



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Irvine Nature Center Celebrates the Opening of Bauer Preserve

The acquisition, made possible by a generous donation from The Charles T. Bauer Foundation, expands Irvine's footprint by 93 acres, Summer Solstice Festival and 5K planned to celebrate opening.

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Irvine Nature Center, one of Maryland's top environmental education nonprofits, is excited to announce the opening of Bauer Preserve. A generous million-dollar gift from The Charles T. Bauer Foundation allowed Irvine Nature Center to purchase the 93 acres of farmland adjacent to its property in 2016. "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."

The opening of Bauer Preserve is exciting for Irvine's current and future visitors, who will enjoy benefits like camping, hiking, nature walks, bird watching, and environmental education programming on the property; it's also a big win conservation efforts in Maryland. Since the purchase of the land, Irvine's team of naturalists and volunteers have worked tirelessly to convert the land into native wetlands, trails, and gardens.

Irvine is ready to reveal their years of restoration efforts and open Bauer Preserve to the public on Saturday, June 23, 2018. To celebrate, Irvine will be hosting their first-ever Summer Solstice Family Festival and Sunset 5K. With the help of community partners including Charm City Run, Constellation Energy, M&T Bank, Greenspring Associates, Webmason Marketing, Wegmans, and The Baltimore Ravens, Irvine is looking forward to opening Bauer Preserve.

You can learn more about Irvine Nature Center and the Summer Solstice Family Festival and Sunset 5K at www.ExploreNature.org or by calling 443-738-9200.

About Irvine's Summer Solstice Family Festival and Sunset 5K

Saturday, June 23rd 3:00pm – 10:00pm

Irvine's Summer Solstice Family Festival and Sunset 5K offers fun for the whole family! The Family Festival begins at 3:00pm and will feature nature crafts, face painting, live animal encounters, and lots of fun activities for kids. The Baltimore Oriole and Poe, the Ravens Mascot, will kick off a 1K Family Fun Run

starting at 5:00pm. This all-ages run is perfect for families looking for a fun, healthy activity that the whole family can enjoy. Charm City Run has organized Irvine's first Sunset 5K Trail Run, which begins at 6:45pm and will take race participants through 3.1 miles of scenic native trails at sunset. Both experienced racers and new runners are welcome! At the conclusion of the race, Irvine invites both festival participants and runners to an after party, featuring live Bluegrass from Aunt Melly's Band, local brews and food trucks. To purchase tickets to the Family Festival and register to run the Family Fun Run or the Sunset 5K Trail Run, visit www.ExploreNature.org.

About Irvine Nature Center

Located in Owings Mills, Maryland in the Caves Valley, Irvine Nature Center has emerged as a leader among Maryland's environmental education centers. Irvine serves more than 80,000 children and adults each year with more than 800 public and school programs. Irvine's green building and 210 acres of forests, meadows and wetlands are perfect for students, families and nature-lovers. Irvine's mission is to educate and inspire current and future generations to explore, respect and protect nature. Learn more at www.ExploreNature.org.

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