

March 15, 2006

Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director
Wild Ones Natural Landscapes Ltd
PO Box 1274
Appleton, WI 54912-1274

Dear Donna:

We are writing in support of the Wild Ones plan to develop the West Shore Preserve Environmental Center to provide the community the opportunity to participate in the protection and restoration of biodiversity and water quality in the Fox Valley area. With the outdoor focus on the restoration of the Fox River through wetland and associated upland habitat preservation, re-establishment and enhancement and the indoor focus on providing space and administrative support for area conservation and environmental science organizations, the Fox Valley will become a place that will help lead our next generations toward a new era of environmental stewardship.

Specifically we look forward to using this facility (choose one or more)

- \$ As a Citizen Science Center where people can participate in studies of bird, frog and toad species, marsh and shoreland plants and water quality. As the PCB contaminated sediments are removed from the river, we need to understand all the other aspects of achieving a healthy environment for future generations.
- \$ As a living laboratory of ecological restoration in the middle of our Fox River Valley. Projects to restore diversity to the adjacent upland and marsh habitats will involve many school and conservation groups.
- \$ As a demonstration site for home and community landscaping that provides habitat for birds and butterflies while eliminating polluted run-off water from reaching our streams and rivers.
- \$ As an office hub from which a Center administrative assistant and staff and volunteers of partner groups can communicate with each other, their members and others in the community.
- \$ As shared workspace (in the walk-in lower level) that can be used for messy projects like building birdhouses and bat houses, plant identification and repotting, and field-related activities of school groups.
- \$ For storage space for tools and equipment used by different groups and organizations for their conservation work.
- \$ As a meeting space for small groups to get together in a comfortable, friendly environment.

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We, too, believe that by working together and sharing the benefits of this project, we will nurture a collaborative spirit of environmental stewardship. As a result, the environmental awareness of the general public in the Fox Valley area will increase – which will benefit us all.

Because this is a unique property, unlike environments found in the local nature centers/ preserves, it is seen as an impetus to the re-education of the Fox Valley citizens to think in

terms of environmentally friendly landscaping practices both at their homes and in the community at large and we look forward to being a part of this new Environmental Center.

Please keep us posted on your progress.

Very truly yours,