

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Bellevue, NE ▪ September 13, 2018

Office: 402-731-3140 x1012
Cell: 402.850.7943

Fontenelle Forest's 19 miles of trails to be revamped

Forestation has created a plan for armoring against erosion on heavily-travelled trails



Fontenelle Forest has begun a massive trail restoration project, with the help of hundreds of local donors. Ridge, Linden, Hackberry, and Hawthorn Trails from Childs Hollow are closed for the first of the trail repairs. The trails are set to reopen September 28. Between the support Fontenelle Forest saw with 2017's Omaha Gives, and a direct mail campaign, tens of thousands of dollars flooded in to support the trail restoration. Those donations, along with grant funding from the Peter Kiewit Foundation and Sherwood Foundation, proved that the local community values these trails and supports their restoration.

This undertaking is years in the making, with a national company Forestation committing to the project. Forestation plans, designs, and manages outdoor spaces, from backcountry natural areas to urban parks and residential landscapes.

The trails are heavily traveled and eroded. This work will improve safety and walkability for all guests. The Fontenelle Forest Land Management and Research team will begin armoring with limestone in heavily trafficked areas, trail re-routes to improve drainage, and further drainage work to allow water to run off of trails effectively.

With Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue and Neale Woods in Omaha, FF encompasses nearly 2,000 acres of forest, prairie, wetlands, and Native American historical sites along the Missouri River. Forest management includes thinning, burning, planting, researching the fauna and flora of the Forest, as well as removing invasive species. This work supports the vision of restoring the Oak Woodland that once thrived here before the encroachment of cities.

"Beyond Forest management, Fontenelle Forest is committed to allowing the public to experience this Forest, and see it grow over the generations," Said Michelle Foss, Interim Director of Stewardship and Research. "Trails are the best way for individuals to enjoy Fontenelle Forest, and because trails are so well-loved, they need revamping to protect the Forest and the people enjoying it."

What can visitors expect in the coming weeks? There will be equipment moving alongside the Riverview Boardwalk to access the trails throughout the month. Rock will be moved and hand tools as well as machinery will be used to perform the work.

For interviews or more information, contact [Molly Mullen](mailto:mmullen@fontenelleforest.org), manager of marketing and events at Fontenelle Forest.

About Fontenelle Forest

Fontenelle Forest's mission is to provide a place where people can experience and enjoy the quiet wild of nature. We want to inspire current and future generations to care for the natural world. Fontenelle Forest is one of Nebraska's oldest conservation organizations and one of the largest private nature centers in the nation. With Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue and Neale Woods in Omaha, FF encompasses nearly 2,000 acres of forest, prairie, wetlands, and Native American historical sites along the Missouri River. Fontenelle Forest is the only organization in Nebraska permitted by the state and federal government to rehabilitate orphaned or injured raptors. Raptor Woodland Refuge, located at the Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, opened in 2016 and provides visitors with an opportunity to observe many species of birds of prey in a unique, tree-top environment.