

MEDIA RELEASE ABOUT CARDINAL GROVE—May 12, 2009



Children & Elders Forest, in cooperation with Glenn Elementary School and McLean Co. Unit District No. 5, is pleased to announce Cardinal Grove. This is the seventh grove within the Children & Elders Forest network of groves in Bloomington/Normal.

The location of Cardinal Grove is along Sugar Creek, from the new playground on the right to the triangular area on the left, behind and north of the Glenn School building. The design of Cardinal Grove, compliments of Oak Hollow Landscape Design, includes 14 indigenous species and 27 trees. The design can be seen at www.ceforest.org

“Cardinal Grove is a wonderful addition to this community,” said Superintendent Gary Niehaus. “We are glad this grove is successful and look forward to completing more groves with Children & Elders Forest in the future.”

Glenn Elementary principal Carmen Bergmann said, *“The Glenn Elementary community is very excited to be a part of this meaningful project. It will allow us to educate our students about native trees and the importance of planting trees to help our environment. As a small school, community and family are strong themes in all that we do. This project will be yet another way for us to reinforce the importance of community and family.”*

For the first time, the naming of a grove involved a selection from names submitted by children. The name “Cardinal” was submitted by Glenn first-grader, Avery C. Wilson, who was recognized at a school assembly on May 1 and awarded a bird house.

In addition to these two firsts (the elementary school location and the naming by a child), another novel experience involves a Glenn School planning team (as compared with the board of Children & Elders Forest) taking most of the leadership for planning and promoting Cardinal Grove. Julie Beich chairs this Glenn School planning team, composed of parents and teachers at Glenn School.

The Cardinal Grove process involves raising money for each grade at Glenn School to sponsor a tree. Children made “nature art and crafts” for sale at an Art & Shopping Event on April 25 and are doing a Walk-a-thon to neighborhood trees on May 15 at 2 p.m.

Creative curriculum experiences involve extraordinary materials teaching about size and shape, bark, wildlife, leaves and fruit of the 6 trees sponsored by each grade. School children are using clues on the doors of classrooms to guess which species each grade is sponsoring. There will be Tree Detective Prizes.

People have already been registering for trees, and currently about 12 trees remain available for sponsorship. Forms for sponsorship can be downloaded from the website and people can pay through Pay Pal on line, or send a check to Deborah Oberg (206 W. Kelsey, Bloomington, IL 61701) for \$165 made out to **Children & Elders Forest**.

A final first involves the ceremonial planting of Cardinal Grove, which will be on Friday afternoon, so that school children and staff and easily participate, rather than a Saturday morning. The ceremonial planting is Friday afternoon, Nov. 6, 2009.

For planning team information, contact Julie Beich: 530-2355, julie.beich@countryfinancial.com. For curriculum, contact Linda Kunce, lkunce@iwu.edu, 532-0988 (after noon). For C & E Forest information, contact Joe Grabill, 454-2883, turtlecn@verizon.net