



## Wood Lake Nature Center

*Connecting all to the natural world today and for generations to come*

-  ESTABLISHED REGIONAL FACILITY
-  ESTABLISHED BIPOC COMMUNITY PARTNER
-  ACCESSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
-  PROVIDES CRITICAL HABITAT
-  LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
-  INVESTED IN THE FUTURE



# Wood Lake Nature Center

*Connecting all to the natural world today and for generations to come*

## ESTABLISHED REGIONAL FACILITY

- Built in 1971; it is one of Minnesota's oldest public nature centers.
- Over three miles of fully-maintained and groomed walking, ski, and snowshoe trails.
- 50-year environmental-education program, including partnerships with regional schools to incorporate naturalist-led programs into school science curriculum.
- Five full-time staff, including three full-time naturalists.
- Over 4,300 volunteer hours contributed annually by metro-area residents.
- An average 22,500 people attending programs each year, serving people from all areas of the Twin Cities metro area and beyond (including frequent visitors from greater Minnesota).
- Friends of Wood Lake fundraising group, formed in 1991, consisting of volunteers and members from across the region.

## ACCESSIBLE

- Highly accessible by regional and local bike trails, road and bus systems.
- Less than seven miles from the MSP airport, welcoming global travelers.
- Provides a central space for a diversity of community groups to meet.
- Free facilities and affordable programming.

## PROVIDES CRITICAL HABITAT

- 150-acre nature preserve, with wetland, prairie, and upland hardwood forest habitat; providing critical natural habitat in an urban setting.
- Includes restored prairie and the development of a showcase savanna ecosystem.
- Home to the endangered rusty patched bumble bee and several other rare species.
- Provides vital habitat for hundreds of animal species; and a key migration stop-over along the Mississippi Flyway for birds.
- Wetland holds increased regional storm water.

## LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Over 730 programs delivered each year.
- A research and training site for scientists, students and interns in the field.
- Reaches a diverse demographic across the region with inclusive, low-to-no-cost and engaging environmental education and recreational programming; connecting people to the natural world.
- Offers programming that increase wellness and decrease the stresses of urban life.
- Strong BIPOC community partner.

## INVESTED IN THE FUTURE

- Hosts numerous special events that draw participants from across the state.
- New \$16M sustainable building will provide improved learning facilities for environmental education, and increased opportunities for the improvement of public health and wellness.
- Larger space to host community groups and regional events, fostering social cohesion.
- Environmentally efficient and accessible building design to serve as a model to the region.
- Improved function and services.
- Bilingual education exhibits.



### WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER

6710 Lake Shore Drive S • Richfield, MN 55423  
612-861-9365

#### For more information, contact:

**Dr. Amy Markle**

*Recreation Services Director*

7000 Nicollet Avenue • Richfield, MN 55423

[amarkle@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:amarkle@richfieldmn.gov)

612-861-9394