

Reflections

Spring 2024



RadnorLake.org

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About the Cover

Photograph of Radnor Lake by Robin Conover

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From the Board President

"The human spirit needs places where nature has not been rearranged by the hand of man." —Unknown author

Each year the Friends of Radnor Lake Board reviews what we've accomplished, what ongoing projects will continue to be supported and what our goals are for the next year. It's so inspiring to see what we've accomplished with such a dedicated park staff and Friends group and to look forward to what's next.

Allow me to take a moment to reflect on Radnor's past, present and future:

Past

The history of the land includes indigenous tribes, hard-scrabble farmers,

civil war encampments and an industrial complex within the boundaries of what is now Radnor Lake State Park. Archaeological studies have identified farming activity akin to farms in the Appalachian hills, Civil War skirmishes being fought throughout, and a railroad company damming up a creek to house water for the coal burning steam engines at Radnor Yards. There is seemingly nothing natural about Radnor Lake. As with nearly every lake in Tennessee, except Reelfoot, Radnor Lake is man-made. So, how do we help to "un-arrange" what was created as an industrial site by man and return it to the peaceful nature preserve that we have today? The answer is 50 years of planning, hard work and luck that has involved thousands of volunteers, millions of dollars, a textbook public/private partnership...and an unflinching attitude to do it right.

Present

With the help of very careful planning, park staff, volunteers and our partners, Nature is steadily taking the land back. Native grasslands are coming back and with it the monarch butterfly is returning. Invasive species are being methodically removed. Beaver activity is increasing. The American Bald Eagle pair is nesting for the third year in a row. The list goes on and on. Nature is certainly at home at Radnor Lake including millions of us who show up every year. All races, creeds, nationalities, abilities and disabilities greet each other on the trails, watch the eagles take flight and find sanctuary in being at this park. We enjoy unprecedented safety and security given to us by the watchful eye and extremely hard work of the rangers. Please thank them when you see them.

Future

Given the chance, nature will continue to take back the land. Our job is to leave it alone as much as possible and allow it to continue to recover. Let's continue our legacy by expanding our footprint to more land that we can "un-rearrange." Reversing man's imprint on land is a daunting and virtually limitless task. Radnor Lake State Natural Area is proof that it can be done.

Have the best day ever!

Rob

Welcome New Board Members



Marin Sieck is a marketing professional who provides member services at Junior League Nashville. She joined us through Young Leaders Council and serves on our event committees.



Jessi Hammond is Assistant Vice President, Creative Design at HCA Healthcare and supports our marketing efforts and event planning.



Tvler Reedv is a Credit Executive at Bank of America and proudly serves on our Fundraising Committee.

Rob Cochran



Chris Sloan is an avid birder and Chair of the Emerging Companies Team at Baker Donelson.



PRESENTED BY



Radnor Lake's Annual Songwriters' Event is Back

Save the date! This summer, Radnor in the Round returns for its fifth year. Help us raise funds for the park while enjoying the musical stylings of our community's most celebrated singer-songwriters.

Sunday, June 2 – 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory, 1000 Oman Drive

Tickets \$275 per carload. On sale April 19.

To buy tickets, visit RadnorLake.org/radnor-in-the-round-2024 To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, contact tcorkum@radnorlake.org

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS











Photos by Weatherly Hulsey

Hosted by Phil Vassar and Friends

Kellie + Will Robinson







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Grace Kueker *Ranger Aide*

Shawn Byington Ranger Aide

Radnor Lake State Natural Area 1160 Otter Creek Road Nashville, TN 37220 (615) 373-3467

Hours 6:00 a.m. until 20 minutes after sunset

Visitor Center Hours: Thurs – Mon: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Closed: Tues and Wed, and daily 1-2 p.m.)

> Walter Criley Visitor Center: (615) 373-3467

Park Events Schedule: tnstateparks.com/parks/ events/radnor-lake



Courtesy of TN Department of Environment and Conservation

Radnor Wins 2023 Excellence in Interpretation Award

he Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has honored Radnor Lake State Park with the Excellence in Interpretation Award among the 57 Tennessee State Parks. This award is given to parks that have demonstrated the capacity to deliver diverse and high-quality interpretive activities.

"We want visitors to our state parks to have a great experience, and interpretive programs provide that," said Greer Tidwell, deputy commissioner of Conservation at TDEC. "We congratulate Radnor Lake State Park for its work in this area. This award is a well-deserved honor."

At Radnor Lake, we believe teaching our community about the natural world is an important

part of protecting it. That's why we're proud to offer year-round programming that includes spotting scopes for the park's American Bald Eagle nest, a Junior Ranger Intern program, as well as tours and open house events at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center.

Our dedicated park staff and the continued financial support of our community helps make these important interpretive programs possible. While we're honored and grateful to receive this award, we know we couldn't have done it without your help.

On behalf of the park and the animals that call it home: thank you.



Photo by Steve Ward

A Gift to Radnor Lake State Natural Area

Article submitted by Renee Bates

n October 5, 2023 at Dyer Observatory, Friends of Radnor Lake held our annual Environmental Awards, where a painting was donated by Kim Barrick on behalf of herself and The Chestnut Group.

"This gift is a culmination of over 15 years of collaboration between artists and conservationists who are both working to protect a [park] that means so much to them and so many others. This gift is in honor of Steve Ward, all of you who protect Radnor Lake, and the long partnership Steve has fostered with The Chestnut Group," said the artist.

The painting, titled "Twins," was inspired by a pair of American bald eagles who in 2023 produced their 2nd successful fledge of offspring—marking the 400th newly registered bald eagle nest in Tennessee. The success of this bird's population at Radnor is due in part to the work of Steve Ward and our committed team of volunteers. When severe weather destroyed a nest in 2022, Ward and the team rescued the surviving eaglet and created a makeshift nest, allowing him to recover and eventually take his first flight.

"Kim, you and the whole Chestnut team have been real leaders in recognizing how the power of art can move people to conserve," Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Environment and Conservation Greer Tidwell said upon receiving the painting.

Friends of Radnor Lake and The Chestnut Group Board are both grateful to Kim Barrick for her beautiful donation. Kim, we are all forever indebted to you for your generosity and ongoing leadership!



Pictured L-R: Norm Miede, FORL Board Member; Lisa Luck, President Mack S. Prichard Foundation; Tina Corkum, Director FORL; John Froeschauer, retired Middle Tennessee Regional Interpretive Specialist.

Photo by Steve Ward



Kim Barrick



"Twins"

Photos by Weatherly Hulsey

FORL Preserving Mack Prichard's Legacy with \$3,500 Grant

n honor of Mack Prichard Day (March 31, 2024), Friends of Radnor Lake has provided a generous \$3,500 grant to the Mack Prichard Foundation to assist with the preservation of Mack's archives in 2024-2025.

This critical funding support from Friends of Radnor Lake was given due to remaining archival work that was unfunded and currently being done by John Froeschauer, State Historian Hobart Akin, Richard Connors and other volunteers to ensure the preservation of Mack's Legacy for Tennessee State Parks and State Natural Areas.

Friends of Radnor Lake is honored to have the opportunity to provide financial support to ensure all of Mack's work is preserved for future generations!

Photo by Steve Ward

All-Terrain Wheelchair Hikes

Story by Will Ferrell

y name is Will Ferrell. I have lived in Nashville all my life, about 10 minutes from Radnor Lake State Park. I've been going to Radnor since before I was born. It is so nice to have a little bit of nature so close to downtown Nashville and to my house. I went for many hikes along the road before the all-terrain wheelchairs were available. Now, the new wheelchairs make my time at Radnor more fun; I can go anywhere! My first experience with an all-terrain wheelchair was on August 29, 2023. This day was the dedication ceremony for the park's new all-terrain wheelchairs. A few months later I was able to take an extended 1-mile hike in one of the new wheelchairs.

My hike took place on New Years' Eve Day 2023. It was a beautiful afternoon. The temperature was in the 50s and the sun was shining. It was a wonderful way to end a year. The all-terrain wheelchair that I used was comfortable on my back. I did not even feel any bumps. The wheelchair has an attendant control on the back of it so someone can drive the wheelchair while walking behind me. I was lucky enough to have Park Ranger Steve Ward driving me on my New Years' Eve hike. My mother and my caregiver were following behind with Park Ranger Brandon Jarratt. The whole experience was life changing for me. I got to feel milkweed and several other different species of plants and grasses. They had some mint that I also got to feel and smell. I am very thankful that there were also some butterflies there. There are multiple species of plants and grasses on the property. There were also some amazing birds that I got to see and hear, too. Two of the eagles were talking to each other. That was the first time I heard that!

I did not know that Radnor owned the property south of the lake where we hiked that day. I did not know that Radnor is still acquiring land thanks to Friends of Radnor Lake, Landowners, and the State of Tennessee working together. Where we hiked, which is called the Hall Farm, there are two ponds. Radnor is in the process of restoring them back to native grasslands. I was one of the first people to get to see the amazing views on the farm.

If you haven't been to Radnor lately, I would definitely recommend going. It is one of my favorite places to go. I go back to Radnor in my mind whenever I am stressed out. I think about how amazing that hike was. Nashville has a great wonder of nature in Radnor. Everyone should try to go and hike Radnor. Now that they have multiple all-terrain wheelchairs to accommodate people with different mobility challenges, Radnor is even more accessible to Tennesseans and to visitors. There is even one wheelchair with tracks on each side like a bulldozer. The new amazing all-terrain wheelchairs that they have are available and can be reserved for free usually with just 24 hours' notice. You can reserve them by contacting Lyndy Maness (lyndy.maness@tn.gov) at the park office.

These amazing wheelchairs can navigate all of the varied surfaces at Radnor with ease. I've been on the Lake Trail, and it was so much fun. They have an accessible observation deck on the lake trail that lets hikers relax and observe the lake and wildlife. With my friend's binoculars I could see the eagles in their nest across the lake. We also saw beavers, two otters playing in the waters, and some mallards passing through. Tennessee State Parks hopes that all of their parks are accessible by 2030, however, Park Ranger Steve Ward wants Radnor to be the most accessible park by 2024. I think they are well on their way. On a recent visit to Radnor, as we were leaving, one of the rangers came over to the van window and asked us if we were able to find an ADA parking place. We have never been asked that anywhere before! I was amazed and very grateful to be asked that.

Writing this article was so easy for me because talking about Radnor is one of my favorite things to do. When I go to Radnor, I feel the presence of God and I feel very peaceful. It is probably one of the most peaceful places in the Nashville area. I don't feel like I'm in Nashville when I'm at Radnor. Maybe one day I will see you there!

If you would like to hear more about my adventures at Radnor, my email address is willf3@bellsouth.net

Photo below by Grant Collier



Photo below by Candie Ferrel



hoto below by Steve Ward







Volunteer Spotlight: Ann Tidwell

argaret Mead once said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

This is the thinking behind much of Ann Tidwell's work, who in 1971 set out to raise money with the newly-formed Radnor Lake Preservation Fund to save the area from being developed. Since then, Ann has continued to be an active member of the Friends of Radnor Lake board, inspiring and motivating others to protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

"Fifty years ago a small group of dedicated citizens met to try to save a beautiful lake and the surrounding wildlife habitat," Ann said, recounting her early days working for the park.

"We organized as the Radnor Lake Preservation Fund and began to spread the word about the uniqueness of the land and the importance of saving it from becoming just another residential development. We lobbied our senators and congressmen, engaged numerous state officials, led an extensive public relations effort, and mounted a huge fundraising campaign. Over three million dollars (24 million dollars in today's money) had to be collected in less than one year! Thankfully our efforts were successful, and Tennessee was able to purchase the initial core of approximately 700 acres to become the Radnor Lake State Natural Area."

But Ann didn't stop there. She continues organizing like-minded citizens, raising money for Radnor, or sitting on the Friends of Radnor Lake board of directors. With help from Ann and the board, we've been able to fund the volunteer program at Radnor Lake, build new bridges and construct the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center, as well as provide funding for special projects like the native grasslands initiative, eagle protection, and personal protection for park staff and visitors during COVID.

With a lifetime commitment to preserving natural habitats and promoting environmental education across Tennessee, Ann has helped create a wave of support from the community. After more than 50 years, she's still making waves. Today, Radnor Lake just wouldn't be the same without her continued involvement, leadership and guidance.

Thank You, Volunteers

hanks to all the volunteers that have offered their time and talent this past season! From trail maintenance to invasive-exotic plant removal, our dedicated team has played a huge part in keeping Radnor healthy. A generous grant from Nissan has helped to keep our volunteers fed and supplied with the tools needed to do this important work.





Photos by Steve Ward



Ann Tidwell

Photo by Weatherly Hulsey

Thank you, Ann, for more than 50 years of time, love and commitment to Radnor Lake State Natural Area!

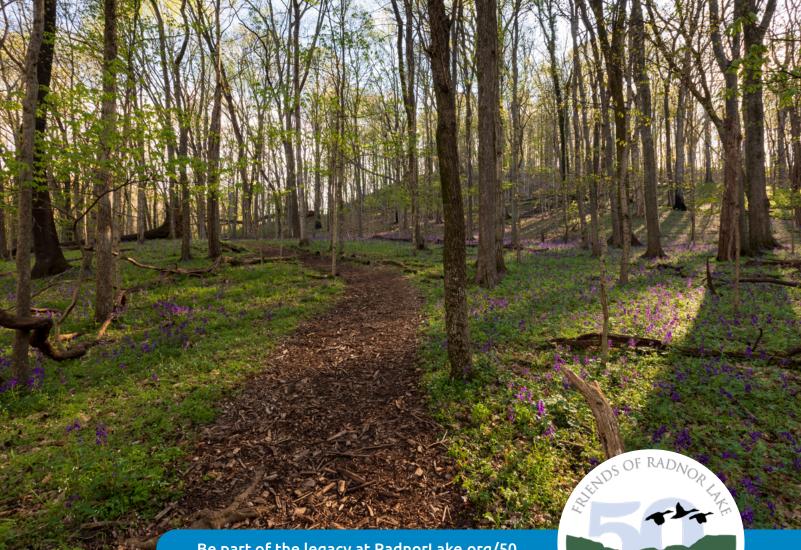


Photo by Robin Conove

Be part of the legacy at RadnorLake.org/50

Radnor Lake State Park 50th Anniversary

Help Radnor Lake Last **Another Lifetime**

t was all the way back in 1973 that, with the help of a group of passionate citizens, Radnor Lake was acquired by the state of Tennessee and officially declared a state natural area. Since then, millions have found the peace and inspiration of nature in this sanctuary, a mere 15 minutes from downtown Nashville.

Since then, Radnor Lake State Park has remained home to a diverse array of stunning species. Our unmatched biodiversity surrounds you at every trail head, with rare birds, playful otters and stunning butterflies ducking in and out of sight. Blanketing the terrain are hundreds of species of wildflowers, fungi and mosses entwining around the park, fostering a paradise for wildlife lovers and green thumbs alike.

Radnor Lake's success over the last half century is all thanks to private citizens. local landowners. scientists. the State of Tennessee—and the generous donors who contribute to

ensuring the health of this beautiful park. Donations help us expand the park's borders, fund ecological research projects and resource management, and ensure the continuation of education programs on the fascinating animal kingdom of Middle Tennessee.

Though we have multiple corporate and foundation partners, individual contributions allow us to meet and exceed our goals—ensuring Radnor Lake remains a thriving habitat for wildlife and its enthusiasts for centuries.

Let's keep the magic going. Here's to fifty more transformative years of protection, promotion and preservation!

To make a donation, please visit RadnorLake.org/50.

Upcoming Signature Events at Radnor Lake

MARCH 31: MACK PRICHARD DAY

If you've spent time in a Tennessee State Park, chances are Mack Prichard had a hand in creating or protecting it. As a dedicated state naturalist, Mack was instrumental in facilitating the acquisition of 24 different natural sites around the state—that eventually became Tennessee State Parks or additional acreage for natural areas. Since part of our work here at Radnor Lake is to acquire land and expand the park, we like to think we're continuing Mack's important work.

Each year we celebrate Mack Prichard's legacy through special interview screenings, interpretive programming and volunteer opportunities.



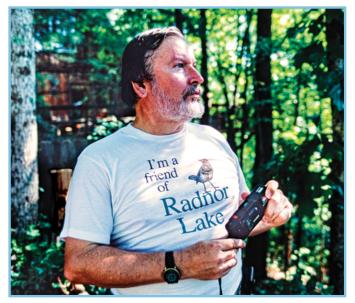
Photo by Steve Ward

JUNE 20: AMERICAN EAGLE DAY

Each year on June 20th, National American Eagle Day honors our national symbol, raising awareness and helping to protect the Bald Eagle. The day encourages both the restoration of eagle habitats and the continued education on this species' importance in our natural world. The Bald Eagle is both the national bird and the national animal of The United States of America—it even appears on our National Seal!

Over the past 6 years, Radnor Lake has held special programming opportunities for our visitors in celebration of American Eagle Day. Events include opportunities to view and learn about captive eagles (who are injured and cannot survive in the wild) at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center, and spotting scope programs to observe the wild population that lives within or sometimes visits the park.

Keep your eyes on our website for updates on this year's programming, or visit TNstateparks.com/parks/events/ radnor-lake



Mack Prichard wearing a Radnor Lake shirt

Photo courtesv of Jim R

MAY 27: RACHEL CARSON DAY

In 1962, Rachel Carson's book Silent Spring was released. The book, which spoke about the harmful effects pesticides like DDT have on the environment, helped shape the mindset of environmental professionals across the world. Her ability to articulate the depth of these pesticides' negative impact on birds of prey was groundbreaking—and without a doubt, we are still seeing the benefits of her work today.

We honor Rachel Carson's environmental advocacy through our work at The Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center, where our programming serves to educate visitors on the profound importance birds of prey play in our environment. To learn more about Rachel Carson and her impact in reshaping the thinking on the use of pesticides relative to the environment, visit the following link: RachelCarson.org



Photo by Robin Conover

2023 Donations and Contributions

Thank you to everyone who contributes to Friends of Radnor Lake in some way! Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated and help us further our mission to protect, preserve and promote Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

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Photo by Robin Conover

"Radnor is a gem among our busy and growing community. It allows me the space to disconnect from screens, take in the scenery and ground myself into the changing seasons. Donating means supporting the physical and mental health of my neighbors and sharing Radnor's magic."

— Jennifer Ruman

Monthly Giving

Jen is just one of the many donors who supports Radnor Lake through automatic monthly payments. These payments are quick, secure, and help provide Friends of Radnor Lake with a steady source of funds to support our important projects at the park. From land acquisition and trail maintenance, to invasive-exotic plant removal and habitat restoration, recurring donations support Radnor Lake in a lot of different ways.

Monthly contributions are automatically deducted from your designated credit card account until you tell us to stop or change it. Visit RadnorLake. org/50 to learn more about how you can protect land for future generations and make Tennessee a better place to live, work and play.



(continued from page 9)

Barbara & Roger Blankstein Richard & Beth Chapman Susan Chappell Mary Anne & Pete Collins Barbara Whiteman & Bill Compton Laurie & Jim Cooper Jackie Corbin Kayla Craig Nancy & David Crofford Don Crumpacker James A. & Regena H Crutchfield Bill Dale Allison Davis Nancy & Frank Deal

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Tracy Hill



Paintings from our Love the Lake, Love the Land art show

In Kind Donations

Our thanks to the individuals and businesses for support, gifts of their time or other resources. Your contributions enabled us to accomplish more than we could have otherwise.

Radnor Lake volunteers

Thank you for your time, hard work and good cheer!

Friends of Radnor Lake Board

Thank you for your invaluable gifts of time and professional services.

TN Specialty License Plate Owners

It may not seem like much, but specialty license plates generate a lot of important revenue for Radnor Lake! Those who have purchased a plate provide valuable funding for park support.

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Love the Lake, Love the Land contributors

Thanks to all of the volunteers from The Chestnut Group who painted, prepped and volunteered, helping make the art show a huge success and raising nearly \$50,000 to support Radnor Lake.

Special thanks to the following artists who donated paintings to the silent auction:

Elaine Allen Kim Barrick Donna Brumberts Margaret Cameron Kristin Condurelis Paula Frizbe Sheron Garrett-Dickerson Jean Gauld-Jaeger Carol Hall Sandra Harris

Brigitte Hubbard Bitsy King Suzanne LeBeau Faye Maynard Tane Miller Judson Newbern Mike Sowers Barbara Watson Betty Wentworth

Our thanks to the following for their generous contributions to our events:

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Scott Peterson Joanne Ward

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Volunteers at Radnor Lake Mr. & Mrs. Ken Maynard

Nancy Vye Allison Moore

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Planned Giving

Sustainability is core to our identity as an organization that supports the oldest State Natural Area in Tennessee. There are multiple definitions of sustainability. Two that are the foundation of our work at Friends of Radnor Lake are: 1) avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance and 2) the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level.

For more than 50 years, Friends of Radnor Lake (FORL) has existed to protect the natural resources on the land that is Radnor Lake State Natural Area. FORL partners with the State of Tennessee in supporting the land management goals that they identify as the most important in maintaining ecological balance at Radnor Lake.

Whether through individual donations, your purchase of a Radnor Lake license plate, your attendance at Radnor in the Round, or your purchase of a calendar, coffee, or art from the Chestnut Art Show, your donations enable us to do the work we believe in. With your help, the Friends of Radnor Lake have worked tirelessly for decades to ensure this wondrous place is protected and preserved for generations to come.

In order to continue this support at a certain rate, FORL is committed to being good stewards of the gifts we receive and to ensure that the support of friends like you leads to increased Photo by Robin Conover

sustainability. One of the ways we do this is through our planned giving program, which offers an opportunity to make a lasting impact at Radnor Lake by including Friends of Radnor Lake in your estate plans.

As we consider sustainability at Radnor Lake and the long-term protection of this jewel in the city of Nashville, we ask that you consider remembering Friends of Radnor Lake in your will. Regardless of the size of the gift, a direct bequest through your will or a charitable trust, or a designation as the beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan, life insurance policy or designated endowment fund are meaningful toward sustaining Radnor Lake beyond your lifetime.

Thank you for considering leaving a legacy for Radnor and the Nashville community. Such gifts greatly help Friends of Radnor Lake to continue our mission to protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake State Natural Area through land acquisition, environmental education and park support.

Thank you for protecting Radnor Lake, a rare natural resource, for future generations!



1160 Otter Creek Rd. Nashville, TN 37220

(615) 251-1471 FORL@radnorlake.org www.radnorlake.org

Our Mission: To protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake through land acquisition, environmental education and park support.

Friends of Radnor Lake was founded in 1971 when the lake and surrounding hills were threatened by residential development. As the Tennessee State Parks system's oldest and most successful nonprofit support group, FORL has purchased critical properties and supported protection efforts in many other ways.

friendsofradnorlake

O / FriendsofRadnor



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Your Support Makes A Difference



TN Specialty License Plates

Not only do Radnor Lake license plates raise awareness about our favorite state natural area, they also help fund mission-driven activities, including ongoing trail management, volunteer and education programs, and support for the aviary program at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center. License plate funding accounts for approximately \$50,000 of our annual revenue, providing critical funding to help further our mission to protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Search "specialty license plates" on tn.gov for more information. **RadnorLake.org/get-involved/ways-to-donate/**

Earn Kroger Rewards!

Sign up at **kroger.com**. Choose **WP565** Friends of Radnor Lake, and all your Kroger purchases will pay rewards!



No matter what Radnor Lake has given you, it's our time to give back to Radnor. Visit RadnorLake.org/50 to support our park expansion, environment and education projects.