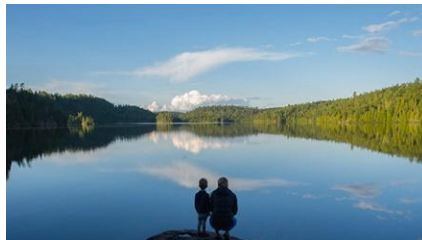


Enjoy Some Wilderness in the City

We're proud to announce we are bringing the **Wild & Scenic Film Festival** to the Twin Cities

Please join us on December 9! All proceeds support our natural resource stewardship, advocacy, and outreach work to keep our regional parks *our wilderness in the city* spaces. **Tickets and info at wildernessinthecity.org**

Featuring our own Minnesota Wild & Scenic film, The Arrowhead Traverse, introduced by Maura and Bobby Marko who are featured in the film.



Wild & Scenic focuses on films that speak to the environmental concerns and celebrations of our planet which is a natural extension of Wilderness in the City's work to inspire people to act on behalf of the environment starting in their own backyard. Because preserving high quality, nature-based opportunities throughout the metro's regional parks system is critical to inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.



DECEMBER 9
6 pm DOORS
7 pm FILMS

SURLY BREWERY
520 MALCOLM AVE SE
MINNEAPOLIS

- 14 FILMS
- DRAWINGS FOR OUTDOOR GEAR
- CASH BAR
- FREE PARKING

A BENEFIT FOR & HOSTED BY



TICKETS INFO
WILDERNESSINTHECITY.ORG

\$10 IN ADVANCE
\$15 AT THE DOOR

CITY PAGES



Get Excited about Winter!



Save the dates: November 22nd, 23rd, 24th

Stop by our booth at the
Outdoor Adventure Expo

Nov 22-24 | Fri 2-9 * Sat. 9-6 * Sun 10-5

Visit with dozens of Exhibitors, attend free presentations and enjoy camaraderie with thousands of other outdoor enthusiasts.

Stop by our booth and ask us about our Pollinator Garden Project!

Midwest Mountaineering
309 Cedar Ave., So., Minneapolis
www.outdooradventureexpo.com

Increasing High-Quality Pollinator Habitats across the Metro

Problem: Extensive areas of manicured and treated turf throughout the regional parks system offers nothing for our bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.



Opportunity: This is where we see an opportunity to transition areas of turf into native pollinator gardens.



Result: A mosaic of high-quality habitats across the metro region for our bees, butterflies, and other critical pollinators.



Toward this goal, we are delighted to announce that *Wilderness in the City* has been recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for a state grant during the 2020 legislative session through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. If approved by the legislature, this grant will allow us to create ten native pollinator gardens in regional parks across the metro. Thank you LCCMR members and staff!

Learn more about how you can help support our "Turf to Pollinator Gardens" project at www.wildernessinthecity.org.

The Legacy of Nature Campaign

Photos below (left) exemplify the potential of our Metropolitan Regional Parks System to provide high-quality habitat for wildlife and Nature-based opportunities for people.

Managed with a natural resource lens, these parks will can serve as gateways to nature to underserved communities, and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. That potential, however, is at risk.

Recent photos (right) from regional parks throughout the metro indicate the trend for regional parks is increasing infrastructure, turf, hard surfaces and lack of invasive species management all of which fragment wildlife habitat, diminish ecosystem health, impair climate resilience, and mar the Nature-experience.

Gateways to Nature OR... Pave paradise, put up a parking lot



REGIONAL PARKS TRIVIA

The regional parks are one component of a greater recreation and open space system that includes city, county, state, and federal parks and, open space areas, as well as private facilities. All these other facilities and services complement the regional parks system. The metro regional parks cannot, and were never intended to provide all the metropolitan area's recreational opportunities.

When was the regional parks system established?

In the early 1970s, the Minnesota state legislature, in recognition of the rapid development in the Twin Cities metro area, voted for setting aside of some of the last remaining tracts of open space for preservation and protection to provide for the public's outdoor recreation. Thus began the regional park system.

Why are the parks referred to as a Nature-based?

The regional park system is a Nature-based system consisting of more than 55,000 acres within 64 parks. The parks include scarce natural resources such as habitats for endangered species, fens, forests, prairies, savanna, wetlands and water resources. Over half of the regional park acreage, 30,700 acres, have been designated as "regionally significant ecological areas." The regional parks are the metro area's "state parks".

What is the benefit of a nature-based parks system?

The benefits of the Twin Cities' metro regional park system are many including "Nature Rx" which provides stress reduction, attention restoration and improved cognitive functioning.

The regional parks system also provides habitat for Wildlife, biodiversity enhancement, urban heat island mitigation, climate resilience, stormwater management and improvements to air and water quality.

Nature needs your help! Join our Legacy of Nature Action Network (LONAN)

Help our Nature-based parks reach their full potential for now and future generations of people and wildlife by joining our Legacy of Nature Action Network.

As a LONAN member, you will receive timely information when decisions are pending, including draft comments to submit and notice of public meetings to attend. The amount of time required will be what you can provide, 30-minutes or more per month -- anything you can offer will be helpful and appreciated. Thank you!

- Join: Send an email to info@wildernessinthecity.org with your request to join LONAN.
- Learn more: Visit our Legacy of Nature web page
- Tell Others: Share this information with others who may be interested

Improving Lebanon Hills...Naturally!

We are delighted to announce that on Tues., Oct. 29, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners formally adopted the Natural Resources Management Plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park.



- Approval of this plan marks a significant change from previous decades and will help to assure that Lebanon Hills reaches its highest possible potential as a high-quality and unique Nature-based destination.
- In years ahead, this special place will continue to offer visitors respite from the built environment, inspire the next generation of environmental stewards, and provide valuable habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife.

Thank you to all who attended open houses and submitted comments. Your input made a difference for the final version of this plan.

Sincere thanks to **Dakota County Parks natural resources staff** for their thoughtful and passionate efforts to improve the natural elements of this beloved park. And to the **Dakota County Board**, we are most appreciative of your support and commitment to successfully implementing this plan in years ahead.

Update: Power Line Upgrade in Lebanon Hills

Great River Energy is starting work to upgrade an existing transmission line in Lebanon Hills.



Image above shows the power lines that bisect Lebanon Hills from Cliff Rd., south to 120th. All above ground structure will be removed, and the corridor will be restored to native vegetation.

- The project includes establishment of native polinator-friendly habitat within the transmission line easement area along Cliff Rd., which is the northern border of the park.
- The upgrade will allow for the retirement and removal of the existing Xcel Energy line that currently bisects Lebanon Hills.
- The now retired lines will be removed, and the corridor will also be restored to native vegetation.
- Construction is expected to be completed during Winter 2019/2020 with restoration and establishment of native vegetation scheduled Spring 2020-Fall2022.

Additional info: greatriverenergy.com/project/lebanon-hills-area-115-kv-project/

What does "Forever Wild mean to you?"

Dakota County Parks is gathering feedback to grow and improve park services and activities.

On or before December 19, we encourage all to participate in the online survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/6VSQZMG



Spring Lake Park Reserve

Dakota County is updating the 2003 Spring Lake Park Reserve master plan. The county has already secured \$3 million in funding for master plan improvements.

It's been our experience that when funds are acquired prior to public involvement, input received after the fact often has little, if any, influence in the final decisions. As such, during 2018-19, Wilderness in the City opposed this funding request until after the public input process. Regardless, the Dakota County Board, the Metropolitan Council and the State Legislature all approved this funding request -- essentially approving funds for undesignated projects.

An open house was held at Spring Lake Park Reserve on October 14. The Dakota County Planning Commission will review the findings at their meeting on Nov. 21. Additional opportunities for public involvement are expected.

This park's location along the Mississippi River makes it especially valuable for migrating birds.

We urge Dakota County to view decision-making through a natural resource lens. Especially for our valuable nature-based parks, Nature needs to be integrated with recreation opportunities – not diminished.

"We will be known forever by the tracks we leave" ~ Native American Proverb

News from Darvan Acres Nature Center

2019 has been an amazing year for Darvan Acres Nature Center!

Dakota County made progress this year on eliminating invasive species on the property and the Darvan Acres team is about to plant three acres with Native Prairie grasses and flowers from seeds sourced from Pheasants Forever.



Vance Grannis, recipient of Wilderness in the City's inaugural Legacy of Nature Award, made a personal project of building eight log benches and he personally selected the perfect spot on the property's trails for each bench to be placed.

"The locations provide beautiful overlooks and I'm sure for many years to come hikers will appreciate the chance to sit and reflect on the beauty of the land."

In 2020, Darvan Acres will build on the momentum that has been generated. "Planting more acreage with native grasses and flowers will be a goal!"

Learn more at darvanacresnaturecenter.org

Our congratulations and thanks to Darvan Acres and the Grannis family.

Thank You Volunteers for a successful 2019 season!

Many hours invested by volunteers and natural resource staff has had a significant positive impact for our native flora and fauna, and improved habitat for wildlife.



We are pleased to continue supporting natural resource events in Lebanon Hills. Visit the volunteer page of our website, which will be updated later this winter for 2020 including opportunities to help create native pollinator gardens across the metro with our "Turf to Native Garden" Project!"

Bison may once again roam in Dakota County.



Dakota County is researching the affects of reintroducing bison to a Dakota County park.

Bison, a keystone species, help create habitat on the Great Plains for many different species, including grassland birds and even many plant species. As bison forage, they aerate the soil with their hooves, which aids in plant growth, and disperse native seeds, helping to maintain a healthy and balanced ecosystem.

Over the last decade, the conservation community has contributed significantly to bison conservation, helping to bring back America's national mammal, allowing for the species to once again play an important ecological role on our prairie grasslands.

Wilderness in the City

Dedicated to preserving and enhancing urban natural areas for future generations of people and wildlife.

Far too often, natural space in urban areas is viewed as empty and needing to be filled, or is left unmanaged and degraded.

We have a different vision.

Our nature-based regional parks system is filled with opportunities for environmental education, low-impact recreation, and valuable wildlife habitat. They offer places for respite, close to home and accessible to all, from the built world around us.

Support our Efforts

We are a grassroots, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization fully supported by your donations. All donations are 100% tax-deductible. Thank you for your support!

Stay Informed

Visit www.wildernessinthecity.org

Join our email list

"Like" us on Facebook

Our Board

Holly Jenkins, President
Maryann Passe, Vice-President
Barry Shillingford, Treasurer
Barry Graham, Secretary
Mike Fedde
Paul Mandell
Jean Oberle
Wendy Paulsen

Interested in joining our Board?

We'd love to hear from you!

Contact us at

wildernessinthecity@gmail.com

**Wilderness in the City
is a proud member of**



**Minnesota
Environmental
Partnership**