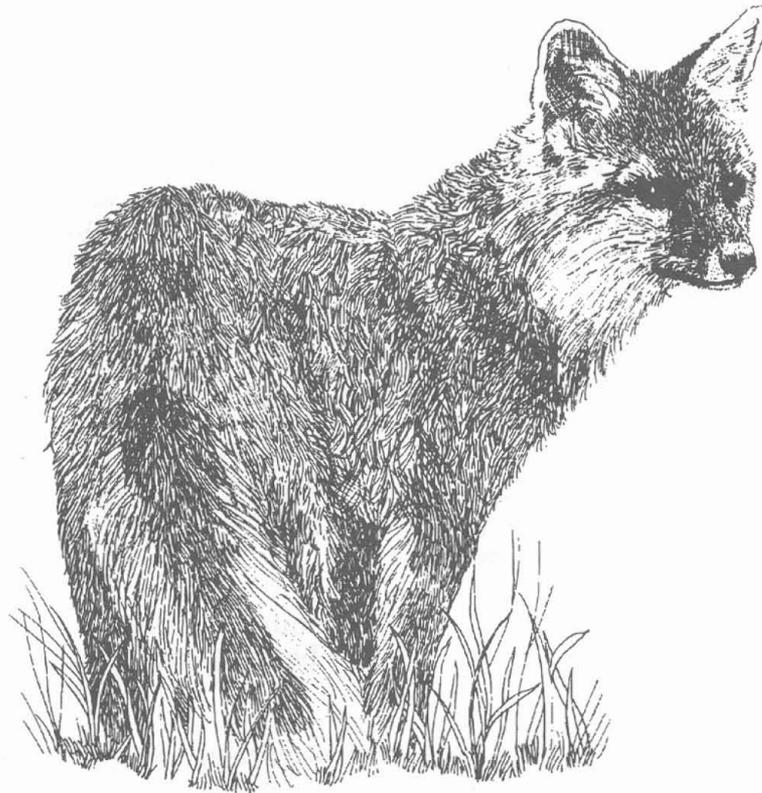

Two Ponds Refuge Mission, Goals, and Objectives



Two Ponds Refuge, along with other refuges, contributes to the accomplishment of the goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Appendix A). The goals and objectives of Two Ponds Refuge ensure that activities and programs are responsive to Refuge purposes and consistent with the National Wildlife Refuge System goals and policies.

Two Ponds Refuge Mission

Two Ponds Refuge was acquired under the authority of the Emergency Wetland Resource Act of 1986 (P. L. 99-645):

“It is the purpose of this Act to promote, in concert with other Federal and State Statutes and programs, the conservation of the wetlands of the Nation in order to maintain the public benefits they provide and to help fulfill international obligations contained in various migratory bird treaties and conventions...”

The Two Ponds Refuge mission is to protect and enhance urban wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for environmental education. Specific purposes are:

- To restore, enhance, and preserve a diversity of upland and wetland habitats for migrant and resident wildlife, fish, and invertebrates,
- To provide opportunities for environmental education with emphasis on the inherent values of wetlands and wildlife in an urban environment, and
- To provide interpretive facilities and opportunities related to wildlife such as viewing, study, and photography.



Goals and Objectives

Wildlife Goal

The Two Ponds Refuge will provide breeding, wintering, and migration requirements for waterfowl and other migratory birds within guidelines of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, in consultation with the Central Flyway and state plans. The Refuge will attract and maintain species representative of the indigenous wildlife community including birds, small mammals, and fish.

Objectives

Upland Management

- The Refuge will restore and manage upland areas for native species for the benefit of endemic bird nesting and other life requirements. Upland areas will be restored to 80 to 90 % native grass to include a mix of western wheatgrass, green needlegrass, and needle-and-thread grass. Blue grama and switch grass will be planted on and just below slopes.

Woodland Management

- The Refuge will maintain a canopy of trees and brush along both sides of the Church Ditch Canal (outside the ditch company easement), on the parcel between the Farmers High Line and Croke Canals, and along pond banks. These trees consist of cottonwood, willow, and various other deciduous species. A stand of pine, spruce, and deciduous trees located between the sites of the former Lighter and Marshall residences, along with the aforementioned trees, will be maintained and managed for resident and migratory bird nesting and other habitat requirements.

Aquatic Resources

- The Refuge will maintain three permanent water bodies (approximately 1.5 acres combined surface area). These ponds will provide a food source for wading and shorebirds, provide educational opportunities for environmental education classes, and will be managed to promote mosquito control on the Refuge.



- The Service will manage wetlands on the Refuge to achieve a 15% vegetation coverage on the surface of all three ponds. A 15% aquatic vegetation level will provide adequate cover for forage fish and will provide easy access to vegetation-free surface water for educational programs.

Public Use and Environmental Education Goal

The Refuge will provide opportunities and physical facilities to support a balanced mixture of environmental education programs and wildlife-oriented activities by the general public.

Objectives

Public Use:

- The Refuge will provide opportunities and facilities for the general public to increase their understanding and appreciation of wildlife resources and their awareness of

the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and to make available limited non-consumptive wildlife-oriented activities.

Environmental Education

- The Refuge will provide opportunities and facilities to integrate environmental concepts and concerns and urban wildlife issues into hands-on educational activities and curricula for students, especially those in schools located near the Refuge.



