

News Release

St. Louis Audubon Society
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Restoration Partnership Underway at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park

Maryland Heights, Mo.: The St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation and partners have begun a habitat restoration project on the north and west sides of Mallard Lake in Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park. The three-year project plans to convert at least 50 acres of manicured lawn and degraded habitats to native trees, shrubs, prairie, and wetland plants.

The habitat restoration efforts will include removing invasive plant species, enhancing parts of the Mallard Lake shoreline, planting pollinator gardens, and developing prairie, woodland, savanna, and wetland areas. The project aims to restore habitat and maintain the health of the park's ecosystem, as well as create a beneficial, educational, and natural experience for park visitors to enjoy.

A significant objective of the project is to educate and involve the community in local natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation. Partners will work with local schools, youth groups, non-profit organizations, and volunteers to enhance wildlife habitat at the park and provide environmental education for local youth and families.

The public can assist with the project at two upcoming community volunteer days to remove invasive bush honeysuckle on March 14 and April 11 near Mallard Lake, from 9 a.m. to noon. For complete details, see the St. Louis Audubon Society event calendar at www.stlouisaudubon.org.

Recently the Missouri Department of Conservation awarded the project a \$20,000 Community Conservation Grant. Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is assisting through the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program with a goal to connect urban residents with nature.

Partners involved in this project include St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation, St. Louis Audubon Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, Forest Re-Leaf of Missouri, Missouri Master Naturalists, Wild Ones- St. Louis Chapter, and the Creve Coeur Lakehouse. There are also opportunities for schools to become involved.

For more information on the habitat restoration project or to participate in volunteer work days, contact Mitch Leachman as noted above.

Founded in 1915, St. Louis Audubon became the first affiliated chapter of the National Audubon Society in 1944 and shares its vision to create a community connection to nature through education and conservation. With a focus on birds, St. Louis Audubon provides the general public with classroom education programs, field trips, and hands-on conservation projects. Representing over 3,000 members in the 10 county area of Greater St. Louis, it is the largest Audubon chapter in the state of Missouri.