

Ecology of the Holloway-Beaver Creek Greenway

12,000 years ago, a sheet of ice nearly a mile thick covered the greenway. As this glacier retreated, it deposited sand, gravel, and rock, sculpting the rolling hills and carving out the pothole wetlands we see today. The geology of the area set the stage for the plant communities that evolved here. Remnants of the historic plant communities of this area are scattered throughout the greenway.



Oak woodland



Oak savanna



Prairie



Wetland

Animals in the Greenway

Wildlife is abundant in the greenway. Butterflies, dragonflies and countless species of insects call the greenway home. Songbirds migrate through, and some stay to nest. Hawks soar, waterfowl bob on the ponds, woodpeckers drill for insects, and turkeys parade through the oak woods. Painted and snapping turtles, salamanders, and garter snakes can be seen. Raccoon and woodchuck are common and if you're lucky you'll see red fox. Deer are over abundant for the available habitat and pose one of the management challenges for the greenway.



Stewardship of the Greenway

Whether you live in the greenway, or are just visiting, everyone can help care for and “grow the greenway.” Contact Maplewood Nature Center for information on how to get started at home or to volunteer at a park or preserve. Many residents in the greenway have left portions of their yards in natural vegetation, some are managing invasive species such as buckthorn, and some have planted native plants to extend habitat (and reduce lawn care!). Backyard habitat is critical to the greenway, increasing the acreage of natural land far beyond public open space.

On public lands, Master Naturalist volunteers have been working hard on projects at Southwood Park. Maplewood Nature Center has led contractors and countless volunteers on projects at Priory Preserve, Jim's Prairie, and more recently at Beaver Creek Preserve. Projects have included activities such as removing buckthorn, prescribed burns to invigorate fire-dependent landscapes, seeding prairie species, planting native shrubs and ground covers, and managing invasive species such as spotted knapweed and purple loosestrife.

Holloway-Beaver Creek Natural Area Greenway



Holloway-Beaver Creek Natural Area Greenway is one of four greenways in Maplewood. The

greenways are contiguous areas of habitat that include public and private land. They take a birds-eye view of habitat, linking smaller individual plots of habitat into a greater whole. Public lands in the greenway are open for passive recreation; private lands are not open to the public.

Recreation in the Greenway

There are many wonderful public sites to explore in the greenway. For more information on each, check the appropriate city or county park information.

- A Southwood Park, North St. Paul, 25 acres.** A nature park with ponds, wetlands, creek and upland forest. Volunteers have been working hard to restore native vegetation on the site. Mowed trails. Street parking on Holloway.
- B Holloway Marsh County Open Space, Ramsey County, 38 acres.** A wetland complex that includes some pockets of higher, drier land. There are no trails and the wetlands make access difficult. Street parking on Holloway.
- C The Passages, Oakdale, 30 acres.** Over half this site is wetland and there are no formal trails so access is difficult.
- D Priory Neighborhood Preserve, Maplewood, 46 acres.** One of the gems of the Maplewood Neighborhood Preserve system. A mowed trail passes through prairie, grasslands, oak woods, oak savanna, and by several types of wetlands. The city and volunteers have done several restoration projects on the site. Street parking on Larpenteur.
- E Jim's Prairie, Maplewood, 5 acres.** A tiny remnant wet prairie with high plant diversity. No trails. Call Maplewood Nature Center for orientation before visiting (651-249-2170).
- F Open Space north of Maryland, Maplewood and State.** Wetlands owned by the city. Access is difficult due to wetlands, except for one section of old trail from Maryland and Sterling, that leads north to Pondview Apartments.
- G Beaver Creek Neighborhood Preserve, Maplewood, 9 acres.** A narrow preserve along Beaver Creek. The city is restoring prairie vegetation and enhancing the woodlands on the site. A bituminous trail along the creek makes it very accessible. Street parking on Sterling, south of Maryland.
- H Beaver Lake County Park, Ramsey County, 55 acres.** Features Beaver Lake and picnic and play areas. A bituminous trail circles most of the lake leading visitors along the wooded shore. Parking lot and rest room on the west shore.

For More Information

www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/greenways
 Maplewood Nature Center Programs: 651-249-2170
 Maplewood Natural Resources Coordinator: 651-249-2416
 Maplewood park maps: www.ci.maplewood.mn.us, 651-249-2007
 County park maps: www.co.ramsey.mn.us, 651-748-2500

