

WILSON PRESERVE

8600 ODean Avenue NE, Otsego, MN

TOWNSHIP OF OTSEGO

est. 1858

The Wilson Preserve Nature Trail is the result of wildlife conservation efforts by the State of Minnesota, City of Otsego and family of Frank and Helen Wilson who purchased the property in 1957. The 8.5 acre parcel at the southwest corner of Wilson Preserve is the Wilson's homestead and remains in private ownership with the family. The Wilson family were stewards of the natural features of the property.

The Wilsons made many improvements for wildlife. Nesting habitats were enhanced in Hall's Pond, which is northeast of the City Park. This was done with the guidance of the Department of Natural Resources and Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District. When the City of Otsego developed the stormwater basins within the Wilson property for the Odean Avenue improvement project in 1999, the Wilsons worked with the City to provide for re-seeding the area with a mix of wildflower seed obtained by Chris Wilson from Prairie Restorations, Inc. in Princeton, Minnesota.

The habitat established within Wilson Preserve is especially attractive to a wide variety of birds. In the Hall's Pond area, you might see great horned owls, wood ducks, trumpeter swans, sandhill cranes and other species. The wildflower area surrounding the storm water basins has blue birds, red-winged black birds, meadowlarks, herons, ducks and geese. Other wildlife is certain to be found within Wilson Preserve as well.

The City had, for many years, identified acquisition of Wilson Preserve as a priority of its Future Parks and Trails Plan. The City wanted the property in order to preserve the existing natural conditions of the area as passive open space and to provide access to Hall's Pond. The City acquired 14.8 acres for Wilson Preserve in 2015 as part of the subdivision approval for the Wilson property, which separated the Wilson homestead and created nine new single family lots and the future City park.

Source: Chris Wilson, Otsego Heritage Preservation Commission



HELEN WILSON @ EAST SIDE OF 8600 ODEAN AV. N.E. HOME

Helen Wilson; east side of 8600 ODean Avenue NE.
Credit: Chris Wilson



Chris Wilson; barn and granary at 8600 ODean Avenue.
Credit: Chris Wilson



Chris Wilson.
Credit: Chris Wilson



Swan and ducks.
Credit: Judy Syring

