

New green space coming to Carbondale in 2010

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CARBONDALE -- Nature lovers will have a few more trails to hike in 2010 thanks to newly protected land on Carbondale's northeast side.

The 126 acres of land were recently conveyed from the American Land Conservancy (ALC) to Green Earth, Inc. Green Earth will add trails and interpretive exhibits to the site and will open it to the public in early 2010. It will also serve as a habitat for six bird species consisting of the willow flycatcher, Bell's vireo, black-billed cuckoo, yellow breasted chat, Kentucky warbler and cerulean warbler.

"I just hope it offers another opportunity for people to get out and hike, bird watch and do some recreational activities," ALC Project Manager Elisa Royce said.

The land, directly adjacent to Attucks Park, will also preserve a habitat link with Crab Orchard Creek. Stephanie Eichholz, executive director of Green Earth, Inc., said when the trails are completed there will be signs along the paths describing the local wildlife and natural history of the area.

Eichholz said Green Earth manages five other sites in Carbondale, but this will be their first protected land in that area.

"This is fantastic," Eichholz said. "It gives us a presence in the northeast side of Carbondale."