



Who we are

- All volunteer, independent non-profit
- Founded in 2007
- Supported by memberships, private donations and grants

How you can help

- Become a member of the Friends
- Volunteer with the Friends
 - ◊ Member of the Board
 - ◊ Newsletter editor
 - ◊ Participate in Friends' activities such as field trips
- Volunteer with Maplewood Parks and Natural Resources
 - ◊ <https://maplewoodmn.gov/2090/Parks-and-Natural-Resources-Volunteer-Op>



Friends of Maplewood Nature

Partnership with ISD 622

In 2024, the Friends of Maplewood Nature initiated a partnership with the ISD 622 Education Foundation.

The Friends worked with the Foundation to expand a program offering mini-grants to teachers for creative projects. We hope this will be the beginning of a broader partnership to expand and improve educational programs about nature and the environment.





THE BOBOLINK, A SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED IN THE BATTLE CREEK GRASSLAND. PHOTO BY JOHN ZAKELJ

Friends help maintain and support community environment health

Preservation and maintenance of remaining natural areas in Maplewood is a key to our environmental health. The Friends have been working with other organizations to preserve natural habitat at the 77 acre **Battle Creek Grassland** next to the Ramsey County Correctional Facility and the 92 acre **former Ponds Golf Course**.

The significance of our work has been recognized by the Star Tribune in articles published 9/1/24 and 1/28/22. Final decisions regarding both properties are expected in 2025.



By K. Wachal

Supporting the Maplewood Nature Center

Friends Partnership With St. Paul Bird Alliance

(formerly St. Paul Audubon)

The Friends of Maplewood Nature recently received two grants totaling \$3,588 from St. Paul Bird Alliance for a **bird and pollinator garden next to Maplewood Nature Center**. Featuring a broad variety of beautiful native plants. Volunteers always welcomed!



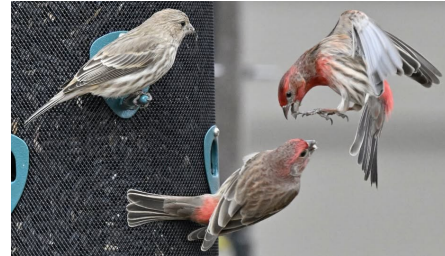
Greg Burns (St. Paul Audubon)
& John Zakelj (Friends)



Breaking ground



New Birdfeeder station



Tree Trek

Is a self-guided Tour along a path that leads visitors through the Maplewood Nature to find more than 30 tree & shrub species. At each tree in the Tree Trek a sign post with information regarding the specific species is installed. A QR code at each tree provides a map with more information about the tree.



Annual Gnome Challenge

Look for gnomes while enjoying a FREE, self-guided walk on the Maplewood Nature Center trails. Take a picture of your favorite gnome and submit it for a prize drawing!

Next Gnome Challenge is February 22-March 2.

Friends Social Media Links:

Friends of Maplewood Nature website:

<https://friendsofmaplewoodnature.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmaplewoodnature/>



Friends YouTube channel, which includes birding videos produced by Konnie Her:

<https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofmaplewoodnature6460/>

X (formerly Twitter) page: <https://x.com/MaplewoodNature?mx=2>

Maplewood Nature Camera Club:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/maplewoodnaturecameraclub/>

