Longevity isn’t a problem for nature. And the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation is working to make sure it can keep pace with what it’s pledged to protect.

Toward that goal the organization recently established the **Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden Friends Endowment Fund** through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“It’s not to be nickel and dimed, it’s for long time usage,” Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden Executive Director Jim Matheis said of the fund’s creation.

The first plantings for the Garden were made in 1936 and the Garden Foundation was established in 1952. Through the years the Garden has grown from 63 acres to 120 acres. The Garden is used for a variety of purposes including walks along the six miles of trails, educational programs, bird watching and special events. Last year more than 6,000 area children took part in programs at the Garden.

The group chose to utilize the Community Foundation because of its ability to generate interest in the group and the group’s efforts.

“The Community Foundation is becoming larger and more well known,” Matheis said. “We are hoping through the Foundation’s effort and place in the community some people would see that the Garden has an endowment fund and it might be a reason or a prompt to donate.”

The endowment fund with the Community Foundation is the second endowment established by the Garden. However, the original endowment fund, which has been in existence more than 30 years, is a restricted fund. The Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden Friends Endowment Fund will allow the board more flexibility in spending.

“The Friends Endowment Fund has two purposes, one to provide operating income and also to give us flexibility to use it if the board sees a purpose for it.”

Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden offers six miles of trails and is open to the public from sunrise to sunset daily.