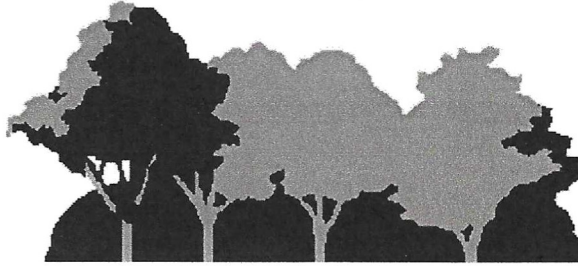


ADVOCATES FOR THE OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

136 West Revere Circle, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830



NEWSLETTER – December 2014

Tim Myrick

AFORR will sorely miss Tim Myrick, who lost his battle with cancer on December 15. He served as The Nature Conservancy representative on our board of Directors since (need the date of his service). Tim's enthusiasm, intelligence, and positive attitude marked every activity in which he was involved.

Environmental News

Horizon Center – The areas designated natural areas in and around the City Of Oak Ridge Industrial Development Board-owned Horizon Center continue to be threatened by development proposals. The IDB requested and was granted DOE an easement to construct a high-voltage overhead electric line along the Quarry Trail Greenway on the north side of the Horizon Center. Powerline construction requires removal of trees in the DOE-designated natural areas along East Fork Poplar Creek and on the southern edge of the Black Oak Conservation Easement. IDB justifies the powerline to satisfy the hypothetical for upgraded electrical service by interested, unnamed, potential purchasers of property within Horizon Center. Other cost effective routes across Horizon Center/IDB property are not feasible because self-imposed Horizon Center covenants do not allow overhead lines. The IDB chooses to construct the overhead power lines in designated natural areas and along established greenways rather than building them on their own property because they are unwilling to change their covenants.

Environmental News (continued)

In addition to environmental insult from the electric line installation, IDB recently voted to request that DOE transfer 10- to 20- acres of riparian natural area from DOE to the City of Oak Ridge. The purpose of the transfer would be to combine two IDB/Horizon Center parcels into one larger parcel to facilitate marketing the larger combined parcel to satisfy two unnamed prospective industrial buyers. AFORR reminded DOE by letter that the parcel in question was part of the mitigation package for the original Horizon Center land transfer, and that NEPA review would be required prior to any land transfer.

Proposed Oak Ridge General Aviation Airport - Studies are underway for a proposed airport at Heritage Center (K-25) requiring approximately 200 acres of level land that might otherwise be available for economic development. If built, residents in the far west end, including The Preserve at Clinch River (formerly Rarity Ridge) and the Whippoorwill neighborhood can expect noticeable low level aircraft noise. Rockwood Airport, an existing, under-utilized modern first class general aviation airport lies 12 air miles away at I-40 Exit 340 20 minutes drive time away. The need to spend \$40 million of federal funds to replicate the services of Rockwood airport 12 miles away is questionable. The land for the proposed Oak Ridge Airport is on DOE property previously designated for transfer to CROET in the Environmental Assessment for Development Parcel ED 3. The proposed location of the airport will impact the Historic Wheat Community and transiting jets are likely to cause noise issues AFORR will monitor the progress of the airport proposal and ensure that the required environmental analyses are conducted.

Manhattan Project Historical Park Designation. The recently enacted omnibus spending bill included provision for establishment of the multi-site Manhattan Project National Historic Park, of which Oak Ridge is one of the three sites. AFORR is exploring the possibility of adding scenic, recreational, educational, and historical acreage to the newly designated National Historic Park. Key players who could help push this idea to fruition include City of Oak Ridge, those responsible for the Manhattan Project Park, supporters of the American Museum of Science and Energy, Tennessee Congressmen and Senators, ORNL leadership, and environmental groups across the state.

Clark Center Park – DOE recently notified City of Oak Ridge its intention to declare Clark Center Park excess property. This popular park is located in a large cove on Melton Hill Reservoir and has amenities that include softball fields, boat launching ramp, picnic areas, and a swimming area. Two sticking points are 1) the funding to support operation of the park, and 2) DOE's requirement that the park property be transferred with deed restrictions that limit use to recreational use. The City would like to accept ownership with DOE financial support with no deed restrictions. AFORR supports preservation of Clark Center Park as a recreational facility.

Financial Support. AFORR requires donations to support meetings and mailings. We have not actively called for donations for several years, but that time has come. Please use the enclosed envelop to provide a donation.

A special opportunity to help is the ORNL Matching Gifts Program. See <http://www.ornl.gov/ornl/news/communications/community-outreach/matching-gifts-fund>. The Matching Gifts Fund is open to current UT-Battelle employees with a minimum of one year of service and will provide a minimum match of \$50 and a maximum match of \$250 per employee. To request a matching gift, employees should complete Section A of the form and mail it, along with their gift, to AFORR. Questions should be directed to the ORNL Matching Gifts Program Coordinator at 865-241-9309 or community@ornl.gov.

Upcoming Members' Meeting - AFORR will announce the date and speaker for our annual member's meeting in the next few weeks. At the meeting we will discuss the various opportunities and challenges for the Oak Ridge Reservation. We will also elect a new slate of Directors.