

## **Restoration work continues in Wilderness Park**

**By the Lincoln Journal Star**

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department is working in Wilderness Park again this winter as part of the ongoing restoration efforts needed to manage the park.

Crews are in the area of the park near First Street and Pioneers Boulevard removing scrub trees that are growing in and around existing stands of bur oaks.

Natural Resources Manager Terry Genrich said this promotes the rejuvenation of the bur oaks by opening up the areas, allowing young oak trees to grow. The work will continue through the middle of March.

Genrich said precautions are taken to ensure that habitat remains for the wildlife in the area.

Managing the stands of bur oaks continues to be a top priority for a committee of representatives from various groups, who meet several times each year to determine projects important to park management.

Future projects include managing areas of prairie, restoring wetlands and removing scrub trees from former farm land to plant as prairies.

Wilderness Park is a 1,475-acre linear park in southwest Lincoln that is owned by Lancaster County and managed by the city.

The park's primary purpose is flood protection, but it also provides a natural area for wildlife and public recreation area.