

McLean County Museum of History

ParkLands Foundation Collection

Processed by
JoAnna Mink
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1967-2014
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

ParkLands Foundation was chartered in 1967 as a private, non-profit corporation under Illinois law. The Foundation had two goals, according to the brochure: The long-range goal was to provide "adequate outdoor recreational and educational opportunity for ourselves, our children, and our children's children." The short-range goal was acquisition of suitable land or "land which can be made suitable through reforestation and other designed plantings." This movement was part of a wider "environmental awareness that stimulated citizens to action [and] part of a national movement whose roots reach back a century or more" (Wyman, Introduction, *ParkLands*).

The first Board of Directors was comprised of Loring Merwin, Clarence Ropp, Arlo Bane, Adlai Rust, and Lafayette Funk. A major influence on Merwin was William Rutherford, leader of the privately held Forest Park Foundation in Peoria. The first project accomplished by ParkLands

Foundation was acquisition of 480 acres plus options to buy 800 more along the Mackinaw River eighteen miles west of Bloomington. This acquisition was turned over to the State of Illinois.

In the late 1980s, the membership and goals of the ParkLands Foundation were reevaluated and redirected. By the 1990s, many of the members included schoolchildren, professors, farmers, and office workers--a sharp turn toward democratization. Instead of acquiring land to turn over to governmental entities, ParkLands managed its own properties. The environmental and social context changed as well. Restorative ecology was becoming more popular nationally.

See Mark Wyman's *ParkLands: A History* for in-depth research and analysis of the evolution of the ParkLands Foundation.

Scope

The ParkLands Foundation Collection consists primarily of documents and newspaper clippings related to the organization of the Foundation and of meeting minutes and newsletters concerning the various projects taken on by the Foundation. *ParkLands: A History* by Mark Wyman in Folders 2 and 3 provide pertinent information of the Foundation through 2000.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: History and Organization of ParkLands Foundation

- 1.1 "ParkLands Organized," *Pantagraph*, July 16, 1967.
- 1.2 "A Brief History of ParkLands Foundation" by Stanley Lantz, 1986; 1989, 2pp.
- 1.3 Proof sheet for ParkLands Foundation brochure, 1970, 2pp.
- 1.4 Cover letter to John English from Harlan Edmonds, Illinois State Clearinghouse, with Grant approval process, July 25, 1975.
- 1.5 "A Brief History of ParkLands Foundation," April 2, 1993.
- 1.6 Page of information on history, 1998.
- 1.7 Agenda for ParkLands Foundation Annual Meeting, September 19, 1999.
- 1.8 Agenda for ParkLands Foundation Annual Meeting, October 8, 2000.
- 1.9 List of ParkLands Foundation officers, directors, honorary directors, 2000-2001.
- 1.10 ParkLands Foundation Properties, maps and descriptions, September 1993.
- 1.11 Addendum 3 (1991) to directory of ParkLands Properties.
- 1.12 Notes for talk to ParkLands Annual Meeting by Mary Wyman, October 8, 2000, 5pp.
- 1.13 Notes on ParkLands acquisitions of real estate, 4pp.
- 1.14 Letter to ParkLands Foundation members regarding donation of property from The Nature Conservancy, June 24, 2008.
- 1.15 ParkLands Foundation report, April 2014.
- 1.16 Parks and Recreation Element, 42pp.

Folder 2: *ParkLands: A History* by Mark Wyman

- 2.1 Copy of *ParkLands: A History* by Mark Wyman, ParkLands Foundation, 2001.
- 2.2 Print runs and estimated costs from Illinois State University Marketing and communications, 2pp.

- 2.3 Lists from Mark Wyman and others regarding distribution of copies, 5pp.
- 2.4 Presentation letter from Mark Wyman to William Rutherford, December 17, 2001.
- 2.5 Letter from Mark Wyman to Barry Brennerman, President of ParkLands Foundation regarding disposition of various research materials, February 15, 2002.
- 2.6 Letter to Mark Wyman from Evelyn Taylor regarding review copy of book for *Journal of Illinois History*, February 11, 2002.
- 2.7 Letter to Book Review Editor covering copy of *ParkLands: A History* for review, February 24, 2002, and the book review which appeared in the Summer 2002 issue of *Journal of Illinois History*, pp 164-65.
- 2.8 Forms connected to Copyright for *ParkLands: A History* and submission to the Library of Congress (copy of check, postage receipt, Certified Mail Receipt, and Delivery Receipt).
- 2.9 Letter to Mark Wyman from Thomas Schwartz, Illinois State Historian, regarding forwarding book to library collections of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, February 4, 2002.
- 2.10 Letter to Mark Wyman from Evelyn Lantz accompanying photograph of Stanley Lantz receiving copy of the book, December 17, 2001.
- 2.11 Congratulatory letter from Guy Franker, March 17, 2002.
- 2.12 Congratulatory letter from Dorothy Sands, January 8, 2002.
- 2.13 Congratulatory letter from Susan Merwin, January 13, 2002.
- 2.14 Notes for talk on "*ParkLands: A History*" given by Mark Wyman, February 3 and 6, 2002, 2pp.
- 2.15 Report from Mark Wyman to ParkLands Board of Directors about progress on book, July 6, 2000.
- 2.16 Letter from Guy Fraker to Mark Wyman with reviewer comments on chapter in book, November 15, 2000, 2pp.
- 2.17 Congratulatory letter from William Rutherford, March 10, 2003.

Folder 3: Interviews conducted for *ParkLands: A History*

- 3.1 Notes from interviews with Dale Birkenholz, 5pp.
- 3.2 Interview with Louise Bosworth.
- 3.3 With John English, 3pp.
- 3.4 With Guy Fraker, 3pp.
- 3.5 With Elmo Franklin.
- 3.6 With Doris Friedman.
- 3.7 Email from Mike Goodman.
- 3.8 Notes and follow-up comments from Stan Lentz, 10pp.
- 3.9 With Margery Merwin, 2pp.
- 3.10 With Dorothy Sands and letter from Sands, 3pp.
- 3.11 Written response, unsigned, 3pp.

Folder 4: Newspaper Clippings

(from *Pantagraph* unless indicated otherwise)

- 4.1 "Finds Park Ingredients Short," January 11, 1967.
- 4.2 "ParkLands Foundation Aims for Open Space," with photographs, June 27, 1967, and "Peoria's Forest Park Can Be County Model," June 28, 1967.
- 4.3 "Only Three of 1,173 Miles Used for Parks," June 29, 1967.

- 4.4 "Lake of Woods Sh[...] What Parks Can Be," [source?], July 1, 1967.
- 4.5 "'Good old boy' convinces all sides to do something for the good of Illinois," *Chicago Tribune*, April 10, 1966.
- 4.6 "Kiwanis \$1,000 Gift B[...] ParkLands Fund to \$[...]," July 15, 1968.
- 4.7 "65 Trustees Selected For Park Foundation," July 16, 1967.
- 4.8 "Public Space No. 1 Need, New ParkLands Group Told," July 20, 1967.
- 4.9 "Public Land Needs Critical In County," August 25, 1967.
- 4.10 "ParkLands Organizes, Gains 5-Acre Gift," September 20, 1967, and "Gives 10-Acre Timber for Public Park Use," November 28, 1967.
- 4.11 "5,000 Acre ParkLands Goal Set--New Gift Announced," October 25, 1967, and "ParkLands Goal--\$100,000," August 23, 1967.
- 4.12 "ParkLands Foundation Chooses Coordinator," May 1, 1968.
- 4.13 "Baby Fold Donates Tract to ParkLands," June 4, 1968.
- 4.14 "ParkLands Tops G[...] Gets 'Challenge [...]', July 25, 1968.
- 4.15 "Area Wooded Acres Menaced, Club Hears," May 7, 1969.
- 4.16 "Wooded Tract at Lil[...] Donated to ParkLand," July 22, 1969.
- 4.17 "ParkLands Buys Tract For Nature Park Area," September 12, 1969, and "Kiwanians To Plant 5,500 Trees on Plot," April 16, 1970.
- 4.18 "Area park plans tied to state," March 4, 1970.
- 4.19 "ParkLand Foundation Gets 244-Acre Tract," June 5, 1970.
- 4.20 "ParkLands Offer Keyed to Big State Park," June 9, 1970.
- 4.21 "State OK's Mackinaw Land For Nucleus of State Park," June 17, 1970.
- 4.22 "More Recreation Area Handed to ParkLands," July 14, 1970.
- 4.23 "ParkLands Area Grows," July 14, 1970.
- 4.24 "Business Asked To Assist ParkLands Mackinaw Fund," December 2, 1970.
- 4.25 "ParkLands drive passes \$25,000 mark," March 8, 1971.
- 4.26 "Buys park for use by public," April 3, 1971.
- 4.27 "Scenic rivers bill promises something to new generation," [*Chicago Sun Times?*], April 3, 1971.
- 4.28 "Success of ParkLands co[...] shown in 4-year equity g[...]," July 13, 1971.
- 4.29 "Heart attack fatal to Loring Merwin," September 6, 1972.
- 4.30 "Loring Merwin Joins Pantagraph," June 15, 1935.
- 4.31 "Marjorie Merwin," obit, date unknown.
- 4.32 "Loring Merwin's imprint left on all facets of community life," September 7, 1972.
- 4.33 "Contributions to ParkLands surpass \$45,000 in last year," July 11, 1973.
- 4.34 "[...]ge' links paths to nowh[...]," August 3, 1975.
- 4.35 "Squirrely fate befalls ParkLands project," June 13, 1976.
- 4.36 "Normal man elected," October 10, 1979, and "ParkLands group to gather Sunday," September 19, 1980.
- 4.37 "Prairie gets help in comeback effort," June 15, 1980.
- 4.38 "Emile Rediger," obit, February 16, 1983.
- 4.39 "Viola Rediger," obit, May [?], 1990.
- 4.40 "Rediger legacy long-lasting," September 19, 1982.
- 4.41 "Ridgetop Hill preserve dedicated," September 17, 1984.
- 4.42 "Ideal preserve ow reality for naturalist," September 14, 1987.
- 4.43 "State edges closer to adopting plan for Parklands area," December 6, 1987.

- 4.44 "Parklands reserve outlined," March 30, 1988.
- 4.45 "DOC hearing will produce little change," April 10, 1988.
- 4.46 "New owner to preserve timberland," September 11, 1989.
- 4.47 "Parklands meeting draws ire, praise," April 6, 1988, and "Preserve expansion praised at 25th anniversary," September 16, 1991.
- 4.48 "A Winter's Walk," December 29, 1996.
- 4.49 "Wetlands group takes initiative with Illinois River," January 2, 2000.
- 4.50 "Foundation works for prairie preservation," January 27, 2002.
- 4.51 "Restoring ecosystem keeps prairie Healthy," September 1, 2002.
- 4.52 "ParkLands neighbor entitled to build house," Letter to Editor, July 12, 2005.

Folder 5: Foundation Meetings and Minutes

- 5.1 Excerpts from minutes July 6, 1967 - November 11, 1971, 7pp.
- 5.2 Joint meeting Board of Directors and County Board of Supervisors, March 19, 1970, 2pp.
- 5.3 Board of Directors meeting, May 14, 1970, 3pp.
- 5.4 Excerpts from minutes of March 16, 1972 - October, 1979, 5pp.
- 5.5 Notice of special meeting, December 1, 1975.
- 5.6 Resolution regarding gasoline boats on Evergreen Lake, February 1977.
- 5.7 Annual meeting, October 9, 1979, 2pp.
- 5.8 Excerpts from minutes March 4, 1980 - January 4, 1983, 3pp.
- 5.9 Land Acquisition Plan, November 9, 1982.
- 5.10 Excerpts from minutes March 1, 1983 - January 23, 1990, 10pp.
- 5.11 Summary of deer committee meetings, July 13, 1992, 3pp.
- 5.12 Notice of annual meeting, September 13, 1992.
- 5.13 Special notice to Foundation membership regarding deer management, 1994.
- 5.14 Excerpts from minutes January 24, 1994 - September 9, 1995, 3pp.
- 5.15 Addendum to February 1995 meeting, 2pp.
- 5.16 Excerpts from minutes September 9, 1995 - September 20, 1998, 4pp.
- 5.17 Financial Report FY98-99.
- 5.18 Statement of Revenue and Expenditures, year ended June 30, 2000.
- 5.19 Annual Meeting and report, July 21, 1969

Folder 6: ParkLands Foundation Newsletters 1989-2005

- 6.1 June-July 1989
- 6.2 November/December 1996
- 6.3 March 1997
- 6.4 July 1997
- 6.5 August 1997
- 6.6 January 1998
- 6.7 March 1998
- 6.8 April 1998
- 6.9 June-July 1998
- 6.10 August 1998
- 6.11 Fall 1998
- 6.12 April 1999
- 6.13 May 1999

- 6.14 July-August 1999
- 6.15 August 1999
- 6.16 January 2000
- 6.17 April/May 2000
- 6.18 Summer 2000
- 6.19 March 2001
- 6.20 Summer/Fall 2002
- 6.21 October-November 2004
- 6.22 December 2004-January 2005
- 6.23 2005: February-March, April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November

Folder 7: ParkLands Foundation Newsletters 2006-2013

- December 2005-January 2006
- 2006: February-March, April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November
- December 2006-January 2007
- 2007: February-March, April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November, December-January 2008
- 2008: February-March, April-May, June-July, August-September
- December 2008-January 2009
- 2009: February-March, April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November
- December 2009-January 2010
- 2010: February-March, April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November
- December 2010-January 2011
- 2011: April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November
- December 2011-January 2012
- 2012: February-March, April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November
- December 2012-January 2013
- 2013: February-March, April-May
- 2020: August
- 2021: March

Folder 8: Guidebooks and Brochures

- 8.1 Nature Trail Guide, 1987, 2 copies.
- 8.2 Nature Trail Guide, 1999.
- 8.3 Merwin Preserve, Trail Map and Membership Application, undated.

Folder 9: Newsletter of The Nature Conservancy of Illinois

- 9.1 Membership application for Mackinaw River Watershed Council, undated.
- 9.2 Membership application for Woodford County SWCD, undated.
- 9.3 Booklet, *A Watershed Year*, published by The Nature Conservancy, 2000[?], unpaginated.
- 9.4 *News & Views from the Mackinaw River Project*, Fall 1996.
- 9.5 *News & Views from the Mackinaw River Project*, Spring 1997.
- 9.6 *News & Views from the Mackinaw River Project*, Spring 1999.
- 9.7 *Prairie Currents Newsletter*, Summer 1999, pp. 5-8.
- 9.8 *Prairie Currents Newsletter*, Winter 1999.

- 9.10 *News & Views from the Mackinaw River Project*, Winter/Spring 2000.
- 9.11 *Prairie Currents Newsletter*, Spring 2000.
- 9.12 *Prairie Currents Newsletter*, Summer 2000.

Folder 10: William Rutherford Newspaper Clippings

(from *Peoria Journal Star* unless noted otherwise)

- 10.1 "Peoria Gets Geriatrics Unit Post," October 22, 1959, and "Rutherford Given Citizen Award," April 7, 1965.
- 10.2 "Rutherford To Push For Illinois National Park," January 19, 1969.
- 10.3 "State Conservation Hearings Set; Director Defends Purchase of Park" and "Forest Park Gives State 3,200 Acres," February 21, 1969.
- 10.4 "Successor Won't Be Political Appointee, Ogilvie Tells Peorian" and "Governor Promotes Rutherford To New Environmental Post," January 16, 1970.
- 10.5 "Rutherford Leaves Ogilvie Team Critical of System," March 4, 1970.
- 10.6 "City Council Agenda Includes Rutherford Confirmation Issue," October 4, 1971.
- 10.7 "Governor Promotes Rutherford to New Environmental Post" and "Sierra Club Award For Rutherford," March 3, 1970.
- 10.8 "Walker Picks Rutherford As Conservation Adviser," January 4, 1973.
- 10.9 William Rutherford: Leaving A Living Legacy," May 25, 1975.
- 10.10 "Rutherford Receives Bradley's Distinguished Alumnus Award," October 12, 1975, and short biography for Community Leadership School Speakers, 1976.
- 10.11 "Citizen Bill Rutherford," May 16, 1976.
- 10.12 "Newsweek honors Peorian," July 1, 1986.
- 10.13 Cary Silver, "William Rutherford--at home on the prairie," *The Rotarian* (May 1989), pp. 28-31.
- 10.14 "Park swap may boost tourism to Peoria area," May 12, 2000.
- 10.15 "Alone on the prairie," *Chicago Tribune*, January 14, 1994.

Folder 11: Various Articles

- 11.1 "Cedar Keys," from *A Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf*, 1916, Rpt. 1998, pp. 136-39.
- 11.2 Cassandra S. Rodgers and Roger C. Anderson, "Presettlement Vegetation of Two Prairie Peninsula Counties," *Botanical Gazette* (June 1979), pp. 232-40+map.
- 11.3 Erica A. Corbett, *Environmental and Geographic Correlates of Illinois Remnant Prairie*, PhD dissertation, 1999, pp. 6-10.
- 11.4 Don Cavallini, The Merwin Nature Preserve," *Illinois Magazine* (March-April 1991), pp. 33-34.
- 11.5 Robert C. Anderson, "Overview of Midwestern Oak Savanna," *Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters*, Vol 86 (1998), pp. 7-18.
- 11.6 Albert W. Herre, "An Early Illinois Prairie," *The American Botanist* (1940), pp. 39-44.
- 11.7 Robert C. Anderson, "Illinois Prairies: A Historical Perspective," *Symposium Proceedings: Our Living Heritage* (April 1991), pp. 394-91.
- 11.8 R. C. Anderson, "Prairies in the Prairie State," *Transactions Illinois Academy of Science* (1970), pp. 214-21.
- 11.9 Renee Thomas and Roger C. Anderson, "Presettlement Vegetation of the Mackinaw River Valley, Central Illinois," *Transactions of the Illinois State Academic of Science*, Vol 83 (1990), pp. 10-22.

- 11.10 Amy Nelson, Kevin Bastien, and Roger Anderson, *Reconstructing Our Vegetational History*, undated, 4pp.
- 11.11 William D. Walters, Jr. and Jonathan Smith, "Woodland and Prairie Settlement in Illinois: 1830-70," *Forest and Conservation History*, Vol. 36 (Jan. 1992), pp. 15-21.

Folder 12: Miscellaneous

- 12.1 Letters and notes from Mary Wyman regarding Frances Woodrum, 2009.
- 12.2 Information and maps on Money Creek - Mackinaw Tracts, Frey Tract, 5pp.
- 12.3 Copy of letter to the editor from Mary Wyman about rezoning request near Lexington and Larry Reece.
- 12.4 Aerial map marked Sweeney.
- 12.5 Platt map for part of McLean County.
- 12.6 Hand drawn map ParkLand's Lexington Nature Preserve.
- 12.7 Information on Hidden Hills.
- 12.8 Trail map of Merwin Preserve.
- 12.9 Map of Forest Park Nature Center with trails marked.
- 12.10 General Highway Map of McLean County.
- 12.11 Memo from Mark Wyman to ParkLands Board Members about policy change for memberships, April 26, 2006.
- 12.12 List of species names, Dorothy Shelley Wildflower Prairie, with map.
- 12.13 ParkLands Memorial List, March 3, 1997.
- 12.14 Flyer for Festival and fundraiser for ParkLands Foundation, April 14, no year.
- 12.15 Article about vandalism, June 1980.
- 12.16 Mailer with map and information about ParkLands Foundation, undated.
- 12.17 Brochure about ParkLands Foundation, 2017.
- 12.18 Letter to donor William Kemp, June 26, 2020.
- 12.19 Letter to donor William Kemp, November 19, 2020.
- 12.20 Letter of thanks to William Kemp for donation, November 2020.