



IRVINE NATURE CENTER PURCHASES ADJACENT PROPERTY, DOUBLES IN SIZE TO NEARLY 210 ACRES

\$1 Million Gift from The Charles T. Bauer Charitable Foundation is Largest in Irvine's Recent History, Makes Purchase Possible

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OWINGS MILLS, MD (October 26, 2015) – Earlier this month, Irvine Nature Center settled on its neighboring property and became the new owners of 93 additional acres. The parcel of forest, meadows and wetlands was purchased thanks to a \$1 million gift from The Charles T. Bauer Charitable Foundation. This extension will be named Bauer Preserve at Irvine.

The land, formerly owned by Mr. Jonathan Farber, brings Irvine's total acreage to nearly 210 acres and will help create new and exciting opportunities for nature-based education, including year-round camping and multi-day learning. "We can really connect City kids to nature by using this land for overnight campouts," said Irvine Executive Director Brooks Paternotte. "Our new space feels removed enough for students to truly feel 'away from it all.' They will not run into any other groups while learning here." Irvine will be the only place in the region for these kinds of immersive camping experiences.

This special acquisition also doubled the amount of outside classroom space, which means more field trips and family hiking excursions can occur. "My family and I are real nature enthusiasts," The Charles T. Bauer's Charitable Foundation's Ted Bauer said. "So I'm thrilled to know that Bauer Preserve will soon be open to the public, year round, at no charge, in perpetuity."

Paternotte expects Bauer Preserve will open for Irvine's staff-led programs in spring 2016. The next phase of development will add trails that the public will be able to access in 2017.

Bauer Preserve is dotted with at least a half-dozen vernal ponds and is a key corridor for migratory birds and other wildlife. It will extend Irvine's hikes to 10 miles of trails, one of which will be called The Bauer Path.

About Irvine Nature Center: Celebrating its 40th anniversary, Irvine is an environmental education organization. Its mission is to educate and inspire current and future generations to explore, respect and protect nature. Irvine is located at 11201 Garrison Forest Road in Owings Mills, Md. Call 410-738-9200 or visit www.ExploreNature.org for more information.

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