

Springbrook Nature Center Foundation

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Preserve ♦ Educate ♦ Nurture



2008 REPORT TO FRIENDS OF THE SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION

The Springbrook Nature Center is truly a premier wilderness and outdoor educational resource. Each year, Springbrook hosts more than 200,000 visits – from people of all ages and cultures and from more than 300 Minnesota communities, all 50 states and over 60 foreign countries. A recognized leader in outdoor and environmental education, Springbrook boasts a broad curriculum, expert teaching, and growing enrollment.

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation plays a critical role in supporting these educational programs as well as preserving the pristine 127-acre wilderness area. The Springbrook Nature Center and Foundation share a vision to *create opportunities to allow all people to appreciate nature.*

In 2008, the Springbrook Nature Center and Foundation were instrumental in many accomplishments toward this vision. Among them:

- ✘ Provided 17 kids the chance to attend camps for the first time through scholarships
- ✘ Built 250 feet of new boardwalk through grant funds
- ✘ Partnered with Medtronic employee volunteers to help restore a prairie
- ✘ Cleared brush from prairie areas with help from volunteers from the General Mills' Fridley facility.
- ✘ Completed portions of a Oak Savannah restoration project through community service partnerships with students from Anoka-Hennepin Technical College
- ✘ Hosted three Eagle Scout projects to complete a prairie edge restoration project and updated the entrance to the main building



The Foundation Board is rewarded by the many accounts from participants at Nature Center programs who attest to the difference that these programs made in their lives. Being a leader in an effort to provide peaceful and accessible resources for people of all ages, physical abilities, and incomes is a great source of personal pride and accomplishment for Board members.

The SPRING (Sanctuary Protection Into the Next Generation) Project continues to move forward with a different strategy. In 2008, State funding for the project was eliminated from the bonding bill when Governor Pawlenty line item vetoed the project. The Foundation Board has now adopted a revised approach—raising funds from private sources to support a consulting architect who will detail the completion of the SPRING Project as multiple independent stages over time. We are committed to continuing our work with Fridley and surrounding communities to enhance the facilities at Springbrook and meet the growing needs of students and community residents of all ages.

With your support, the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation is ready to help Springbrook Nature Center meet the challenges in 2009 and beyond. We hope you will continue to share in the vision to give all people opportunities to appreciate nature and help the Springbrook Nature Center grow as the premier environmental education center in Fridley, the North Suburban Area, and throughout Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Malcolm Mitchell

Chair, Springbrook Nature Center Foundation

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

OF THE SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION

2008 was an exceptional year at Springbrook Nature Center. It was a year of setting new records of activity for projects and programs. For example, Springbrook programs grew to a size greater than in any of our 34 previous years—including the most program participants (23,552), most volunteers (834), and most volunteer hours (16,552). The largest single event at Springbrook occurred at Pumpkin Night in the Park with 3,300 attending in one evening and over 150 volunteers coordinating activities.

All of these numbers demonstrate that the use of Springbrook Nature Center continues to grow at a fast pace. More and more people are enjoying the benefits that a beautiful urban natural area has to offer. Support for excellent programs and stewardship of the land and resources help protect and enhance these benefits. On almost any day of the year you can see children involved in an environmental learning activity at Springbrook—students of all ages from preschoolers, third graders or college students. Every day there are families, couples, individuals, and local business employees hiking Springbrook's trails enjoying the health benefits that being in nature bring.



Springbrook Director Siah St. Clair helps a group of seventh graders get an up-close view of Springbrook's native wildlife.

Springbrook relies on the community at large for the resources to help meet its mission. Volunteers support programs and

administration through service hours equivalent to more than 8 full time people. The list of those who help is a long one and each contribution is critical to maintaining the quality and uniqueness of Springbrook.

Members of Fridley's high school Key Club planted thousands of donated trees. Fridley's Lions Club donated \$10,000 and their own labor to build a replacement bridge over one of Springbrook's creeks. Fridley's recycling program donated thousands in funds to purchase recycled plastic lumber to replace over 250 feet

of very poor condition boardwalk. Eagle scouts, Blaine/Anoka Jaycees, and hundreds of other groups and individuals conducted other projects to keep Springbrook safe and enjoyable for all.



In the midst of all the programs and people, Springbrook's natural areas are vital and filled with wonders to explore. Many hikers have seen coyotes and red foxes during this year of high rabbit populations. Seeing owls, opossums, and rare wildflowers were a few of the comments made by other visitors. Come frequently. There is a new adventure at Springbrook with each visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Siah St. Clair".

Siah St. Clair

Executive Director, Springbrook Nature Center



2008 ANNUAL REPORT

SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION 501(C)(3)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS¹

	2008 Jan 1 to Dec. 31	2007 Jan 1 to Dec. 31
Balance Sheet		
Total assets and liabilities	\$ 70,421	\$ 55,343
Statement of Activities		
Revenues		
Contributions	\$ 51,367	\$ 48,814
Memorials	\$ 2,945	\$ 150
Gift shop sales	\$ 120	\$ 728
Special events	\$ 22,162	\$ 17,951
Interest and other income	\$ 726	\$ 1,483
Total Revenues	\$ 77,320	\$ 69,126
Expenses		
Program support	\$ 26,502	\$ 24,168
Gift shop	\$ 15	\$ 602
Fundraising	\$ 34,540	\$ 46,494
Administration and misc.	\$ 1,185	\$ 637
Total Expenses	\$ 62,242	\$ 71,901
Change in net assets	\$ 15,078	\$ (2,775)

¹The above financial statement does not include the direct operating revenues and expenses provided by the City of Fridley to support Springbrook Nature Center. During 2008, tax revenue received by Springbrook was \$295,200 and earned income from programs was an additional \$92,416, for a combined revenue of \$387,616. Expenses in 2008 were \$393,804. Combined, 2008 Springbrook Nature Center and Springbrook Nature Center Foundation total revenues were \$464,936 and total expenses were \$456,032.

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We thank all who support the mission of the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation, and proudly recognize these contributors who generously made financial contributions during 2008.

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The Parks & Recreation Commission provides safe leisure and educational opportunities for all ages through programs, facilities, open spaces, and services responding to the needs of the residents and enhancing the quality of life in Fridley. The Commission works in partnership with the Springbrook Nature Center and Foundation to provide guidance and leadership to Nature Center activities.



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Fridley, MN 55432

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Fridley, MN 55432

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