

## 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.**



**Photo by Steve Meisel**



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!



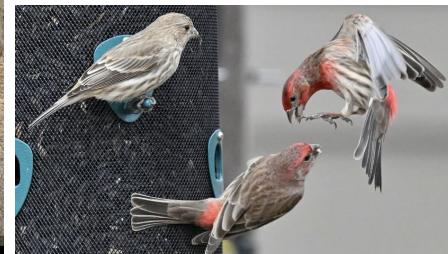
Breaking ground



New Birdfeeder station



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



## 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/>



By Jim Guy



By Steve Porter

