



---

## MINNEAPOLIS AND SAINT PAUL URBAN CONSERVATION TREATY FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS Planned Activities

Urban Bird Treaty (UBT) projects will focus on three main areas:

- 1) Bird habitat enhancement along the Mississippi River.
- 2) Increased education about birds through citizen science programs, interpretive signs, and youth engagement.
- 3) Implementation of Audubon Minnesota's City Bird Plan.

**Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board** will utilize UBT funding to enhance bird habitat at North Mississippi Regional Park and BF Nelson Park. Both sites will include native plant demonstration areas adjacent to main trails and feature educational materials to raise awareness of the important role native plants play in sustaining and sheltering birds. In the last two years significant efforts have been made at both parks to remove invasive species from the floodplain forest, woodland or prairie. These degraded natural areas will be greatly enhanced as bird habitat by planting native species as part of the UBT project. With adult supervision, youth crews will complete the work. The Central Mississippi Riverfront, which is where BF Nelson Park is located, serves more than 1.5 million visitors each year. North Mississippi Regional Park serves approximately 210,000 visitors annually.

**Saint Paul Parks and Recreation** will utilize UBT funding to enhance the trailhead and trail rest areas at Harriet Island-Lilydale Regional Park by creating a cohesive birding trail along the pull-offs along Harriet Island-Lilydale Regional Trail and at the Lilydale Fossil Yards trail head. In addition, permanent spotting scopes will be placed in Lilydale Regional Park specifically for viewing birds and wildlife along the Mississippi River.

**Audubon Minnesota** will utilize UBT funding to implement the City Bird Plan to be completed in May 2011. The City Bird Plan (the Plan) will highlight the unique needs and challenges of sustaining birds in the Twin Cities. The main objectives of the Plan are to interest and engage urban residents in bird conservation, enhance and protect metro habitats for birds, and continue to reduce hazards to birds. The Plan will identify strategies for improving opportunities for both local residents and visitors to the metropolitan area to appreciate and learn about urban birds, the hazards they face and the incredible opportunities that come with being located on the Mississippi Flyway. Implementing the City Bird Plan will include working closely with stakeholders to ensure priority strategies are addressed. Audubon Minnesota will work with local Audubon chapters and UBT partners to educate residents about both the importance of keeping cats indoors and the vital role of native plants to sustaining birds.

**GOAL: Bird habitat enhancement along the Mississippi River**

**Partners:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board, National Park Service, Three Rivers Park District, Friends of Lilydale, Conservation Corps Minnesota, Audubon Minnesota

**Objective:** Enhance habitat for birds at BF Nelson Park, North Mississippi Regional Park, and Lilydale Regional Park.

**GOAL: Increased education about birds through citizen science programs, interpretive signs, and youth engagement**

**Partners:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, University of Minnesota, Three Rivers Park District, St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board, Conservation Corps Minnesota

**Objective:** Increase education through citizen science programs; engage visitors at the Carl Kroening Interpretive Center at North Mississippi Regional Park; develop interpretive signs at North Mississippi Regional Park and Lilydale Regional Park.

**Objective:** Increase education through youth engagement to restore birding habitat at BF Nelson Park, North Mississippi Regional Park, and Lilydale Regional Park.

**GOAL: Implement Audubon Minnesota's City Bird Plan**

**Partners:** Audubon Minnesota, Minnesota DNR, National Park Service, Ramsey County Parks

**Objective:** Continue to reduce bird hazards (buildings, cats, building collisions).

**Objective:** Interest and engage urban residents in bird monitoring and conservation.

**Objective:** Enhance and protect metro habitats for birds.

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>UBT FUNDS</b>	<b>UBT PARTNER MATCH</b>
Enhance bird habitat Minneapolis' North Mississippi Regional Park	UBT funds will be used to purchase native plant materials. Youth crews will do the planting.	\$10,000	\$16,053 (Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board - MPRB)
Enhance bird habitat in Minneapolis' BF Nelson Park	UBT funds will be used to purchase native plant materials. Youth crews will do the planting.	\$10,000	\$15,053 (MPRB)
Educate citizens about birds and the importance of native plant species to them at Minneapolis' North Mississippi Regional Park	UBT funds will be used for interpretive signs.	\$2,500	\$694+ (MPRB)
Educate citizens about birds and the importance of native plant species to their survival at Minneapolis' BF Nelson Park	UBT funds will be used for interpretive signs.	\$2,500	\$694+ (MPRB)
Implement priority objectives and strategies in Audubon Minnesota's Twin Cities City Bird Plan	UBT funds will be used to communicate City Bird Plan strategies and priorities to stakeholders involved in bird conservation, including education/appreciation of birds in the Metropolitan area, and reduction of urban bird hazards (building collisions, cats).	\$20,000	\$20,000 (Audubon Minnesota)
Purchase of educational programming materials	Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will foster environmental stewardship in the public through bird-focused educational programming and volunteer opportunities in the Regional Parks.	\$4,000	\$4,900 (Saint Paul)
Development of the Lilydale Birding Trail	Basic trail pull-offs will be transformed into a cohesive birding trail immediately adjacent to the Mississippi River and within Lilydale Regional Park.	\$21,000	\$2,000 (Saint Paul)
Habitat restoration and invasive plant management in St. Paul	The City of Saint Paul is committed to ongoing habitat restoration and invasive plant management within the city's high quality natural areas along the Mississippi River.		\$38,625 (Saint Paul)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$98,019</b>