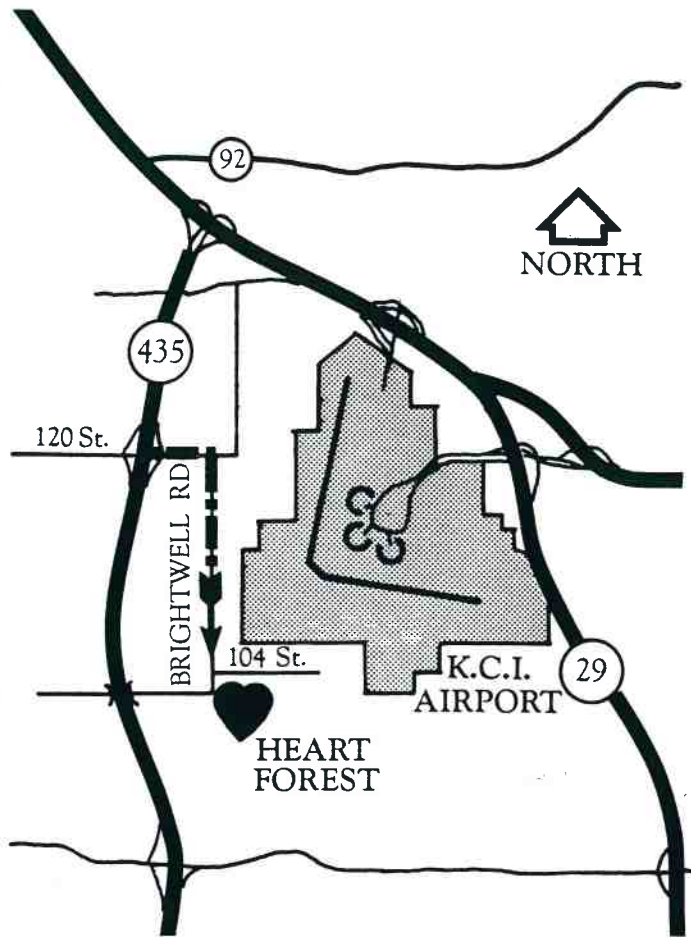


airports -
KCI



Take I-435 to the 120th Street exit. Go east on 120th Street to Brightwell Road. Go south on Brightwell to 104th Street.



T H E
HEART  FOREST

A Gift
 To The
 Generations

Missouri Valley
 Special Collections
 G. (110) Public Library
 Vertical File

The Heart Forest is a 22-acre project located southwest of Kansas City International Airport at 104th Street and Brightwell Road. Conceived as a symbol of the region's commitment to a national and global spirit of environmental rejuvenation, the Heart Forest has already attracted attention far and wide. When completed, it will include over 5,000 trees planted in the shape of a heart and surrounded by a field of native grass and wildflowers.

Following is a brief history of the project.

Early January, 1990. A steering committee is organized to develop a heart-shaped forest/garden in proximity to KCI Airport. Target date for completion of Phase I planting is April 28, to coincide with the 20th anniversary of Earth Week.

Late February, 1990. The committee selects a site design involving five concentric heart-shaped rings, with each section containing a different type of tree. The perimeter of the heart measures approximately 1,000 feet across making it almost twice as large as the St. Louis Arch.

Early March, 1990. Working closely with the Kansas City, Missouri Aviation Department, a site search is begun. Ultimately, a workable site is identified southwest of KCI. The land, however, is under lease to a local farming family.

March 29, 1990. Committee members meet with Charlie Peterson and his son Steve. Second and third generation farmers in the area, the Petersons enthusiastically embrace the idea. They volunteer their land and their help.

April 2, 1990. The Aviation Department agrees to lease 22 acres to the Heart Forest Foundation.

April 11, 1990. Five concentric heart-shaped rings are cut into the rich Missouri soil.

Early April, 1990. The committee begins a fund raising campaign by selling trees in the center of the forest at \$100 each. Contributors are able to designate a specific tree within the master site plan as theirs. Such designation is ultimately to be included in permanent signage at the site.

April 28, 1990. Over 200 volunteers turn out to plant over 350 cedar trees and 2,000 pine and hardwood seedlings. Phase I planting is complete.

Since that first Heart Forest Day, volunteers have gathered at the site every April and planted pine, oak, ash, hackberry, and redbud seedlings and saplings. To date, between 2,500 and 3,000 such trees have been planted. But more work is yet to come. By April of 1994, we hope to have 5,000 trees in the ground and moving toward survival. And soon thereafter, a carpet of native grasses and wildflowers will surround the heart-shaped forest, reaching to the extremes of the project site.

Conceived as an environmental statement and a symbol of the people and region, the Heart Forest will thrive if the environment and people who live here help it to do so. Fund raising efforts through individual tree sponsorships and corporate donations continue. Planting events and maintenance work days are building the family of volunteers smitten with the Heart Forest's magic. Even now, it stands as a testament to what can be done. What will be done in the future is in Nature's hands . . . and ours.

Won't you please consider a donation to the Heart Forest Foundation, c/o the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, 1055 Broadway, Suite 130, Kansas City, Missouri 64105.

For information call 816-756-0099 or write The Heart Forest, 3728 Holmes, Kansas City, Missouri 64109.