

Pringle Nature Center

*Putting People in Touch with Nature
since 1998*



Pringle Family Purchases Land

- Robert D. Pringle, Sr. was born in 1887 in a frame cabin on his parents' homestead in the Dakota Territory.
- When he was a year and half old, his mother, Cynthia, his sister, Fanny, and he moved to his grandparents' home in Bristol, Wisconsin.
- Used land to raise cattle and grow crops.

A Seed is Planted

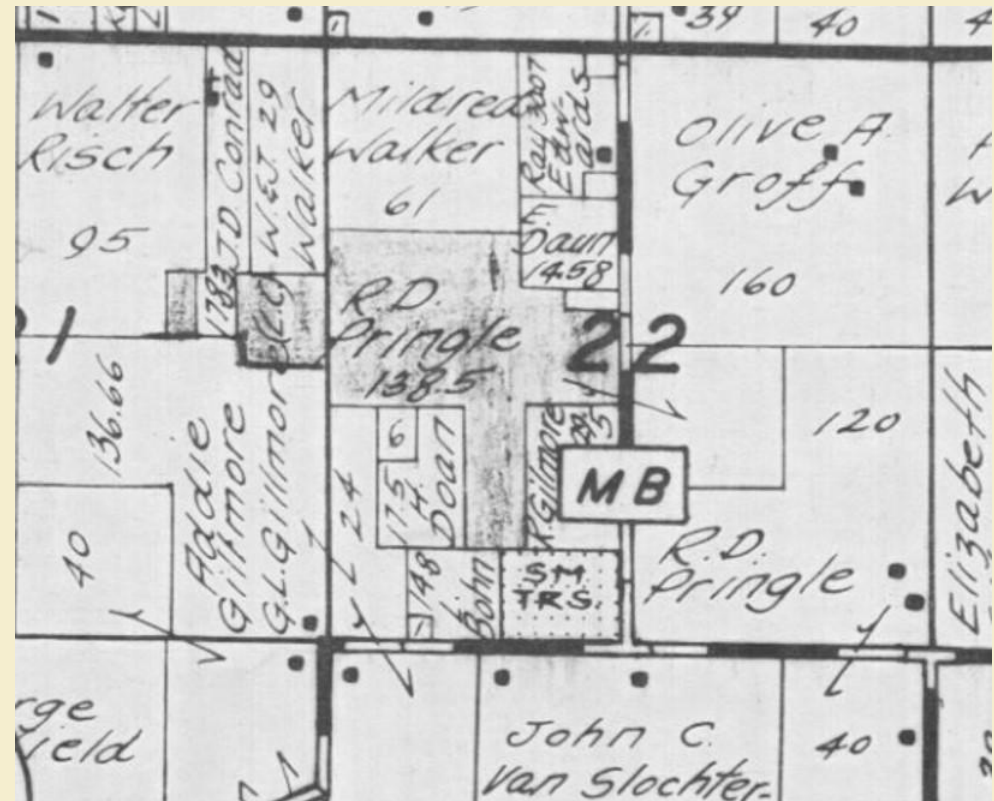
- In 1957, Robert retired from farming and became the Vice Chairman of the Kenosha County Parks commission from 1958 to 1971.
- It was during this time that his friend, Park Commissioner William Thompson, planted the seed that some of Robert's land would make wonderful park. Another friend, Park Superintendent Dick Lindl, worked to see his dream bear fruit. That land is now known as Bristol Woods County Park.
- Robert's sister, Fanny shared Robert's love for nature. She donated money to the County of Kenosha to hold until there would be enough to build a nature center in the park.

Fanny Pringle

- First approached the Kenosha County Park Department about naming a park after her brother as she wanted to create some sort of memorial for him (November 1968)
- Two years pass by, Fanny approaches the Park Department to have at least her third of the property to be turned into a park and willing to purchase her brother's other two-thirds (September 1970)
- In first correspondence with the Park Department how they were looking at adjacent land to the Pringle's to purchase to be turned into a park. Fanny states that she will donate her portion of the land if the Board could "negotiate for the area" (October 1970)
- The Park Commission responded by stating, "It is the feeling of the Park Commission...that if the 47 acres was given as a gift to start that it would act as a catalyst or strong encouragement...to the County Board to provide additional monies..." (December 1970)

Other Landowners Involved

- Pringle
- Gillmore
- Walker – 28.04 acres
- Conrad – 17.83 acres
- Risch – 15 acres
- Bohn



New County Park Established

New county park may be established

Another new county park in a wooded area of Bristol Township would be established if the County Board follows through on action taken Tuesday night.

A resolution giving a purchase go-ahead was given its first reading. Final action could come at the June 29 Board meeting.

The proposal is to purchase 123.8 acres on the west side of Hy. MB halfway between Hys. C and V. Richard Lindl, county parks director, said another 60 acres is being negotiated for which would bring the total acreage to about 164.

The land in the first purchase is presently owned by Glenn and Edith Gilmore and by Robert Pringle Sr.

Federal LAWCON funds would pay half the \$106,526 total cost for the first purchase, Lindl said. State ORAP funds would pay 25 per cent, and the county's share would be the remaining 25 per cent or \$26,632. He said the parks commission already has about \$8,000 towards that amount, saved out of park revenues.

The park would not be developed before 1990, Lindl said, but purchase is the number one priority for the park commission.

He said the land is a rolling, wooded tract, "one of the few good woodlots left in the county."

Lindl said federal standards for parks call for one acre for each 1,000 population in order to qualify for aids. Kenosha County has 1,135 acres in park lands now while it should have 1,170 by 1970 Census standards.

By 1980, using conservative population growth figures, the county would need some 1,570 acres in parks. Adding the 123 acres would bring the county to 1,256, still some 112 acres short, Lindl said.

George Schlitz, park commission chairman, told the board that high prices demanded for the other 60 acres are holding up acquisition plans. The asking price is much higher than the appraised value, he and Lindl said.

While that matter is pending, the commission wants a go-ahead on the first purchase. The first step will be application for the federal and state aids.

Sup. Earl Hollister (Bristol) urged action toward full purchase of the proposed park. "The longer you delay, the more it will cost," Hollister said.

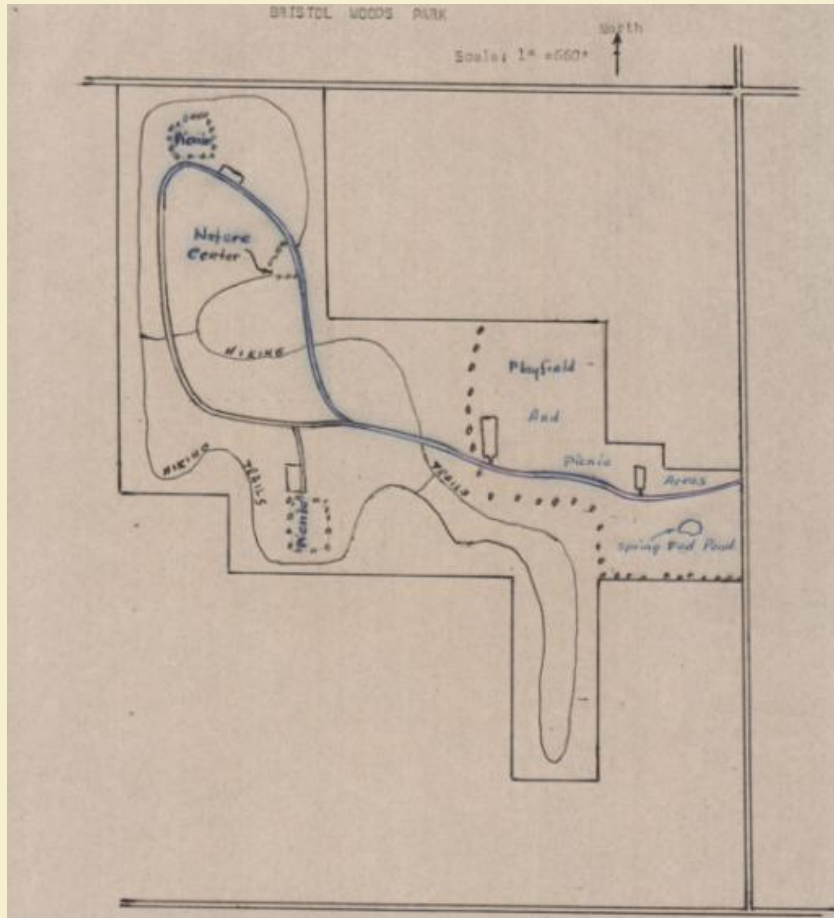


New County Park Established





The Nature Center Vision



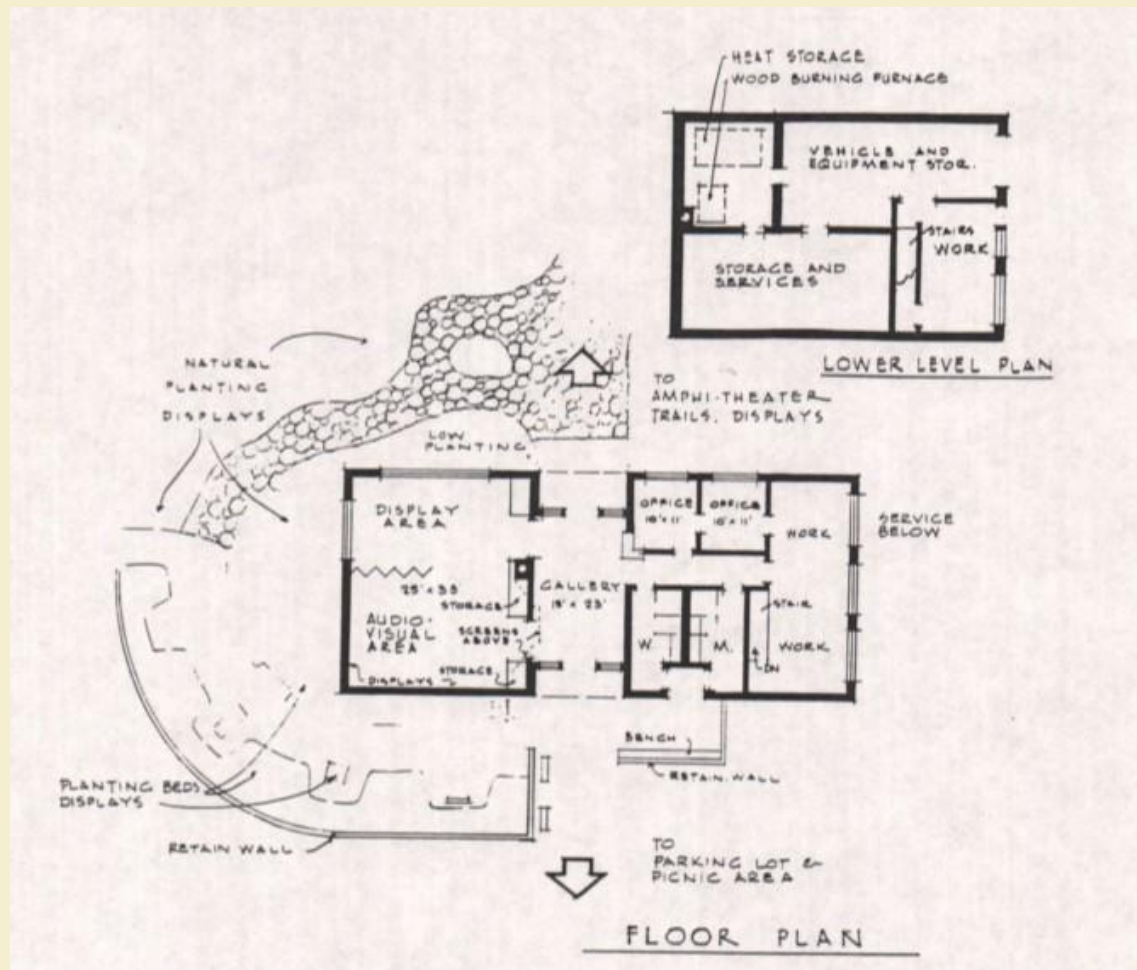
"I also had the commission adopt a resolution agreeing to build a nature center in this park to be known as the 'Robert D. Pringle, Sr. Nature Center'. A report on this will go to the County Board which they will adopt. This will put everything on record so that it will be carried out no matter who is on the Park Commission or Park Director, for that matter."

- Dick Lindl to Robert Pringle, Sr.
April 1974

The Nature Center Vision



“We are considering as a start a bldg. of 3500 sq. ft. on two levels and located on a hillside. We would want the building designed so that we could add to it as we grow and the need arises.

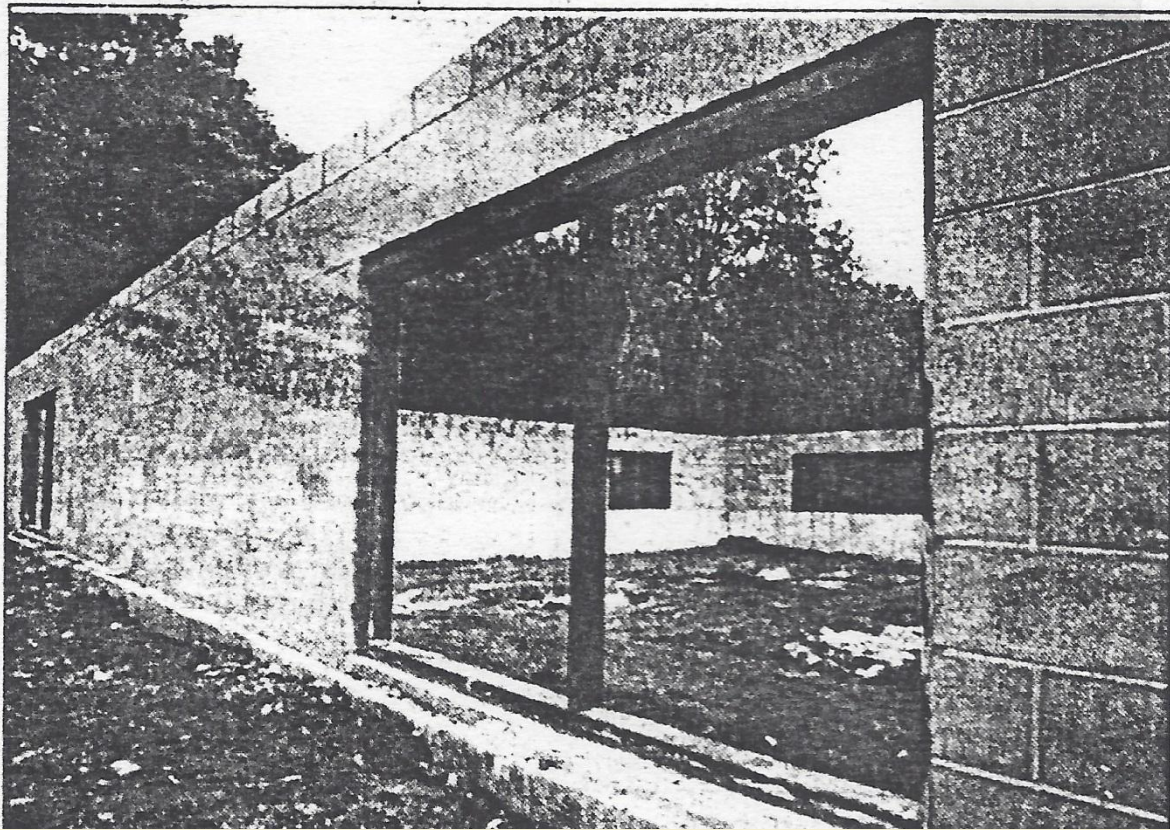


- *Dick Lindl to George Knudsen*
November 1978

GENERAL SITE PLAN FOR
INTERPRETIVE CENTER
BRISTOL WOODS COUNTY PARK
KENOSHA COUNTY, WISCONSIN



A Nature Center is Built



- Due to efforts of the then County Executive John Collins and the seed money from Fanny Pringle

A Nature Center is Built – Helping Organizations





Partnerships

- KYF
- Hoy Audubon

Programming

- School Programs
- Leave No Child Inside
- Public Program
- Rentals
- Volunteer Opportunities





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