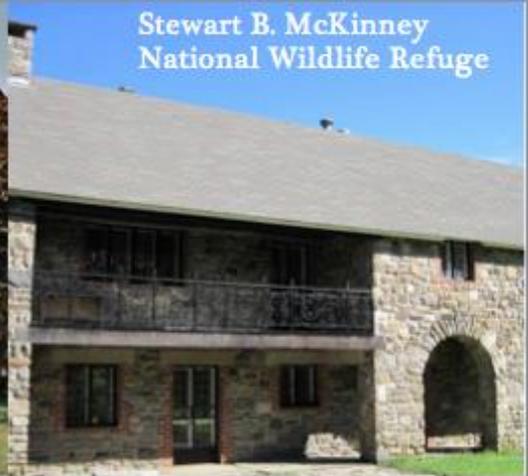


Yale Peabody  
Museum



New Haven Department of  
Parks, Recreation, & Trees



Stewart B. McKinney  
National Wildlife Refuge

## The Cherry Ann Project – Improvements to Beaver Ponds Park

### Trail Blazing



On Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 the New Haven Harbor Watershed Urban Wildlife Refuge Partners dug in their hands to break ground at the new section of Beaver Ponds Park.

During the week, heavy equipment shaped the new trail for the park. The loop is approximately a quarter of a mile, and is intended to serve as a wildlife-viewing trail. It will be handicap accessible and bicycle friendly. Spur trails will be added to access not only Cherry Ann Street, but also the greater Newhallville community, Southern Connecticut State University and King/Robinson Magnet School.

Along the wildlife viewing trail, wayside exhibit panels will be installed to highlight the urban wildlife that can be found in the park. Early in the morning on the first trail-building day, a deer family was spotted foraging for food, right in the urban sprawl of New Haven.

After the initial trail work, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also installed a fishing platform on the Beaver Pond at the edge of the park where carp are stocked.

All of this work is being put into what was a “forgotten section” of the park, in the hope that the community will embrace the urban wildlife that thrives around them. Animals come to urban areas in search of food and shelter, and humans can help them by giving them green spaces to feed. Beyond helping the wildlife found in cities, they also add a bit of excitement to an observer’s day. Who would not enjoy seeing a nest full of robin chicks, or fawns grazing in a grassy meadow?



More improvements to the park will be added in the near future, including playgrounds and gardens. The trail blazed is a humble start for the excitement that is yet to come.