



Friends of the
Sangamon Valley

Carver Yocum Homestead Park



Large persimmon trees, with their edible fruit, are a unique feature of this county park.



June 2008

Name: Carver Yocum Homestead Site. The park was named through a contest held for area schoolchildren. The Carver and Yocum families were recent property owners (late 20th century).

Location: The park is on east side of Camp Butler, north of Old Rt. 36.

Directions: Rt. 72 to Camp Butler Rd. sign. Follow signs to Camp Butler, turn left towards Camp Butler, then right onto Old River Rd. and follow to parking lot.

Access: Open to the public.

Acres: Approximately nine acres

History: Property flooded frequently. The county acquired the property through a buyout from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Owner: Sangamon County. The Friends have entered into a memorandum of agreement with the county, including management of a conservation easement.

What's an Easement? A conservation easement is granted by the property owner to another party for purposes of preserving the land for conservation. The property owner retains ownership, but gives up most development rights. The party that holds the easement is responsible for annual inspections and reporting. In this case, Sangamon County owns the property and the Friends hold the easement. The easement was finalized in 2007.

What are the Friends responsibilities? Under the terms of the easement, the Friends will conduct a yearly survey of the property. The Friends has a strong working relationship with the Sangamon County Planning Commission and is in frequent communication with the county regarding the status of the property and our activities there.

The Friends have entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Sangamon County which allows the Friends to conduct certain kinds of management.

What are the owner's responsibilities? The county is responsible for property maintenance and management that is not conservation-related. For instance, maintenance of the parking area, signs and security are the responsibility of the County. Work is being done by the Clear Lake Township commissioner and Sangamon County Highway Department.

Natural Communities:

- Silver maple floodplain forest
- Wet prairie (restoration in process)
- Wet mesic prairie (restoration in process)

Notable Features: Adjacent to Camp Butler

Notable Species: Large persimmon trees

Current Threats: Exotic species and debris brought in by frequent flooding

Accomplishments: The Friends have been controlling the exotic species, teasel, and cool season grasses. Our baseline report and annual monitoring reports are on file with the County.

Management Plans: Address exotic species by spot spraying in spring and summer

Funding Needed: The Friends do not anticipate any need for funding that cannot already be accommodated by membership dues and donations. Sangamon County provided \$1000 for the initial seeding; successive annual seedings could be accomplished for about \$1000/year.

Other information: The Friends plan to create a small interpretive trail.



The Friends of the Sangamon Valley is a charitable organization dedicated to the preservation of our natural heritage by acquiring, restoring and protecting ecologically significant lands in the Sangamon River Watershed.

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