



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801 • 217-367-4057 • urbanafreelibrary.org

Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods
Records, 1959-1988

Collection 178

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Sherrie Bowser, August 2022

Creator/Corporate name: Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods

Physical Description: 1 box, (0.5 linear feet).

Provenance:

The Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods records were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

Busey Woods is a 59-acre nature preserve north of Crystal Park Lake and is a remnant of the Big Grove. Big Grove was a 6,000-acre tract of oak, hickory, ash, walnut, and maple forest that made up the majority of northern Urbana in the early 1830s and provided Champaign County settlers with wood to build their homes and later railroad ties for the Illinois Central Railroad.

The University of Illinois and the Champaign Audubon Club began to use the tract known as Busey Woods in the 1930s and 1940s for nature studies. The landowners decided in the 1960s to offer the woods for development. The outcry from the community was swift, with letters written to the local newspapers and the formation of the Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods. Incorporated with the State of Illinois on October 29, 1963, the Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods, chaired by Donald Hansen, played a crucial role in fostering public interest in and awareness of the community value of Busey Woods. On March 31, 1971, the deed for Busey Woods was signed over to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Foundation by Mr. and Mrs. James R. Klassen.

Busey Woods is now a natural area under the Urbana Park District, and the woods are a popular place for birdwatching, photography, and nature study. The Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods officially disbanded in 1986 after a long fallow period and donated the Committee's residual funds to the Urbana Park District for the development of trails within the woods for educational purposes in honor of Donald Hansen.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains the records of the Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods, including its bylaws and incorporation documents, meeting notes and minutes, membership rosters, letter-writing campaigns, and clippings. Along with the incorporation documents, the records include the meeting minutes from the final Committee meeting held on December 13, 1986.



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801 • 217-367-4057 • urbanafreelibrary.org

Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods
Records, 1959-1988

Collection 178

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged apoplectically by folder title.

Separated Material:

Photographs were removed from the collection and placed in the Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods Photograph Envelope.

Related Material:

See also:

Photograph envelope: Busey Woods (Urbana, Ill.)

Vertical files: Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods; Busey Woods (Urbana)

Subject Terms:

Bird watching--Champaign County (Ill.)

Conservation of natural resources

Conservationists

Environmentalists

Habitat conservation

Natural areas--Champaign County (Ill.)

Name Terms:

Busey Woods (Urbana, Ill.)

Champaign County Forest Preserve District

Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods

Hansen, Donald

Klassen, James, R.

Klassen, Catherine Jane

Tawney Research Park (Urbana, Ill.)

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: Busey's Pasture, 1959-1964; 1973

Folder 2: Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, 1963, and undated

Folder 3: Clippings, 1963-1971

Folder 4: Correspondence with Nature Conservancy and National Audubon Society, 1963-1964

Folder 5: Editorial Drafts, 1964 and undated

Folder 6: Final Information about Committee to Save Busey Woods, 1963-1988

Folder 7: General, undated

Folder 8: General, 1963

Folder 9: General, 1964

Folder 10: General, 1965

Folder 11: General, 1968-1973



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801 • 217-367-4057 • urbanafreelibrary.org

Committee for the Preservation of Busey Woods
Records, 1959-1988

Collection 178

Folder 12: Legal Points, 1963, 1967

Folder 13: Letters to Area Clubs Asking Them to Pass Resolutions Calling for the Forest Preserve District
to Save Busey Woods, 1964

Folder 14: Letters to County Officials, 1963-1964

Folder 15: Letters to Foundations, 1964

Folder 16: Letters of Organizational Support, 1964

Folder 17: Letters Regarding Busey Woods from Local People, 1963-1964

Folder 18: Meeting Notes, Taken by Donald Hansen, Chairman, 1963-1964; 1971

Folder 19: Membership, 1963-1970

Folder 20: Minutes, 1963-1964

Folder 21: Names of People Who Might be Interested in Busey Woods (but weren't), undated

Folder 22: The Forest Fund, Libertyville, Illinois, 1963-1972

Folder 23: Urbana Park District's Plans for Busey Woods, 1974

Folder 24: Urbana Park Road Referendum (included funds to buy Busey Woods), 1971

Folder 25: Use of Busey Woods Fund, 1971-1972