

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, Parks and Recreation Department  
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## BOYD HILL NATURE PRESERVE TAKES RAPTOR FEST VIRTUAL

**St. Petersburg, FL** (January 2021) – One of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve’s largest events, Raptor Fest, is going virtual for 2021. The St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, the nonprofit organization supporting the City of St. Petersburg’s preserve, present a new event, Raptor Fest @ Home, which will take place on Saturday, February 6, at 10 a.m. via Facebook at [www.facebook.com/stpeteparksrec](http://www.facebook.com/stpeteparksrec).

Raptor Fest @ Home will be interactive and educational with a schedule of events featuring the preserve’s Birds of Prey Program as well as question and answer sessions with preserve rangers. Individuals, businesses and schools are invited to “adopt” a bird of prey. Based on the amount contributed for the adoption, adoptees will receive recognition during the livestream as well as other perks. Boyd Hill Nature Preserve is home to 20 birds of prey, or raptors, deemed non-releasable by licensed rehabilitators and carefully vetted to ensure that they can be safely handled and used in educational programs. The St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve share responsibilities for the birds’ care and well-being.

For eight years, Raptor Fest has been held at the preserve in support of Boyd Hill’s Birds of Prey Program. The event raises more than \$10,000 and attracts over 5,000 visitors along with dozens of local vendors and environmental organizations. Due to COVID-19, the event will be virtual this year for the health and safety of our community.

For more information regarding the event or to adopt a bird of prey, visit [www.raptorfest.org](http://www.raptorfest.org) or contact Boyd Hill Nature Preserve at 727-893-7326.

### **About the St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department**

The St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department is nationally accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies, and with 17 recreation facilities, nine swimming pools, over 150 parks and more than 70 athletic fields, the department makes it a mission to preserve and enhance the city’s parklands and recreational facilities and engage the community in leisure activities. Visit [www.StPeteParksRec.org](http://www.StPeteParksRec.org) to learn more.

### **About the Friends of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve**

The Friends of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve is a nonprofit organization that works alongside the St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department and Boyd Hill Nature Preserve to promote awareness, educate the public and help protect the preserve. Visit [www.FriendsOfBoydHill.org](http://www.FriendsOfBoydHill.org) to learn more.

### **About Boyd Hill Nature Preserve**

Operated and maintained by the St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department, the 245-acre Boyd Hill Nature Preserve is home to the Lake Maggiore Environmental Education Center, Pinellas Pioneer Settlement, Environmental Studies Area and Birds of Prey Program. The preserve offers a variety of educational programs and recreational services for all ages, including camps, classes, events, tours and trails. Visit [www.boydhillpreserve.com](http://www.boydhillpreserve.com) to learn more.