taylor Park, Holmes lake park and Pioneers Park

Pioneers park

Woods

The one I use the most is the Rock Island trail, followed by the Jamaica North.

Wilderness and Antelope

Bird watching stations along Jamaica Trail

Wilderness Park, Pioneers Park

Wilderness Park and Yankee Hill WMA

Pawnee State Recreation area

wilderness

pioneers or wilderness

Wilderness Park! :)

Pioneers park or wilderness park

Wyuka Cemetery

Wilderness and Pioneers Parks

pioneers

Holms lake

The tennis courts

Wilderness Park and Pioneers Park equally

Wilderness park/pioneers park

Yankee Hill or Wilderness Park

Wilderness Park

Wilderness and pioneers nature center

Wagon Train or Wilderness Park

I love many of them!

Tierra Park in Lincoln

Antelope Park

Wilderness park/pioneers/lakes

Taylor Park

Wilderness or pioneers

Saline wetlands Nature Center

wildernes Park

The Wilderness Park entrance near 1st and Old Cheney.

Antelope Park because of trail access

Wilderness Park/Jamican Trail

Pioneers Park - Lincoln

Holmes Lake Recreation

holmes lake

Wilderness Park / Pioneer Park

Branched oak lake

They all are wonderful!

Pioneers Park and Wilderness

All

Wilderness, duh!

Pioneers & Wilderness

Pioneers / wilderness

Wilderness. Holmes.

wilderness. only one in lincoln :(

Holmes Lake, Wilderness Park

Wilderness Park and Pioneers Park

I enjoy all the parks as long as they are maintained. My grandkids get to choose which one they are interested in at the time.

pioneer park

Wildernesd

I like different parks for different reasons or moods! Holmes Lake- I really like walking around the lake on the trail with my dog!! Mahoney Park - I really like hanging out and not many people are usually very closeby if you want some space. I Love to walk my dog on the trail, sit and read or knit or paint. Just peaceful and spread out there. Pioneers Park- is awesome!! So big, spreadout, lots of different things you can do there. I love the trails, Chet Ager Nature Center, seeing the buffalo & other animals, the peacefulness, open spaces, to picnic, dog walk, spread out a blanket & read & nap and just go for a nice drive through it too! And all the wonderful pine

trees!!! I really love the dog parks too! I usually go to Holmes Lake Dog Run, and a few times have gone to the one near Oak Lake. Lincoln is so lucky to have such nice big areas to take our dogs! Lincoln Park & Rec does a great job for Lincoln. Thank you so much!!

Pawnee

Pioneers Park Nature Center

Pioneers, Colonial Hills

Wilderness Trails - Horse, Bike and Walking Trails S. 14th to past Saticillo. Also Williamsburg Park and trails. Trees need Trimming in park as other invasive trees are growing around tree trunks

Yankee hill

Honestly wilderness is our favorite and our go-to

Pioneers Park but we use the Rock Island trail everyday.

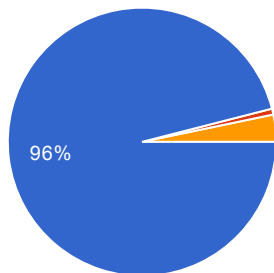
Bethany Park

Several park8

We visit Wilderness Park often, also Pioneers Park Nature Center & Woods Park

Your visit to Wilderness Park

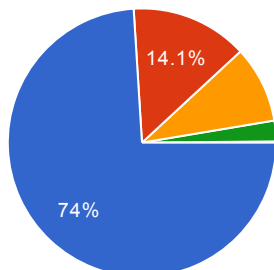
3. Have you ever visited Wilderness Park?



Yes	675	96%
Maybe	5	0.7%
No	23	3.3%

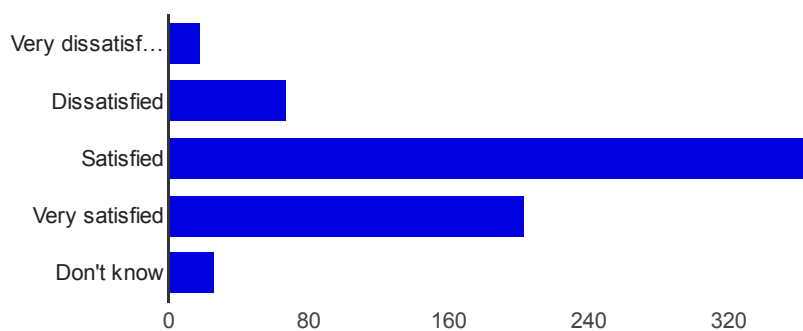
If Yes or Maybe, continue below. If No, skip to the next page.

3a. When was the last time you visited Wilderness Park?



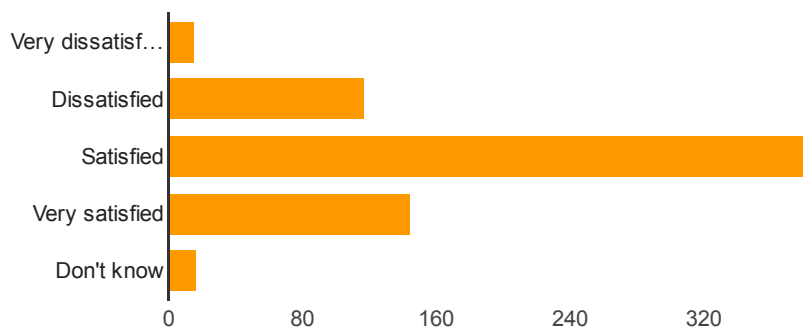
Within last 6 months	504	74%
6 months to one year ago	96	14.1%
Between one and five years ago	63	9.3%
Over 5 years ago	17	2.5%
I don't know	1	0.1%

Safety [3b. How satisfied are you with each of the following conditions in Wilderness Park?]



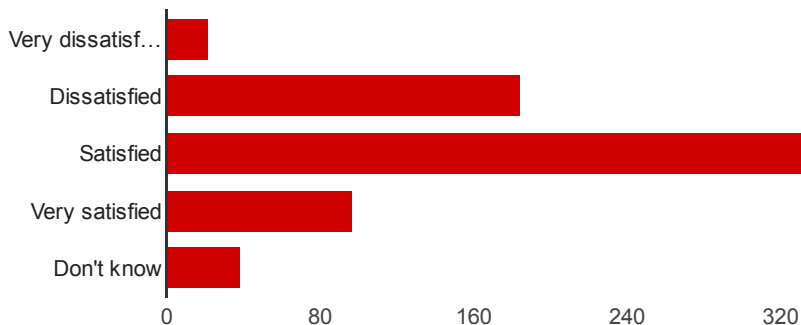
Very dissatisfied	18	2.6%
Dissatisfied	67	9.9%
Satisfied	365	53.7%
Very satisfied	204	30%
Don't know	26	3.8%

Trail maintenance [3b. How satisfied are you with each of the following conditions in Wilderness Park?]



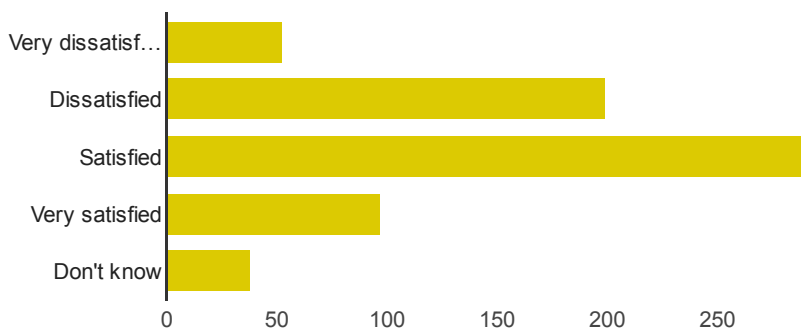
Very dissatisfied	16	2.4%
Dissatisfied	117	17.3%
Satisfied	382	56.4%
Very satisfied	145	21.4%
Don't know	17	2.5%

Trail markers [3b. How satisfied are you with each of the following conditions in Wilderness Park?]



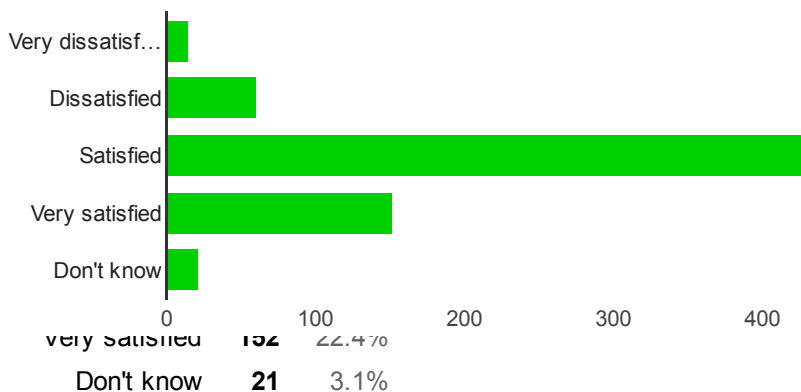
Very dissatisfied	22	3.3%
Dissatisfied	185	27.4%
Satisfied	333	49.3%
Very satisfied	97	14.3%
Don't know	39	5.8%

Condition of bridges [3b. How satisfied are you with each of the following conditions in Wilderness Park?]

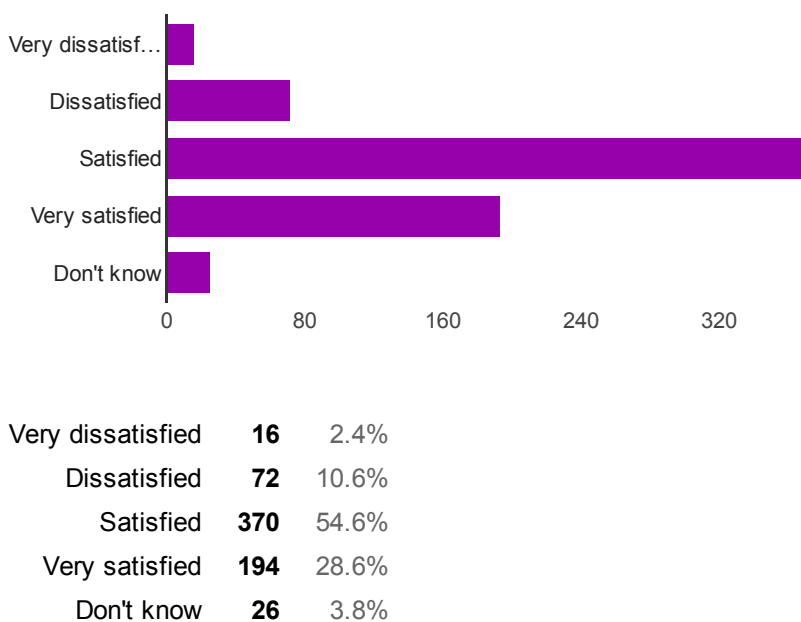


Very dissatisfied	53	7.8%
Dissatisfied	199	29.4%
Satisfied	290	42.8%
Very satisfied	97	14.3%
Don't know	38	5.6%

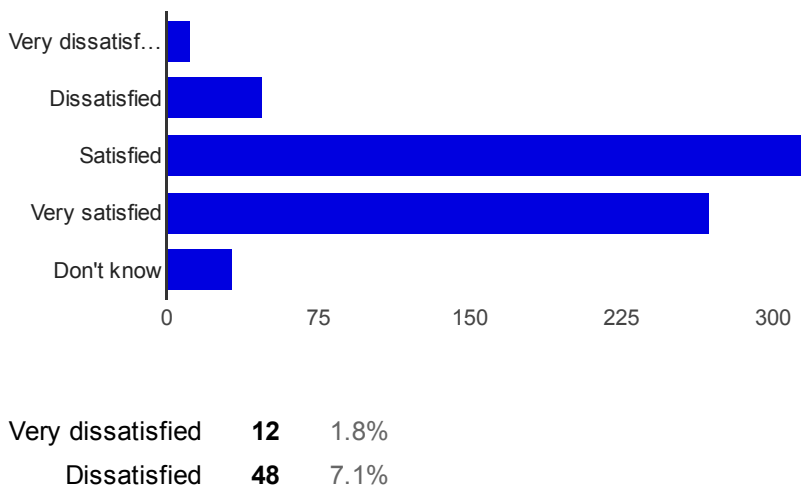
Entrance upkeep [3b. How satisfied are you with each of the following conditions in Wilderness Park?]



Litter pickup [3b. How satisfied are you with each of the following conditions in Wilderness Park?]

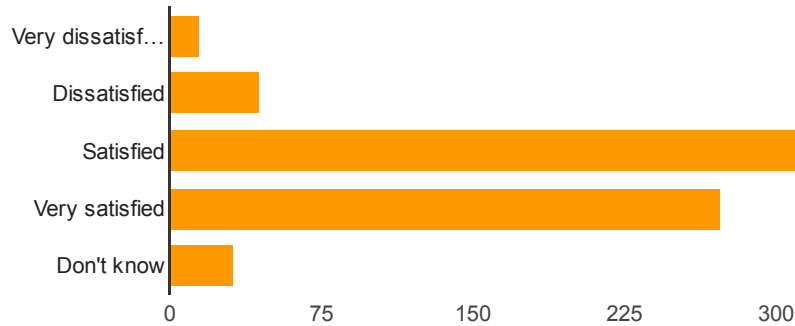


Habitat quality [3b. How satisfied are you with each of the following conditions in Wilderness Park?]



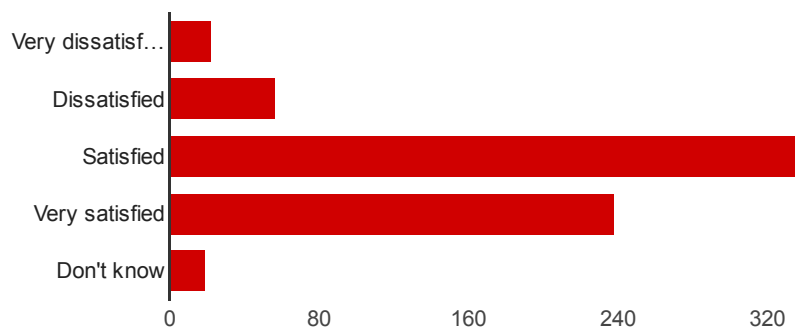
Satisfied	316	46.7%
Very satisfied	268	39.6%
Don't know	33	4.9%

Variety of uses [3b. How satisfied are you with each of the following conditions in Wilderness Park?]



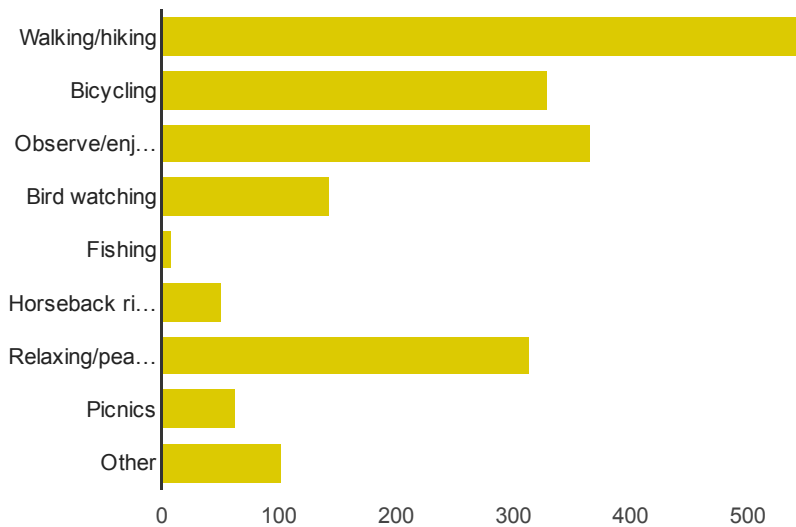
Very dissatisfied	15	2.2%
Dissatisfied	45	6.6%
Satisfied	316	46.5%
Very satisfied	272	40%
Don't know	32	4.7%

Park access [3b. How satisfied are you with each of the following conditions in Wilderness Park?]



Very dissatisfied	22	3.2%
Dissatisfied	57	8.4%
Satisfied	342	50.4%
Very satisfied	238	35.1%
Don't know	19	2.8%

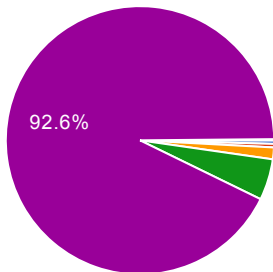
3c. What kinds of activities do you usually go to Wilderness Park for?



Walking/hiking	545	80.3%
Bicycling	329	48.5%
Observe/enjoy wildlife or nature	366	53.9%
Bird watching	143	21.1%
Fishing	9	1.3%
Horseback riding	52	7.7%
Relaxing/peace and quiet	315	46.4%
Picnics	63	9.3%
Other	103	15.2%

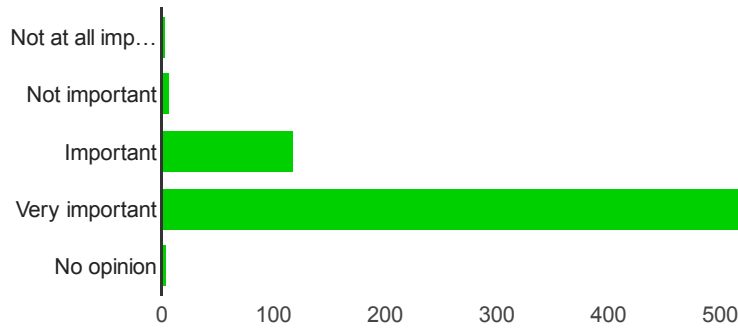
Importance of Wilderness Park

4. How valuable do you think it is for Lincoln and Lancaster County to have a natural area park like Wilderness Park?



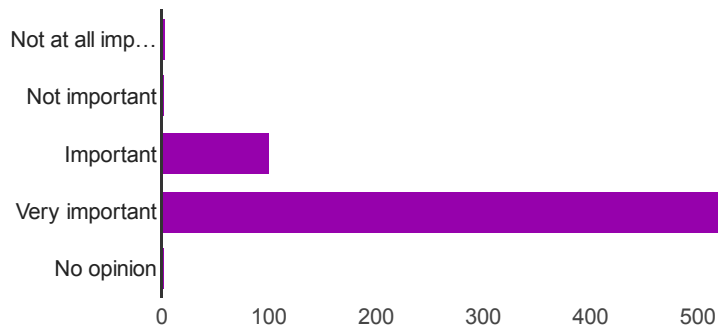
Not at all valuable	3	0.4%
Not very valuable	3	0.4%
Somewhat valuable	10	1.4%
Valuable	35	5%
Very valuable	654	92.6%
Don't know	1	0.1%

A place for wildlife [5. How important do you think it is for Lincoln and Lancaster County to have a park like Wilderness Park to provide each of the following?]



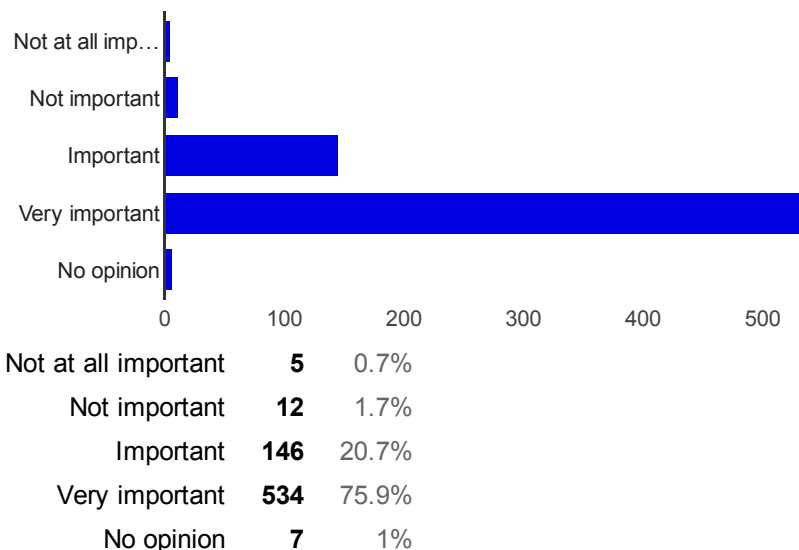
Not at all important	3	0.4%
Not important	7	1%
Important	118	16.8%
Very important	572	81.3%
No opinion	4	0.6%

A place to experience nature [5. How important do you think it is for Lincoln and Lancaster County to have a park like Wilderness Park to provide each of the following?]

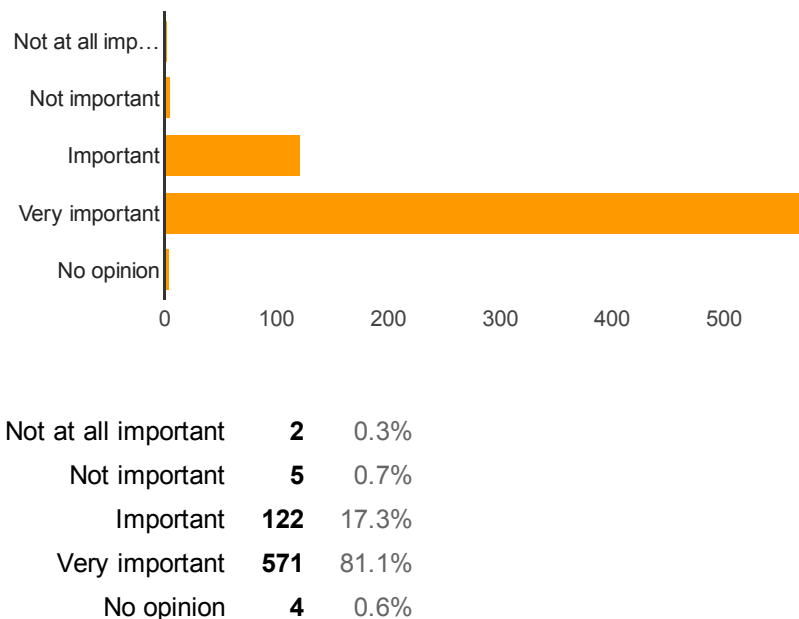


Not at all important	3	0.4%
Not important	2	0.3%
Important	100	14.2%
Very important	596	84.8%
No opinion	2	0.3%

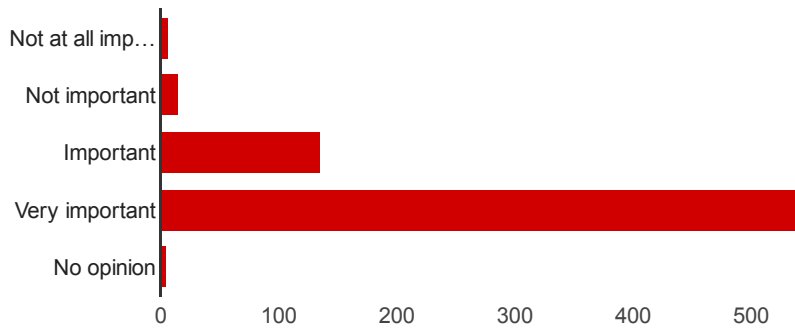
Nature study - a place to learn about nature [5. How important do you think it is for Lincoln and Lancaster County to have a park like Wilderness Park to provide each of the following?]



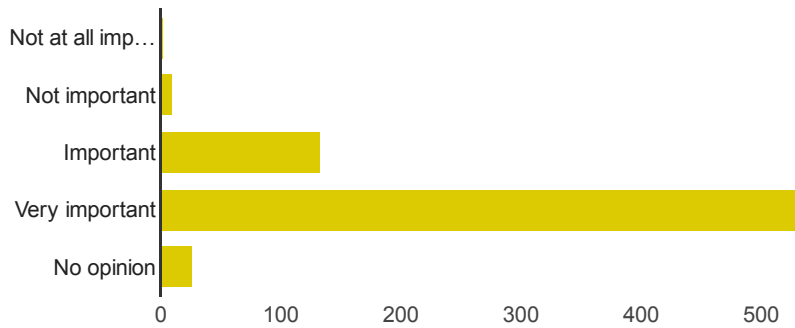
Recreation, such as hiking, biking, fishing [5. How important do you think it is for Lincoln and Lancaster County to have a park like Wilderness Park to provide each of the following?]



Examples of demonstrating the benefits of natural green spaces within or around a city [5. How important do you think it is for Lincoln and Lancaster County to have a park like Wilderness Park to provide each of the following?]

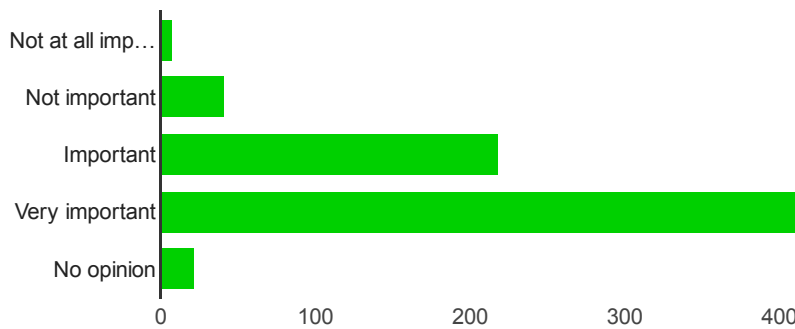


Flood protection [5. How important do you think it is for Lincoln and Lancaster County to have a park like Wilderness Park to provide each of the following?]



Not at all important	2	0.3%
Not important	10	1.4%
Important	134	19%
Very important	532	75.6%
No opinion	26	3.7%

Historic and cultural resources [5. How important do you think it is for Lincoln and Lancaster County to have a park like Wilderness Park to provide each of the following?]

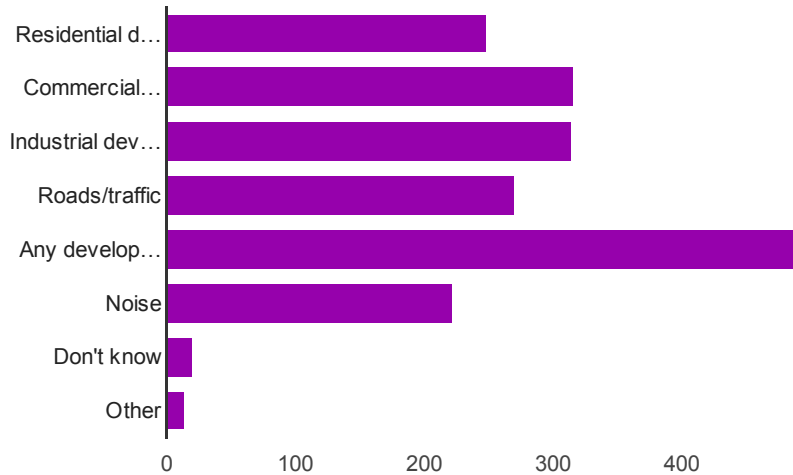


Not at all important	8	1.1%
Not important	41	5.8%
Important	219	31.2%

Very important **413** 58.7%
 No opinion **22** 3.1%

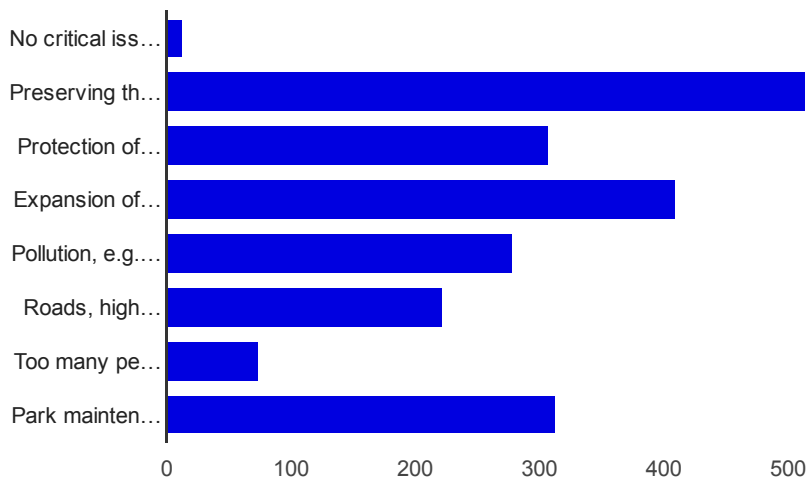
Issues with Wilderness Park areas

6. What type of land use or development do you think would most affect the park?



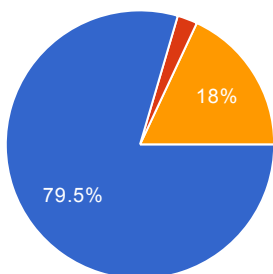
Residential development	248	35.1%
Commercial development	316	44.8%
Industrial development	314	44.5%
Roads/traffic	271	38.4%
Any development	496	70.3%
Noise	222	31.4%
Don't know	20	2.8%
Other	14	2%

7. What do you think the critical issues are regarding the future of Wilderness Park?



Wilderness Park Funding

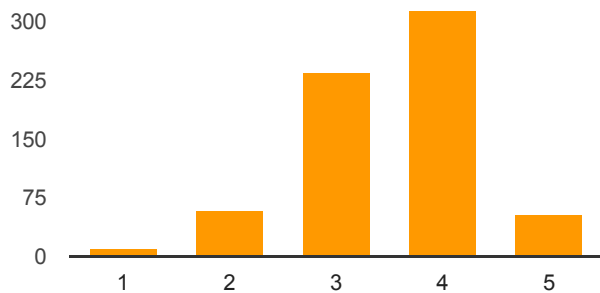
8. Would you support additional public funding, if needed, to make improvements to Wilderness Park?



Yes	560	79.5%
No	17	2.4%
Maybe	127	18%

Wilderness Park Maintenance

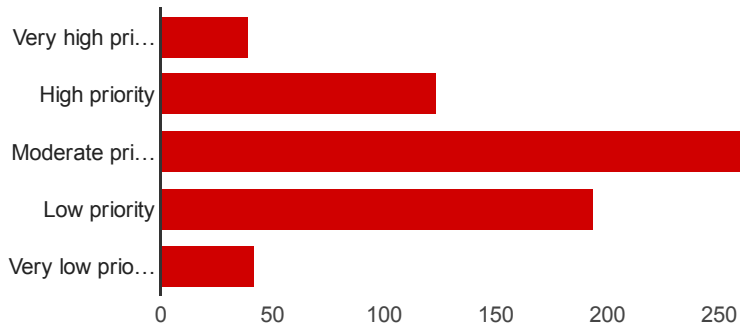
Rate the overall maintenance of Wilderness Park.



Poor: 1	10	1.5%
2	58	8.7%
3	235	35.1%

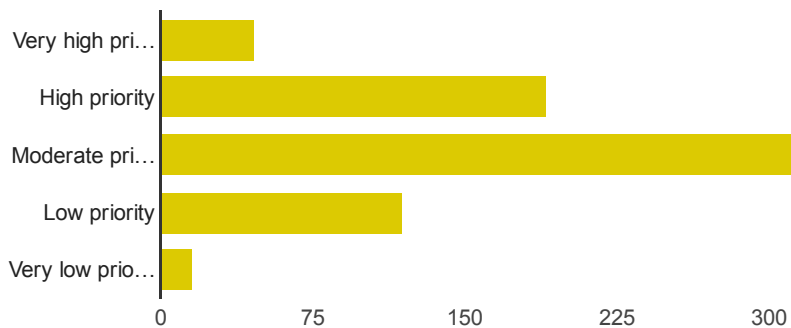
4 **314** 46.9%
 Excellent : 5 **53** 7.9%

Mowing [Please indicate the priority of each of the following maintenance activities.]



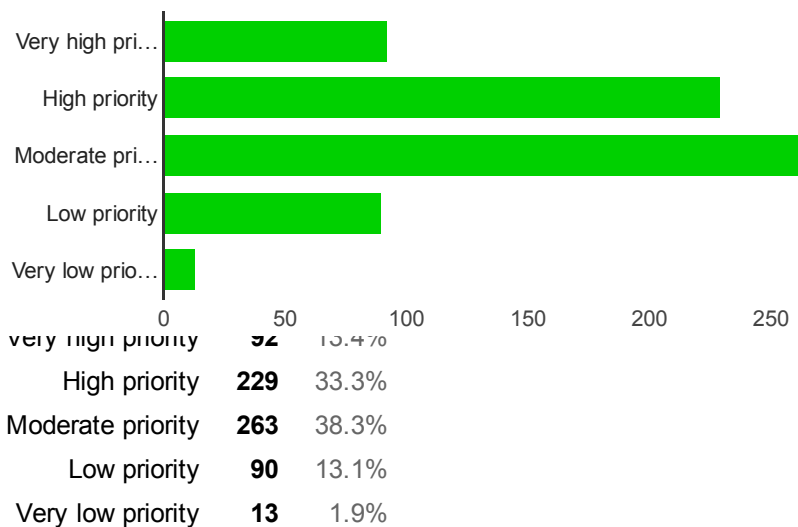
Very high priority	39	5.7%
High priority	124	18.1%
Moderate priority	286	41.8%
Low priority	194	28.3%
Very low priority	42	6.1%

Vegetation control [Please indicate the priority of each of the following maintenance activities.]

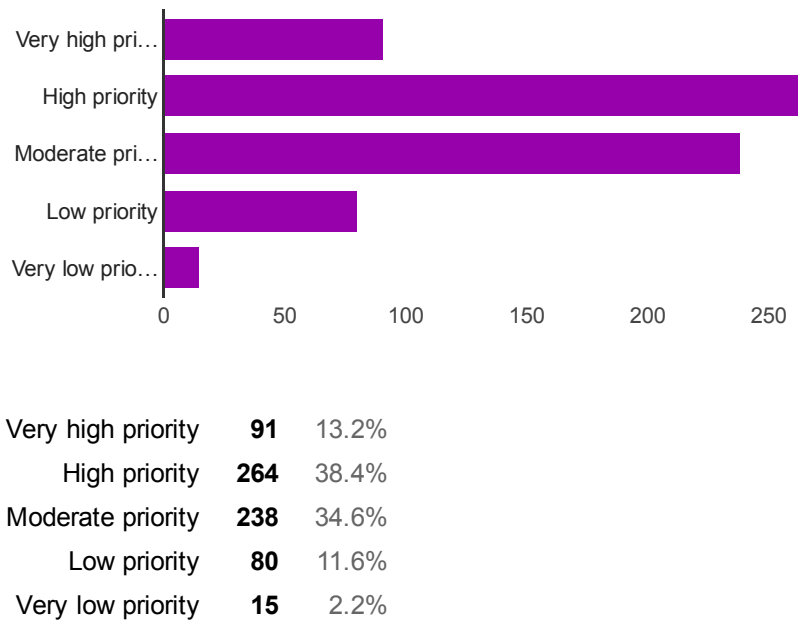


Very high priority	46	6.7%
High priority	191	27.8%
Moderate priority	315	45.9%
Low priority	119	17.3%
Very low priority	16	2.3%

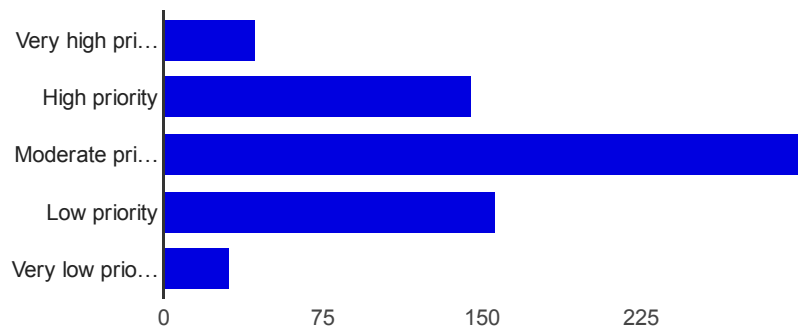
Fallen limbs [Please indicate the priority of each of the following maintenance activities.]



Trail markers [Please indicate the priority of each of the following maintenance activities.]

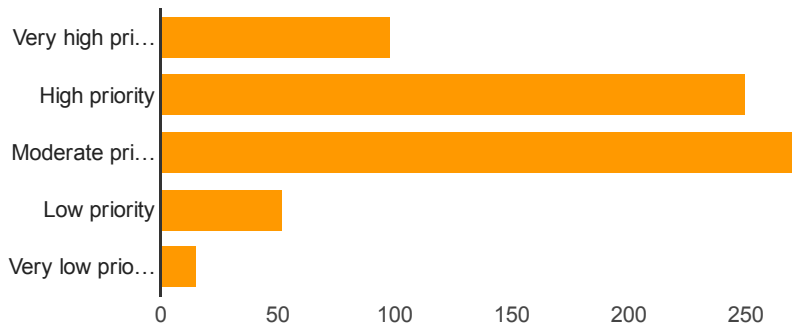


Other signage [Please indicate the priority of each of the following maintenance activities.]



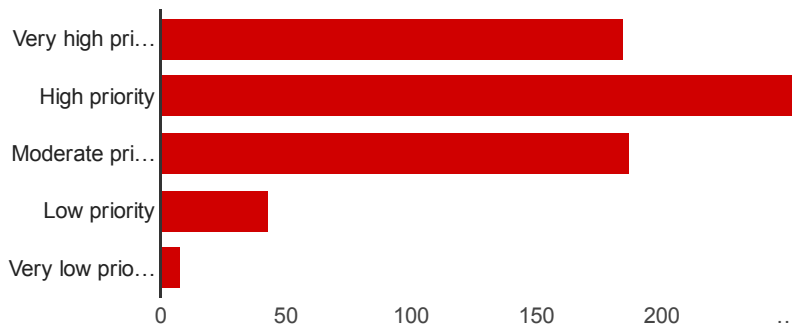
Very high priority	43	6.4%
High priority	145	21.4%
Moderate priority	301	44.5%
Low priority	157	23.2%
Very low priority	31	4.6%

Trail surface [Please indicate the priority of each of the following maintenance activities.]



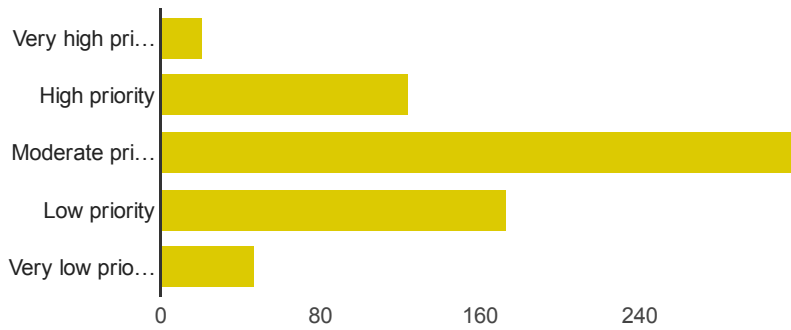
Very high priority	98	14.2%
High priority	250	36.3%
Moderate priority	273	39.7%
Low priority	52	7.6%
Very low priority	15	2.2%

Ecological concerns [Please indicate the priority of each of the following maintenance activities.]



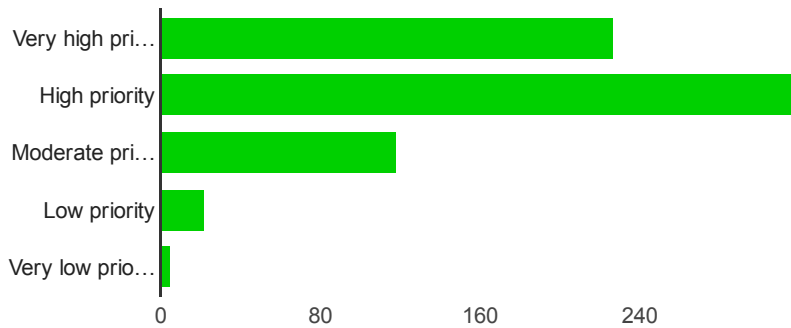
Very high priority	185	27.3%
High priority	255	37.6%
Moderate priority	187	27.6%
Low priority	43	6.3%
Very low priority	8	1.2%

Facilities (picnic tables, buildings, other structures) [Please indicate the priority of each of the following maintenance activities.]



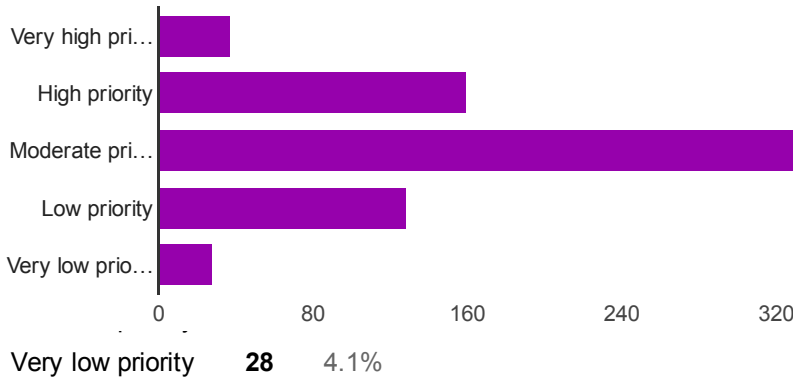
Very high priority	21	3.1%
High priority	124	18.1%
Moderate priority	320	46.6%
Low priority	174	25.4%
Very low priority	47	6.9%

Bridges [Please indicate the priority of each of the following maintenance activities.]

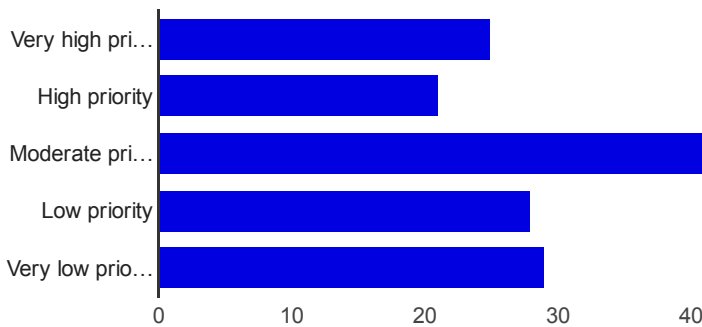


Very high priority	227	32.8%
High priority	320	46.2%
Moderate priority	118	17.1%
Low priority	22	3.2%
Very low priority	5	0.7%

Parking areas [Please indicate the priority of each of the following maintenance activities.]



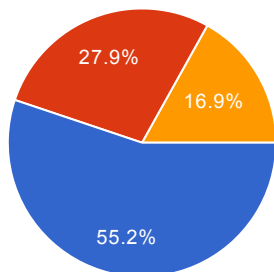
Other _____ [Please indicate the priority of each of the following maintenance activities.]



Very high priority	25	16.6%
High priority	21	13.9%
Moderate priority	48	31.8%
Low priority	28	18.5%
Very low priority	29	19.2%

Volunteering in Wilderness Park

Would you like to be added to a mailing list to be made aware of possible volunteer opportunities? We will use the email entered at the beginning of this survey to contact you.



Yes	385	55.2%
No	195	27.9%
Maybe	118	16.9%

Please list any additional comments or concerns below.

The creek crossing south of Warlick is very treacherous at times. The Nebraska Horse Trails Committee would like to place concrete pallets that we have available as a base for this crossing. The floods will not carry these away and they would provide a nice base for hikers, bikers and equestrian riders who cross the creek. Also, further south the wood swing bridge is not safe for equestrian use. I'm not sure it can handle the weight of a horse and rider.

The horse trailer bridge is unsafe and needs to be replaced or the trail rerouted.

I have much concern regarding the safety of the swinging wooden bridge between 14th Street and Old Cheney. It needs replaced.

Thank you for the well maintained horse trails, would love to have more!

I believe trail maintenance and involvement with the horse community (such as the Nebraska Horse Trails Committee) to improve and maintain the trails are of the utmost priority. I believe getting the horse community involved could be a valuable asset in improving and maintaining the park.

The wooden suspension bridge is in serious need of attention. It has been patched many times but now erosion of the bank is affecting its support and safety.

The days of calling one trail a biking trail and another a hiker trail should be gone. I travel all over and bike on trails and never have hikers barking at me about getting off their trail.

Wilderness park is wonderful-it just makes me feel so sad that I don't feel safe to be there alone because of "other" activities occurring there. I love the trails but really it isn't safe to be out there alone.

wilderness was the best place to ride it's been a couple years but hold a special place in my heart and hope others and my son can make great memory's in the future on the many horse trails

Need the north bridge back

Great place to take your mountain bike

Lincoln in general needs more opportunities for multi use trails. Some trails can be used safely while others not as well. People owning dogs also need more opportunities and the expansions in park areas planned may help but additional hiking opportunities and safe open spaces would be beneficial to the public.

A trail map would be nice

Close old Cheney road around wilderness park to let it go natural

Would appreciate more surfaced trails for handicap accessibility.

My cycling team wants to host a mountain bike stage race, over the course of one day, in the summer. It would be a great way to showcase the beautiful park. We only need to control access (in stages) for one single day, which I don't feel would be too bad with lots of planning and early dissemination of information to the public. And we would prep the trail to make it perfect.

It's not a very nice part of Lincoln. Help south Lincoln by building a road over or through the park by Yankee Hill Road. You already have cut down trees for power lines. Park is mostly an eye sore.

I would support an access road thru or over Wilderness Park off of 14th st. Pave Yankee Hill or generate a new access Rd. West off 14th.

Need bridge from Densmore Park

Better access to the park via bicycle would be huge! Other than bike path along Van Dorn, accessing Wilderness by bike requires riding on Pioneers, Old Cheney, or 14th st. Paved shoulders on any of these would greatly improve park access.

I would like there to be more Xoom areas in wilderness to ride my mountain bike like a pump track and some berms along the trail

it would be nice to have signs that say "please don't use if muddy" or "please don't use the trails if they are soft". maybe a hashtag #thinkifyousink. at each of the trailheads.

I live in Beatrice but I am a member of Friends of Wilderness Park because of the advocacy efforts of the group to support Wilderness Park. I am appreciative of Lincoln's efforts to create and maintain minimal-maintenance public parks. Thank you for exercising the political will to keep Lincoln beautiful.

We need to keep it "wild" and as natural as possible.

Some of the outlying areas of the park need vegetative control like poison ivy flowing over on bike trail

Would love to see a burn in the park as well as addressing invasive species.

My family of four loved hiking in Wilderness Park, it is one of the few places in Lincoln that makes you feel like you have escaped the city and are immersed in nature. Over the last couple years we've only been able to make it a very little ways in before we've had to head back to the car because the trails were flooded. This leaves two very sad kiddos who were very excited to be out exploring nature. Would love to see it restored and taken care of.

Wilderness is my favorite trail riding spot. Tho its hard to venture through the park as thouroly as bikers and hikers can since there are bridges that i would be terrified to walk across alone that i can't even cross with my horse. Fun to explore but don't like trailering just to get past a ravine. Also trail etiquette is lacking severly. It gets old when bikers on the horse only trails get angry about us being there when we stay clear of the bike n hike only trails

A lot of overgrown vegetation and weeds there are opportunities to clear some ares for grass and picnic areas and replace weeds with tall grass prairie that would enhance wildlife and aesthetics and human park use.

I love to run through the park with my dog, however the signage isn't clear where I can run and not encounter mountain bikers. I encourage the activity, however I have had many bad encounters with fast riders upon curves, and have on occasion scared or injured my dog as a result. I tend to avoid the park during times in which I know these riders use the trails, as they can tend to be reckless or unapologetic of their dominance in the space.

Thank you! I love this park!

Wilderness park is a natural drainage basin that needs to be left to do its job, controlling waters and a nature preserve, changing or altering it would be a mistake, leave it alone and let nature take its course in the park. Society wants to control every inch of land. Even the National Park System knows that some land need to be set aside to remain wilderness and not developed by people. Wilderness Park is our Natural Nature Preserve.

It would be cool if the singletrack spanned the entire park unbroken :)

There is a small group of very active volunteers who keep Wilderness in great shape. I'm all for volunteering, but I don't want to see the city's contribution do anything but grow in keeping this space vibrant and usable. It is one of Lincoln's treasures.

I love Wilderness Park and I use it often. It is a very important part of my outdoor activities.

Wilderness Park is a huge asset to Lincoln and one of the reasons I love this city so much.

For safety reasons trails should be open to all users. A loop is much safer than an out and back and would prevent dangerous head-on collisions.

Make all trails accessible to both bicycles and hikers so that the trail can be made safer by allowing a traffic loop rather than out and back which can cause head on collisions.

Also best place in Lincoln for X-country skiing

Don't have any

We need to preserve the park

Some of the deep ruts can be dangerous , as I have wrecked a few times when my tires get caught in them.

There is one bridge on the west side middle of the park that is closed with what looks like permanent signs telling us so. There is no other good access point to the southwest trail there without it.

It is a flood control device and should not. Cost the taxpayers anymore than to control flooding

There needs to be designated directional flow for hikers and bikers that is opposite each other.

This allows for each party to see each other well in advance. Also, bikers shouldn't be allowed to travel opposite direction, as head on collisions happen all the time out there and could be avoidable easily if traffic only flowed in a single direction

Safety is my main concern.

Wilderness Park is one of Lincoln's greatest treasures! We are so lucky to have it and it makes us very unique to have such a serene spot so close to the heart of the city.

Wilderness Park is one the only ways the community can experience wild areas and wildlife near Lincoln. We need more accessible areas like it.

Love the park, live close do I run on trails s few times a week. It's a great park and one our city needs. Trail maintenance is very poor, in fact I was in injured because of it last year. The mowing on Jamaica trail never seems to happen, have had animals jump out at me. Be nice if they could at lease now the trail area. Thanks

Dabums08@gmail.com

I wish there was a recreational area in Northeast Lincoln comparable to the natural beauty of Wilderness. It's the best thing mountain bikers have in the Lincoln limits.

After all the all the flooding in wilderness there is a lot of trash and fallen tree debris there. There are a few people that go off the trails. It could be dangerous and it does not look a peeling. A controlled burn in some areas might be a good idea.

Replace bridges! They don't have to be as massive or expensive as the monstrosity recently completed.

I want it to continue to be available for organized events too

Thank you for collecting the information. The park is really important for providing single track to people who need that, and it is one of the only places to mountain bike or trail run in Lincoln.

We really like Wilderness. It is the only real place to mountain bike and trail run

I grew up a few miles away from Wilderness Park, and it was one of my go to locations on a weekly basis. It was a part of my healing for so many difficult times in my life. To be able to walk around and see nature in a fairly untainted way helped me gain perspective when I needed it. I would hate any of that to be taken away for future generations to experience. Because once it is gone, it would be so much harder to replace. I would like to thank the city and county for having the insight to have such a place in Lincoln.

The only drawback that I find using Wilderness Park is the lack of good signage. As a horse rider I have encountered bicyclists getting in my way and spooking horses, as they seem to think they own the park and trails. I would like to see bicycles banned from the park altogether but that will never happen, so I have quit riding horses through the park. Only my opinion, for what is worth.

Wilderness park will never be peaceful, clean, or what you want it to be (considering it's called wilderness park). It's worth protecting because some people don't know what else is out there, but I'll go to a WMA any day. If I wanted to see people and trash I'd walk my dog down the street. At Wilderness Park, I run into ten people practically before I leave the parking lot. Disappointing.

It would be great if the police or park staff could crack down on homeless camp sites in the park. A greater presence of staff in Wilderness Park would help alleviate safety concerns for park users. Lastly, there is a great deal of historical information about the park that could be communicated to park users and the public, whether by developing online publications/resources, or by providing historical markers in the park. Thanks for all your hard work!

would like to help do what i can

Seriously dudes, we've got an amazing thing going here, don't screw it up.

Wilderness park is a treasure. I'm there every week spring through fall. It's one of the only places in Lincoln where I can feel solitude. It's easy to get lost, so I would like more signage where the trail splits, and maps at the parking lot entrances, but this is low priority since all trails eventually lead out of the park, and really, it's hard to get lost for long.

We spend lots of time in wilderness park and want very much for the name to carry on as its description. We are lucky to have such a gem!

In regard to very high importance of "fallen limbs" I associate my response with both safety issues of limbs being on the ground (trip hazard) and being indicative of storm event or age that may have impacted other nearby trees. Just offering an explanation of why I see this of utmost importance.

There is literally nowhere else this close to Lincoln with single track dirt trails for recreation. It's a great network of trails and my favorite spot to run in Lincoln.

Please give the community opportunities to volunteer and interact with the park. This might be done by collaborations between the City and local non-profits that have an interest in the park (e.g. Friends of Wilderness Park, Wachiska, etc.).

Since flood a year ago there's still tons of garbage mainly plastic pots from the nearby greenhouse place. THEY should be responsible for not cleaning up their garbage

Love the park, one of the best in Nebraska. Please don't over maintain the park! It leaves it feeling "un-wild."

These projects require having enough people to do the job, you can't keep piling work on to people and reducing the number of employees to actually do the work. Most people working in the park's system actually care deeply about the parks and want to do a good job but find it impossible to do the work well if they are asked to do more and more work than they can complete. I have no relation with people in these positions, they are my own observations. Thank you for offering the survey, hopefully it will help to solve the difficult questions you are asking.

The parks and trails here in Lincoln are very important to making Lincoln an attractive city to live in. It is great to have a place nearby to go and enjoy the outdoors and to bike or hike.

Wilderness Park is a great place to enjoy the natural environment in Lincoln. Nature Camp is also a great way for city kids to be exposed to nature and outdoor experiences.

I'm glad to see more attention being paid to natural areas in Lincoln!

Enjoying the outdoors is very important for mental and physical health. Please don't cut funding!

I don't feel safe in the park. There are too many perverts hanging out there and there's no police presence. I don't use it much because of that.

Watching this park for the condition prior to and after flooding ...trees still in waterway..waiting for FEMA funding or something? Other 300 K cities take care of this without the needs of surveys. The concerns of forestry are sorely lacking in this park and this observation is from a degreed forester with other community forestry backgrounds in two other states. Time Lincoln do the same with the resources it's has or put low time offenders to work in these parks....Plenty of other cities use jail labor for these types of operations "to save money." I understand there are competing interests for resources, but Lincoln has not demonstrated a need to me for additional tax revenues when Wilderness Park has been sloppy appearing in riverine areas with timber downfall and whatnot and should demonstrate the basics before coming to the public for any additional money being slapped onto homeowners.

We love wilderness park. Great experience for everyone in our family, young children, parents and pets! Thank you for having it. It's amazing to have such a gem so close to the city.

It's great. It's wild. The bridges need to be rebuilt and maintained.

It has a variety of landscapes and is worth protecting because of its quality of trails and nearness to the city. Other surrounding parks seem to be more sterile in comparison to WP.

I stopped going to Wilderness park because of the people letting their dogs run loose. I don't know how to stop it, but it's not good for the wildlife or other people.

It is difficult to access parts of the park. Fixing the bridge at 1st and Van Dorn should be a high priority

I don't live in Lincoln now but go back to Wilderness whenever I'm there. It is a rare kind of park to find in the area and when I lived in Lincoln I walked through it often, ran on nearby trails, biked to the park from downtown, and in general really loved the environment of it.

Trails have been left unmowed, with lots of stinging nettle overgrowth. A lot of Wilderness seems abandoned (workout stations, structures left to decay). Safety issues at parking areas (too many men sitting in their cars alone). I love this park and spend untold hours there.

Use of prescribed fire as a management tool for habitat and vegetation

Wilderness is a great gem to Lincoln and a lot of people still have never been there, The Parks crew does a good job!!

leave wilderness park a wilderness best thing to do is leave it alone NO LAWN MOWERS

The bike riders on the trails need to be more careful of the hikers. One of the reasons I do not take the kids is because we have almost gotten run over by their carelessness

I worry about the fire danger at Wilderness. Way too much brush and dry wood on the Forrest floor.

Noise pollution and increased development have decreased my enjoyment of the park in recent years.

I would like to see more accesses the Homstead and Jamaica trails off of the trails into Wilderness Park. I would like to see if the Robbers Train bridge area could be incorporated into a trail link to Wilderness Park and a bridge over the railroad to connect Densmore park to Wilderness Park and the Jamaica trail.

There are a couple of spots that are very difficult for horses to cross the creek. 2 low water crossings and the bridge at approximately Yankee Hill road is very dangerous for horses to cross. I would be willing to fix it.

NA

Thanks for all that you do to provide places like Wilderness Park and other natural areas.

Wilderness Park is the jewel of our park system. I hope our city can commitment to better maintenance of the existing trails and bridges, and seek ways to build public-private partnerships with interest groups like GPTN to assist with these goals.

It seemed like it took longer then it should have for clean up after the flood. It would be nice to have primitive camping available. A lot of the banks are eroding, not certain if that is buy design. I wish the stream had less debris in it. Also I wish is was easier to access the water.

Wilderness Park adds to the high quality of life we enjoy in Lincoln. It offers a unique experience with nature that citizens might otherwise not be able to experience.

Providing trails for horseback riding benefits your parks!

I am already a volunteer in W.P., so I don't need to be notified. I would very much like to see W.P. get more funding for staff, bridges, and trail maintenance. Too much maintenance is currently done by volunteers, and if they quit, what then? A specific problem which could be fixed easily: plant a thick row of evergreens on the west side of the park at Saltillo & Jamaica North to hide the graveyard of dead trucks on neighboring property. But I digress: I really would like to see staff which are trained in proper trail maintenance to National Park standards. And we need many more bridges everywhere!

speeding bikers on the trail are often inconsiderate, pose a hazard and tear up the trails

Occasionally encounter smoldering campfires in park that are unattended

The maintenance of wilderness park is of huge concern to me. In large part it is due to a very select group of volunteers that it's in the shape it's currently in. They will not be around forever and the city needs to prioritize the maintenance of this park and not rely on the kindness and generosity of a few people who work tirelessly so that the trails are safe, passable, and maintained. Please figure something out!

I am concerned about illicit activity in the park. I love Wilderness Park.

The most important thing are the bridges. I've been visiting this park for the past 10 or so years. Please find a way to fix the bridges!

bathrooms in wilderness park? Where are they?

I'd love to see some improvements in a few areas that collect water and don't drain where the trail is. There are already some areas that have been fixed before by adding fill dirt in between landscaping timber which still allows for the area to stay natural, and allows the trail to not be a mud hole. The worst spot being on the west trail, going back north from the 14th Street parking lot. Thanks for all you do.

It's a great piece of wild life to get away. Trail surface and clean entrances are very important there have been a few times when ive ridden past the guy who weed wacks the trails, usually smoking a cigar. i was riding my bike, to get over onto the biking trail and he yelled and cussed at me and my brother. in other situations ill pass him and say hey hows it going and he just glares with no response. i am just curious what the story behind him is. i am wondering if parks and rec pays him or he volunteers for wilderness. just concerned for other people too. i dont want them to never want to come back because they are scared of him.

I would like to see the expansion of more progressive trails built for and by mountain bikers or even further development of the current trails. I would also like to see better education about why people should not use muddy trails for any user group.

Being basically the only place in town to "mountain bike" this trail system is pretty sad as far as flooding and trail availability. I'd like to see all of it open to bikes, last time we went (maybe last spring) it was flooded and got ripped by a trail nazi for trying to use a non flooded trail. Haven't been back since. For being the Midwest and outdoorsy, your trail users are non-inclusive jerks.

I think Wilderness Park is a valuable part of Lincoln Parks and Rec. Over the years I've spent time in the park running and cross country skiing. I hope that its natural beauty can be maintained. The last bridge that was constructed seemed to really have an impact in its surroundings. My daughters spent a couple summers at Wilderness Nature Camp and I think that's a great offering of our parks program.

Email addresses do not need to be mandatory. Take Charge survey does not require it. Email addresses do not allow for anonymity. Some of your questions are leading for those who don't know, the funding level of the park, who does the mowing in between city mowings, and who is maintaining the park. Trash can covers will be a good investment to keep the coons out of the trash cans. There is too much access to some of the park where it is "big and wide" allowing motorized vehicle access to the park. Epworth, 14th Street, 1st street. Thanks for getting the people's pulse :) *rosina

My family and I absolutely love Wilderness Park and we visit there frequently. It such a wonderful aspect of living in Lincoln! I know that there are many volunteers who help (or do

completely) with trail maintenance and appreciate that so much. The trails are generally in good shape but it would be nice to see more of a commitment from the City of Lincoln to make improvements and maintain the park. That doesn't mean I want it to look like a residential park with concrete walkways and playground equipment. Not at all. Keeping the wild in wilderness park is very important to me. However, efforts to maintain the park for sustainability and to preserve and protect the wildlife and ecosystem takes a lot of time and effort. I would like to see the city more involved in those types of efforts.

My biggest concern is the inappropriate behavior that happens at the park. I am scared to go to Wilderness Park alone.

Love having this hidden gem! We're in Wilderness many times a week. Don't like that the parking areas are used for illicit activities, but they generally leave others alone. Kids are using parts of the park for getting high.

I love this park. It is really a unique gem in Lincoln.

Wilderness Park is amazing the way it is. Keep it wild but make sure the bridges stay in good shape.

I love to walk the park for birds and wildlife. I also bike only those portions of the park that are bikeable. I have been run off the trail several times by bikers but I don't know if the areas are not marked or what. We do a great job on this park and I hope it doesn't get spoiled by the few who won't obey the rules. If there are any.

Need to keep the wilderness in wilderness park. But likely have concrete trail access to the park and maybe a limestone or concrete 8' outer loop trail

Please do more to keep the sexual predators out of the park

Please keep urban development out of Wilderness Park

Wilderness Park is truly a treasure for Lincoln and Lancaster County! We have always been big hikers and this is really the only place close by that makes it feel like you are actually out hiking, instead of just strolling in a city park. (But it is very difficult to walk on the trails in the muddy season.) But, my biggest concern is making sure that the bridges are safe and that they are maintained so all of the paths in the park can actually be utilized. The flooding last year was really devastating to the park, and there seemed to be insufficient support of the park by the city to bring it back to shape in an expeditious manner. Obviously tree maintenance must be addressed also to make sure that folks are safe from falling trees. I would be more than willing to help with projects on an ongoing basis, both with financial and with hands-on labor.

To save the park as a whole, should consider an additional East-West roadway as the park should mesh with local requirements. If we balk at additional crossings we risk losing support of the park as a park vice flood control.

As a heavy Wilderness Park (WP) user from 1989 to 2014, I can say bridges are a top concern, and stopping the encroachment of commercial and residential sprawl from entirely surrounding the park. WP needs to continue to educate other users that cyclists are important users of WP, and contribute (and have contributed) thousands of volunteer hours to maintenance and bridge-building. Keep WP open and protected - it is one of the last green spaces of any size within Lincoln.

Hearing possible bike park being planned for old city dump. Very interested in volunteering if that happens!

I'm dismayed that areas that were once predominately grass/prairie have been allowed to become overgrown with scrub trees/cedars over the past two decades. "Wilderness" in Nebraska really means prairie areas, not a tangle of Russian Olives. I'd think that the city could easily partner with groups like the Environmental Trust, Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited to restore old oxbows, do prescribed burns and maintain prairie areas to create valuable habitat. Specifically, areas on the south end of Wilderness Park on either side of 14th St, and some nice (former) fields along Highway 77. There's some very nice, now-dry oxbows on the east side of the road that could become decent fishing spots and habitat for ducks, geese and other waterbirds. By restoring these areas to grasslands, the city might also be able to hay them occasionally to feed buffalo and other animals at Pioneers Park, cutting city expenses and keeping out the invasive trees and shrubs. I'd also suggest that an area on the north end of Wilderness Park, just north of Van Dorn on the west side of the Salt Creek Bridge, be considered for a new dog park. It's got some nice trees and an old field for dogs to run. Some fencing remains and cars could park on the east side of the now-closed bridge on Van Dorn, or along the old Van Dorn Street on the west. An additional benefit would be to keep deer out of the area, which is close to two, four-lane roads, thus reducing collisions. Lincoln needs a dog run in the southwest part of town. This would put that area -- which is sort of separate to the rest of Wilderness -- to good use.

Important to get a directional bike loop for safety. Complete the South Bridge, South of 14th to connect the far South Section of Wilderness again.

Wilderness Park is a rare treasure for our City and should be preserved, be given bridge funding, and protected from urban encroachment.

I really enjoy the work that is put into the park. Many people donate their own time to help the County maintain the park (i.e. mowing, cutting in cross country ski trail, etc.)

would like to establish a separate bike only trail/loop

The trails need more agrilime on the surface..

My car was broken into several years back that made me question the security of the area.

Love this slice of natural Lincoln

Would love to see the old Rock Island ROW eventually turned into a bike trail.....

Really miss the out house at the Saltillo trail head.

amanda.blue123@hotmail.com

Amur honeysuckle is appearing in the park (south end). It is important to get on top of it now. The savanna areas has become clogged with woody plants (honeylocust, cedar, etc. It needs a good burn or if that is not feasible then smashing the sprouting woody with a brush-hog. An exclosure should be built in the oak community area to gage the real impact of deer browsing on oak regeneration. This would be a good Boy Scout Project.

Really amazing place in our town. I'm very thankful to have a place so close to me where I can go hiking and exploring and be in nature

Trail signage for new users or occasional users to not get lost is non existent.

Wilderness Park should be expanded to be a part of a huge greenbelt that wraps around the whole city

I am a resident of the near south area and I run to wilderness park several times a week. The access to the park for runners (or bikers) from near south can be challenging unless one is accessing the park via the N Jamaica Trail along the Salt Creek. The West Van Dorn "highway" is a barrier and I fear that an accident could happen with bikers or runners trying to cross into the park along the intersection of Park Blvd and W Van Dorn.

Wilderness Park should be preserved as a natural area.

This undeveloped open space is a unique opportunity to escape development.

Online PDF style map (to save taxpayer funds) would be beneficial.

Trail Markers at every junction are needed

This park is a jewel for Lincoln! Please don't break it up!

Having been a user of Wilderness Park for over 30 years I see lack of enforcement of park rules and laws as an issue. Bicycling on hiking trails, snowmobiling on trails, drinking parties in parking lots, etc.

I like the trails for hiking as they give a more natural experience. I do sometimes worry about safety and will choose another park if it is just myself and my 2 year old hiking. I don't know why though. I haven't utilized the trails for horseback riding yet, but I'm excited to do so.

The pond and lakes need cleaning the water in the one is nasty green and has been for years.

The eco system in it needs restored

Parks are a wonderful form of being in nature, the way GOD intended!! Thank you for all that you do to maintain these parks!

The equine community is very active. The city would greatly benefit from adding more bridle trails and involving the horse council in their planning/decision making.

Absolutely love having Wilderness Park available to go horseback riding!!!

The budget for WP has been cut drastically over the years. Restoring some of that money would make a huge difference. We should not be relying on a few wonderful but tired volunteers for most of the mowing maintenance. There used to be two mowings a year done by city now there is just one. Maybe some bridges could be eliminated and trails made loop instead as one way to save money. I also worry about the continued deeper and deeper carving of the stream bed.

I think Wilderness Park needs to be expanded south as the city is growing.

Making sure that the camp continues to be a fun and safe space by updating main building/spraying for wasps in the girl scout buildings.

I believe the park has been neglected for years. The easy answer to funding is to let it go and sell the land to developers, but this should not be the answer. The hard and correct thing to do is find, redirect additional funds, or raise additional funding to preserve the park to benefit both the citizens and wildlife.

Wilderness Park is one of my favorite things about Lincoln. It is very nice to have this green space that provides a much needed peaceful and quiet area so readily available. As my survey says I feel the most important issues facing the park are the continued maintenance of the trail system, making sure signage is correct, litter is kept to a bare minimum, and that the park itself be protected from any urban expansion.

Wilderness Park should be extended south along Salt Creek to Hickman before any more development extends to that area. that area.

Bikers riding on the hiking trail.

I think the most wonderful part of wilderness park is that it's wild, with narrow trails for walking, running, biking, or hiking. Please don't widen the trails and make them for motor vehicle use.

This park is one of the best things about the city of Lincoln, please don't change it.

The "other" priority I checked is that invasive non-native plants should be kept in check so they do not take over the native plants. It would be good to have work days where the public knows, so they can come, and someone in the know can help them figure out which to dig out or cut back. What would really be awesome, though, would be to hire a crew for this purpose.

We have lovely groomed parks to enjoy such as Pioneers Park, so it is so important to keep Wilderness in a more rugged, natural state.

More fun bicycle trails. Water crossings are better than crappy bridges!

Add signs

The city should look for grants and matching (private) funds to improve the park.

This is the MOST confusing park in any place I have ever lived. I have been here 10 years and still cannot figure out access to this park. I only go to one area off Old Cheney and one area south. South seems completely unsafe and seedy. It is also a mosquito laden swamp - which is ok that it's a swamp but it isn't hikeable without netting and I've worked in the everglades. Old cheny only provides a 10-15 minute loop. It is absolutely ridiculous that access is some sort of secret. It isn't on the website. It isn't on a map. I've checked repeatedly. There isn't anyone you can call. What the heck? Why is everything in Nebraska made for people who've lived here their entire lives and know directions by osmosis?

I tried in the past to find an entrance to the park. Others love jogging in the park. I'd just like to walk w my dog and bird watch. . I stumbled on an entrance out by west 1st street while turning around thawing missed a turn. Never found the one by Van Dorn. Better LINCOLN city maps would help.

I love Wilderness Park and I think it is a hidden gem in Lincoln. It is a nice, rustic, peaceful, back to nature type park and those types of places sadly are getting few and far between. I haven't been there in many years because I am rather scared about nefarious characters lurking about, such as the disgusting men that like to expose themselves to people. I need to try to get past that and just go again while we still have this wonderful park to enjoy. I have such fond memories of going for walks in Wilderness Park when I was younger and just getting lost in nature. Hearing the birds, enjoying the trees, seeing squirrels and just the peacefulness of it all. I love that it is rustic, peaceful and natural and not a place that is perfectly manicured. And with it being this way, it gives a safe place for nature and the little critters to survive and thrive, which as any nature lover knows, is becoming more encroached on by human beings and "progress". Please, please, please protect this wonderful Wilderness Park and keep it being the wonderful peaceful park that it is!! Thank you for all you do! Mary Abbott

Will be visiting this park very soon. First timer, didn't know it was here.

I'm a certified Master Naturalist we are a good source for volunteer workers.

Providing a safe place for the natural world to exist is my highest concern for Wilderness Park. Updating the park to accommodate more people is not ideal. The more public attention brought to this valuable flood plain and wildlife sanctuary will invite more of the wrong type of person to come to the park at all hours of the day and night. I have seen this happen at Pioneers Park with the increase of concerts held at the Pinewood Bowl (now that the venue is owned by Pinnacle Bank Arena). Thank you.

Interested in how Salt Creek erosion of bike path will be addressed

I would like to thank the volunteers that do their best to clear the trails of dangerous branches.

The park is great. Thank you for making sure our community has true natural areas.

Too old to volunteer but historically, this park is important.

Way better than the MoPac trail. Love the peacefulness and being immersed in nature.

I know there is weekly maintenance (mowing, fallen limb removal from paths etc..), but would find it very valuable to have opportunities for maintenance and building structures for activities. Such as balance logs, log hops, bridges, steps, etc.. Also there are not suppose to be horses and bikes on the fitness loop, however we regularly encounter this, proper signage would be helpful.

It can be difficult to near impossible to find Wilderness Park if you are unfamiliar with the area. As transplants to Lincoln it was frustrating the first time or two we tried to find the mythical Wilderness Park. More signs on the way and next to the entrances and better online directions might help. Lincoln needs all the natural green spaces with trees it can get.

When/if you start removing dying/dead ash or other species in decline, the wood should be utilized in the highest value, i.e. not all mulch. Benches, picnic tables, possibilites are endless. Drop me a line if you'd like to investigate utilization.

I'm taking this survey to support Wilderness Park for my children and grandchildren.

When the bridge was finally replaced S. of the Pioneers Blvd. lot, quite a lot of timber was felled (for construction equipment I guess). It was devastating to the scenic character & wildlife habitat of that approach! Hoping for wiser, more conservative, lower-impacting brush & tree clearance with future necessary projects. Other bridges that were closed for safety have taken a long time to restore/repair. Hoping for more effective solutions. Flood control is a given, w/incised channel of Salt Creek, but required several months of closure before re-opening, out of necessity, it seems. I appreciate the low-key mowing/brush/tree-limb maintenance of trails, to keep it wild, but hope that safe & sturdy bridge maint. will continue to be a priority. Thanks to workers and crew-leaders who have learned to temper their zeal for power tool trimming and felling, such that returning trail users will not be shocked by the impacts of their work. Any who connect with the place, beyond the paycheck, will soon understand how shared maintenance strategies for both safety and aesthetics can blend for a better trail experience. I feel that my fellow hikers & other users come to seek the quiet beauty and rare discovery that one finds in this natural corridor. It can be a place for individual renewal and healing, but also for the company of fun and challenge, too.

Thank you for completing the survey.

Number of daily responses

