

What is Roberts Bird Sanctuary?

Located in Lyndale Park, Roberts Bird Sanctuary includes about 13 acres of woodland and wetland north of Lake Harriet and south of Lakewood Cemetery. At the request of the Minnesota Audubon Society, this area was officially designated as a bird sanctuary in 1936 by Christian Bossen, the third Superintendent of the Minneapolis Park system.

In 1947, the bird sanctuary was named for Thomas Sadler Roberts, a retired physician who became a professor of ornithology at the University of Minnesota and director of the University's Museum of Natural History.



The Sanctuary's visitors shelter is located at the east entrance (near the Peace Garden).

As part of the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Important Bird Area, Roberts Bird Sanctuary is recognized as a globally important habitat for the conservation of bird populations.

What is the present condition of the Sanctuary?

Like most natural areas in the park system, Roberts Bird Sanctuary has been considerably altered by non-native invasive species, urbanization and historical uses of the land. Both woodland and wetland areas within the Sanctuary are not regenerating well due to the competition and deep shade imposed by non-native invasive species, primarily glossy and common buckthorn. Some native wildflowers and shrubs still remain.

What is the Roberts Revitalization Project?

The project is a partnership formed in 2010 between the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB), Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM), East Harriet-Farmstead Neighborhood Association (EHFNA) and Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC).

What is the project goal?

The overall goal of the project is to enhance and protect this natural area as a sanctuary for birds by developing and implementing a long-term management plan. Enhancement activities are expected to include removal and management of invasive species and replanting native trees and other vegetation.



The Sanctuary's walking paths help visitors observe and enjoy the birds.

What is the plan and timeline?

The first step in the process of creating a long-term management plan for Roberts Bird Sanctuary will be to involve the community in identifying opportunities and priorities for enhancing the area. Three community meetings will be held to gather public input in the summer of 2010.

During the winter of 2010-11, MPRB staff members will provide technical input. Then ACM, EHFNA and LHiNC will work with MPRB staff to develop a long-term management plan to enhance and protect the Sanctuary.

The final plan will be presented to the Commissioners of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board for approval and adoption in the Spring of 2011.

How can you help?

You can support and participate in the Roberts Revitalization Project.

Provide input by September 15, 2010

Complete a survey: Online at www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org. Printed surveys are also available at the MPRB Environmental Operations office and at the Lyndale-Farmstead and Linden Hills community centers. Return printed surveys to ACM at P.O. Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Attend a community meeting:

August 9, 2010, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Lyndale-Farmstead Community Center
3900 Bryant Ave S Minneapolis

August 19, 2010, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Linden Hills Community Center
3100 43rd Street W Minneapolis

September 7, 2010, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Mayflower Congregational Church
106 E Diamond Lake Road Minneapolis

(Note: The September 7 meeting is the regularly-scheduled Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis program meeting. Public input will be followed by a program about the Sanctuary from 8 - 9 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the whole meeting.)

Volunteer

For information about volunteer opportunities, visit the ACM website at: www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org



Roberts Bird Sanctuary



Revitalization Project