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Magical Season of Giving

You can help Springbrook Nature Center by shopping at Northtown Mall. When you shop at Northtown Mall between November 14 and December 13 you can help us win one of the cash prizes. Simply bring your receipts from any Northtown retailer between these dates to Guest Services and each dollar you spend will add a point for SNC. The group with the most points will win the Grand Prize: \$2000.

You can collect double points for SNC by shopping on double point days, buying Northtown gift cards and having your photo taken with Santa. Receipts from these retailers around Northtown Mall's perimeter can also be turned in: The Home Depot, Old Chicago, Buffalo Wild Wings, Verizon, Potbelly, Game Stop and FedEx Kinko's. In addition to the grand prize, lesser amounts will be awarded to the second, third and fourth place winners; and four weekly prizes of \$250 each.

Habitat Cameras Installation Adventure

Imagine this! SNC Director Siah St. Clair, installed special tree-hugging ladders 60 feet up in the Nature Center to get photos of Coopers hawk chicks. Then Foundation Board Member Neil Hayford repeatedly scrambled up the same tree to install electrical equipment. Then, over several weeks, Siah repeatedly scurried up the tree for chick status photos.

The resident parent Coopers hawks were giggling at these human shenanigans while hurriedly gathering food for two fast-growing chicks. All the time, Board Member Jerry Hartlaub was relentlessly tweaking the equipment for retries.

Well, the hawks won! Before the camera system was debugged, the chicks were “branching,” threatening to fly off prematurely, in grave danger of falling to the ground. Mama hawk became frantic at each photo shoot. Siah said: “Time to



The Foundation tried to bring the early lives of a pair of Coopers hawks to video, but safety for the birds won out.

stop the camera installation!” The chicks fledged and were off to see the world.

In the previous newsletter we reported progress on our high-tech remote camera system, intended to observe birds in their natural habitat. Since that time we've achieved the 1,000-foot range for the hawk camera and installed a second camera for short-range continuous viewing of feeder animals. Stay tuned and come to the Nature Center for close-up views of birds feeding.

Springbrook Foundation Relies On End-of-Year Donations

Shortly after Thanksgiving you will receive a letter asking you to make a donation to the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation. The Foundation uses these funds to support a variety of projects that benefit the Nature Center. These include everything from paying a consultant to prepare grant applications,

to buying a computer program to help staff manage electronic files, to helping build props for the ever-popular Pumpkin Night in the Park.

We hope you will be able to support SNCF by making a donation. Make checks payable to SNCF. You may also consider donating stock. When you donate stock, you

avoid paying capital gains on that stock, so Springbrook will benefit more than if you donated the stock proceeds. Contact Ed Meyer, at meyer98@comcast.net for more information on donating stock.

You can donate online at www.giveMN.org. Just enter Springbrook in the search box.

SPRING Project Moves Forward; Proposal Sought

The SPRING (Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation) Project continues to move forward. The SPRING project is intended to preserve the natural aspects of the Nature Center, while providing multi-use program space in the seven acre entrance area, and enriching the visitor's experience. (See page 3.) The new Lawraine K. Beery Solstice Meditation Garden is one stage of the overall project. This beautiful and serene area, located at the west end of the parking lot, provides a special place for quiet and reflection. Our thanks to William Beery, who donated the funds in memory of his wife Lawraine.

The Foundation continues to seek funds from the State of Minnesota to move the SPRING project forward. Representative Carolyn Laine and Senator Satveer Chaudhary have again introduced bills that will fund half of the cost of the SPRING Project. The Foundation has committed to raising the other half of the funds. During the last legislative session Springbrook had ample support in both the House and the Senate, but was line-item vetoed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Therefore, we were particularly happy when Finance Commissioner Tom Hanson

made a site visit on October 2.

Commissioner Hanson and Gay Cerny spent an hour touring the site, viewing a presentation by Springbrook Director Siah St. Clair, and hearing from Fridley Council member Ann Bolkom, Planning Commission Chair Dave Kondrick, Parks & Rec Commissioner Marcy Sibell, Spring Lake Park Mayor Bob Nelson and Malcolm Mitchell, Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Chair.

In September, the City of Fridley distributed a request for proposal for a consulting architect to finalize the design for the SPRING project, create an implementation plan for the project, and to identify costs associated with project elements. Eight proposals were received. The Design Committee, which includes City Public Works Director, Jim Kosluchar, Parks & Rec Director Jack Kirk, Mayor Scott Lund,



The new Lawraine K. Beery Solstice Meditation Garden

Kondrick and St. Clair and Foundation members Malcolm Mitchell and Donna Bahls met on October 21 to review the proposals. Four finalists were selected. On November 3, each of these firms made a short presentation to the Design Committee and answered questions. Based on these interviews a final selection is being made. The work should be completed by early February 2010. This work will be partially funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation and partially by SNCF.

More New Faces On The Foundation Board

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Board of Directors is happy to announce it has added two new members. Brenda St. Germaine and Becky Thaisen have recently been elected, bringing the Board membership to 16.

Brenda, a Fridley resident, is an Organization Development Specialist and co-Founder of the American In-

dian Business Development Corporation. Becky, an Anoka resident, specializes in Human Resource Planning and Development.

The Foundation Board is continuously looking for new members. Any interested person is encouraged to contact the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Jerry Hartlaub, at 651.633.0281 or via email at

Springbrook's SPRING Project Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation

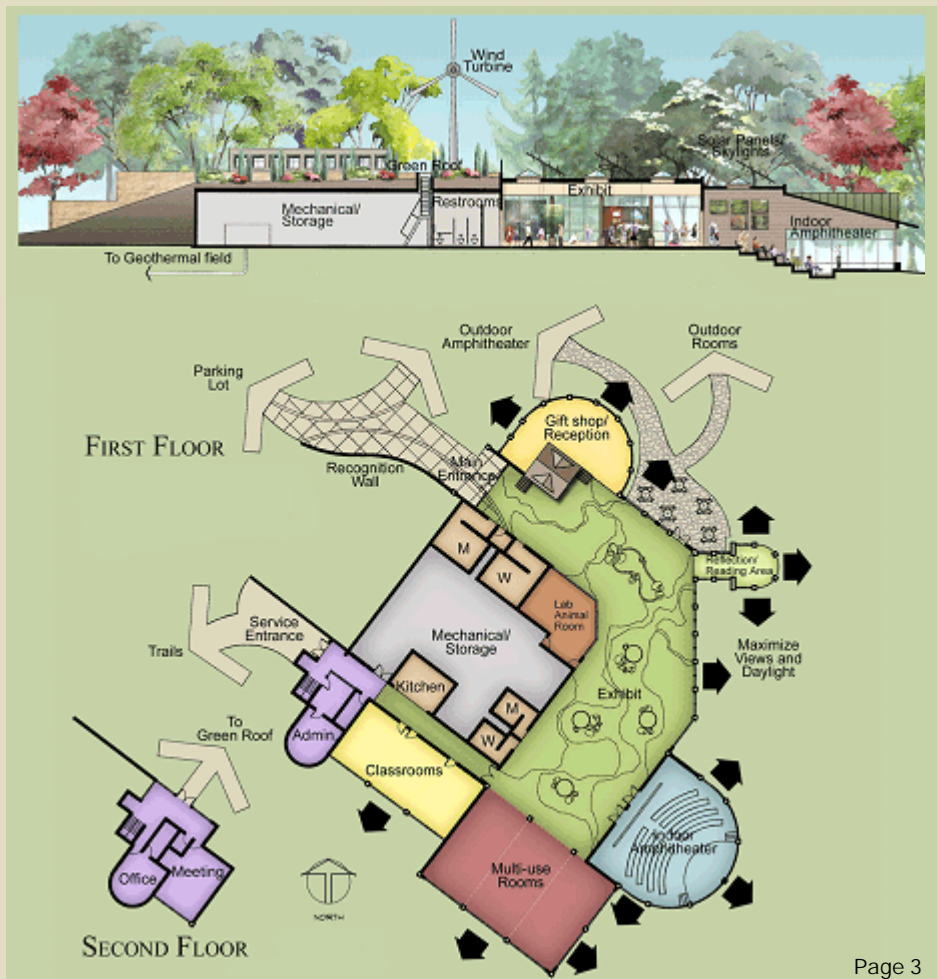
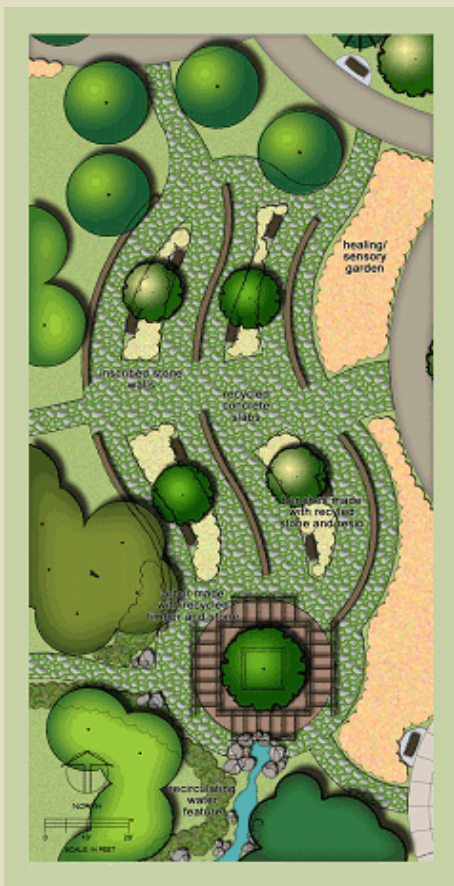
To handle expanded public use of the park, Springbrook plans to create a new natural zone in the seven-acre gateway area of the Nature Center to provide a great outdoor experience while protecting the park's delicate ecosystems. The entire park will continue to be open to the public, but heavy use will be focused in the new areas.

The entire project, upper right, fits into seven of the Nature Center's 127 acres. It features a larger interpretive building, outdoor meeting areas and classrooms, amphitheater, animal sculptures, expanded parking and trails.

The new interpretive center, below right, will have an indoor amphitheater, classrooms, public meeting rooms and larger exhibit areas. The building will incorporate green building methods and renewable energy wherever possible.

The healing garden, lower left, will allow people to be in solitude within feet of the parking lot. Science has found that a natural setting helps people heal faster.

The Springbrook Foundation will work with the City of Fridley by raising private funds for the project. The City and Foundation have asked the State of Minnesota to provide \$3.0 million in bonding money.



Providing Comfort Food On A Spooktacular Evening

After the Road Kill Café, the Pumpkin Patch Dance, Elvis Returns, some Spooky Bingo, many “creatures in the forest” and 800 amazingly carved and illuminated pumpkins on the trails – it’s time for a snack. Where? The Nature Center Foundation Food Tent – of course!

As a gracious service and a mild fund raiser, the Foundation Board Members sell sandwiches, snacks and beverages to children and families enjoying the Pumpkin Night in the Park festivities. Apart from food and drink sales, Board members devote many hours to Snack Tent set-up and clean-up, and to adhering to many government safety requirements. Board Member Brent Hodgeman led the volunteer effort this year with help from previous leads Donna Bahls and Annette Mitchell.

It isn’t all work. Volunteers, safety personnel and staff folks casually

“dine” with Board members while exchanging pleasantries and Halloween seasonal humor throughout the evening. Making new friends and team building are added benefits.

The Board wants to thank contributors MoJo’s Pizza of Fridley and Cub Foods of both Northtown and St. Anthony. The Board also thanks Food Tent patrons and suggests they patronize the above local businesses. Next year plan to



The Springbrook Foundation runs the food tent at the popular Pumpkin Night in the Park. An all-volunteer staff keeps the prices low and money raised helps the Nature Center.

attend Pumpkin Night in the Park the Saturday of Education Minnesota weekend, October 23, 2010. It’ll great fun with good food.

Springbrook Nature Center is a City of Fridley Park

The Friends of Springbrook is the membership and annual fundraising division of the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.