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GOING WILD

*City expansion
could spell trouble
for Wilderness Park*

In 1973, an area of land in southwest Lincoln was designated for Wilderness Park.

Its primary purpose was to prevent any flooding of Salt Creek from entering the city of Lincoln. But the park has become more than just an example of how to control flooding in an economically and environmentally safe way. It has become a natural habitat for many different species of animals, plants and migratory birds.

But over the past few years, there has been pressure from developers to build into the area that has been used for flood control.

As Lincoln expands towards the southwest, land for building is in high demand. The number of permits to build in the flood plains area has increased drastically, leaving many people afraid of the effects this may have on the naturalness of Wilderness Park.

"The expansion of Lincoln never entered our minds when we first began planning the park," said Pat Rand, who helped write the first master plan for Wilderness Park. "We wanted to use it as a flood control area for Salt Creek. The woodland area was already there and that turned into the park. There was no consideration for any type of development to occur."

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