Before the Rapid City Flood of June 9, 1972, the area which is now Rushmore Lions Nature Park was known as Jackson Park Subdivision. This was a residential area with 40 home sites and approximately 200 residents. The morning after the flood, only two houses were left standing and some 30 residents had lost their lives at various locations throughout the park and along the trail. One can see partial foundations and other remnants of those homes. This evidence has been preserved to memorialize those who lost everything during that tragic event.

In March 2006, the Rushmore Lion Club of Rapid City formally adopted a public service project to develop a nature park west of Canyon Lake, on land owned by Pennington County and the City of Rapid City. Subsequently, a former home site in the area was given to the Club by a private donor for this project. Through the combined efforts of the Rapid City Parks & Recreation Department and the Lions Club, a plan was developed and money was raised to make the Rushmore Lions Nature Park a reality. Formal approval was given by the Rapid City Common Council on February 16, 2010, and the first phase of trail building was completed June 30, 2010 by the Lions Club.

“We hope you enjoy the beauty and peacefulness of this unique area.”

Rushmore Lions Club