

# WILDERNESS PARK MANAGEMENT OVERALL GOALS

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

Manage bur oak/hickory 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.

Manage the area to eradicate invasive exotics such as white mulberry, Siberian elm, honeysuckle, buckthorn, leafy spurge, garlic mustard, multiflora rose, St. John’s wort and musk thistle, and monitor and control aggressive native species such as honeylocust, eastern red cedar, coralberry buck brush, and bristly greenbriar.

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.

Improve user access to the park through wayfinding and locational signage.

Maintain the trails with a natural surface and corridor appropriate for the intended trail user.

Encourage the use of the park for nature based educational activities.

Provide for continuous trails connecting from the northern to southern ends of the park.