



Wood Lake Nature Center

Connecting all to the natural world, now and for generations to come

-  LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
-  INVESTED IN THE FUTURE
-  ESTABLISHED REGIONAL FACILITY
-  ACCESSIBLE
-  PROVIDES CRITICAL HABITAT



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ESTABLISHED REGIONAL FACILITY

- Built in 1971, Wood Lake is one of Minnesota's oldest public nature centers.
- More than two 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 naturalists.
- More than 4,300 volunteer hours contributed annually by area residents.
- On average, 22,500 people attend programs each year, serving people from all areas of the Twin Cities metro 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.
- On average, 65% of Wood Lake visitors come from outside of Richfield.

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 750 programs delivered each year from award-winning staff.
- A research and training site for scientists, students and interns.
- Reaches a diverse demographic across the region with inclusive and engaging environmental education and recreational programming; connecting all people to the natural world.
- Offers programming that increase wellness and decrease the stresses of urban life.

INVESTED IN THE FUTURE

- Hosts numerous special events that draw participants from across the state.
- New \$24M 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.
- \$400,000 designated to renovating the trail system.
- Bilingual and multi-cultural education exhibits.



WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER

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