

# **Saint Paul Audubon Society**

## **Grant Application and Project Proposal**

**Organization:** Friends of Maplewood Nature Center and Preserves

**Tax ID#:** 1455153

**Fiscal Agent (optional):**

**Tax ID# (optional):**

**The person making the request:** John Zakelj; President Board of Directors

**Email:** jzakelj@yahoo.com

**Phone:** 651-239-4119

**Project name:** Maplewood Nature Center Bird and Pollinator Viewing Area Phase II

**Amount requested:** \$1614.00

**Date of request:** September 9, 2024

**Date funds needed:** 4/01/25

**A brief overview of the organization, including its mission statement (links to information are acceptable):** <https://friendsofmaplewoodnature.com/>

**A description of the project, including location, activities, goals, timeline, and expected completion date (or is it for operational expenses?):**

Maplewood Nature Center has had an indoor bird viewing area for over 20 years. The area is set up with binoculars, bird information, nests and some taxidermy. This area has been used for classes when it has been too cold to conduct a bird hike outside, or when differently-abled participants were unable to hike the trail. An Eagle Scout installed a bird feeding station in the summer of 2021, vastly improving the experience for visitors.

For Phase II of this project, we propose additional plantings in Viewing Area 1, north of the visitor center building, which we began converting to native plants for birds and pollinators. This would increase density of native plants to fill in the area with floral sources quicker and reduce colonization of weedy plants and maintenance. The northeast corner of Area 1 remains largely unplanted after Phase I.

Doing away with mowing in this small area has already cut down on maintenance staff time, unnecessary fossil fuel use and resultant air pollution.

Phase II planting in Area 2 will also increase density and options of seeds for birds in the preserve. The square footage of each area will remain the same as in Phase I.

**If approved, will these dollars be the sole funding mechanism for this project? If not, please**

**list other partners and funders.** City staff have dedicated time, mulch, seed and rabbit repellent for this project. We plan to continue to partner with existing Friends, City and recruit new volunteers for installation.

**Which of SPAS's priority focus areas does this project address?** This project addresses SPAS's education and conservation focus areas. Providing wildlife viewing alternatives for differently-abled visitors also addresses the advocacy focus area.

**Is this a one-time request, or are future requests anticipated? (Include frequency):** This is a request for Phase II of Phase I and II.

**How will you determine whether the project is successful?** Success will be determined by the establishment of installed native plants and the use of the areas by pollinators, birds and observing visitors.

**Who will benefit from this project, and how will you measure these benefits?**

Visitors will benefit from accessible and enhanced native plantings providing unstructured wildlife viewing opportunities. Class instructors and participants will benefit from the option of viewing birds and pollinators from inside the visitor center or from easily accessed outdoor viewing areas adjacent to the building. Visitors will also benefit from increased aesthetics provided by native plantings and screening of the unsightly fence that is currently present. Visitor will be encouraged to post on social media with hashtag use. Staff no longer need to mow a small weedy lawn area that is difficult to access, saving time and reducing associated air pollution from mowing.

Wildlife will benefit from the increase in food and shelter provided by the native plants/ planting areas. Measurement of these benefits may be provided via periodic bird watching reports on eBird and pollinator surveys using modified Xerces Society protocols.

**How can Saint Paul Audubon assist in the success of your project/organization?**

Approving our grant proposal and associated publicity to your wide audience will bring in more visitors to check out the new observation areas. Our joint efforts in recruiting volunteers was very successful in 2024. We will likely need help with planting and mulching again. Thank you for your consideration.

Approved by \_\_\_ Board \_\_\_ Committee Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount:

## Proposed Budget

### Phase II, to be completed 2025

A. Finish Planting Area 1, leaving space for a park bench for outdoor observation.

- 225 plugs @ \$6 ea. = \$1350.00

B. Increase density of plants in Area 2

- 44 native forb plugs @ \$6.00 ea. = \$ 264.00

**Total Phase II = \$1614.00**



Phase I, 2024 first of three plantings: volunteers planting Area 1





Maplewood Nature Center Viewing Area 1, outdoor view, facing west



Maplewood Nature Center Viewing Area 1, facing north





Maplewood Nature Center, Area 1, first year plant growth and blooms

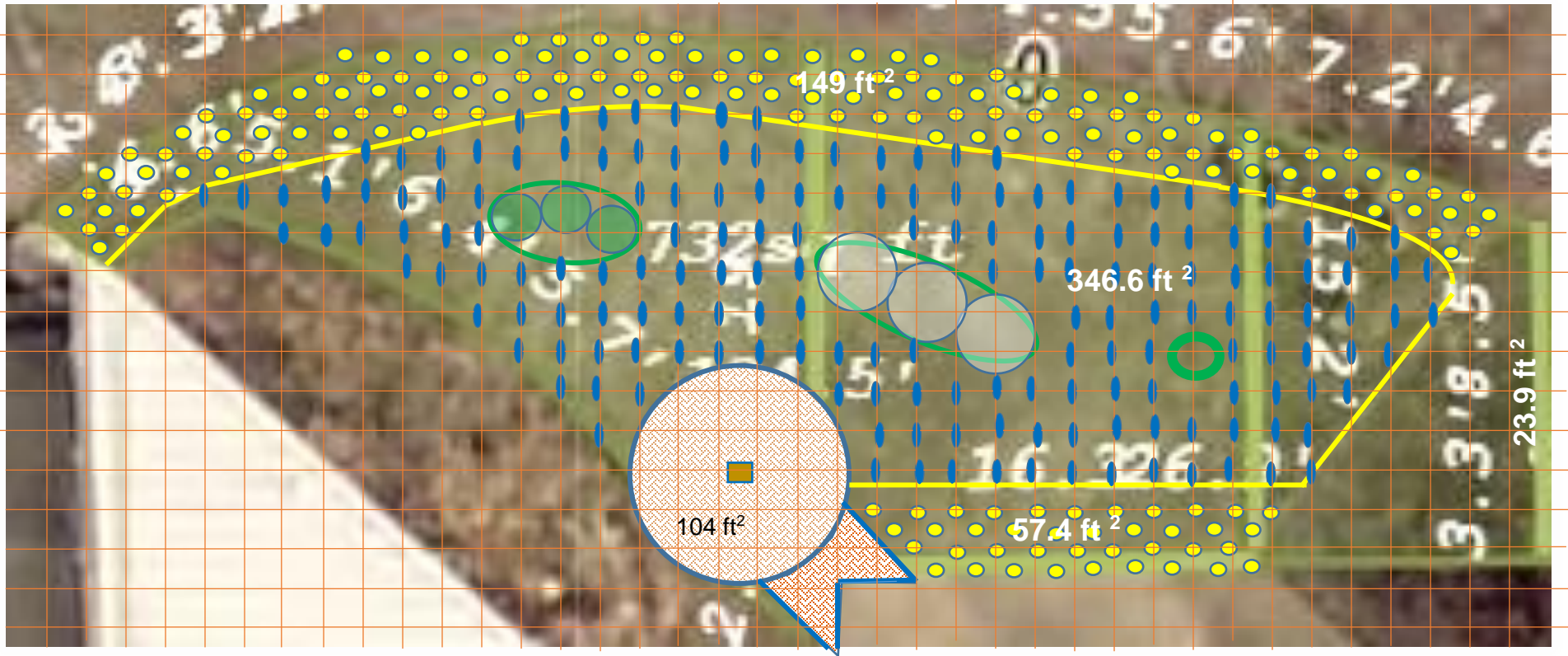


Maplewood Nature Center Planting Area 2, facing north






# Maplewood Nature Center Landscape Plan

## Bird and Pollinator Observation Area 1








### KEY


#### Shrubs & Tree

-  Lowbush Blueberry (3)
-  New Jersey Tea (3)
-  American Elm (DED Resistant)

#### Forbs

-  Shorter Plants (182)
-  Medium - Tall Plants (182)

-  Inner Boundary
-  Bird Feeder
-  Pavers or Dyed Concrete

Scale:   
0 17.5 35 inches



## Species List

### Short Plants

#### Shade

Aunt Lucy (6)  
Bloodroot (9)  
Downy yellow violet (12)  
Hepatica: Sharp or round (12)  
Path rush (18)  
Pennsylvania sedge (6)  
Rue anemone (12)  
Wild ginger (6)  
Wild blue phlox (2)  
Flowering woodrush (3)  
Woodland strawberry (12)

#### Sun

American pasqueflower (6)  
*Antennaria Species* (Pussytoes) (6)  
Birdfoot violet (6)  
Blue-eyed grass (12)  
Long-leaf Bluets (6)  
Hoary Puccoon (6)  
Prairie onion (6)  
Prairie smoke (6)  
Prairie violet (6)  
Yellow Sundrops (6)  
Wild petunia (6)

230.3 ft<sup>2</sup>  
170 plants @ \$6 ea  
= \$1020.00

### Medium – Tall Plants

#### Shade

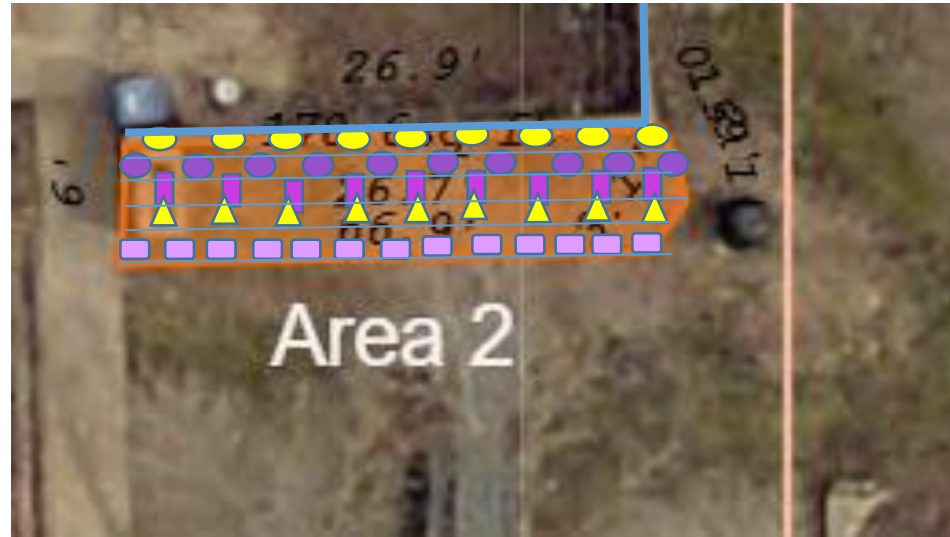
American bellflower (3)  
Bottlebrush grass (3)  
Cutleaf toothwort (6)  
Large-flowered bellwort (3)  
Lindley's Aster (3)  
Poke milkweed (3)  
Starry campion (3)  
Zig-zag goldenrod (3)

#### Sun

Butterflyweed (2)  
Large beardtongue (3)  
Partridge pea (3)  
Purple prairie clover (3)  
Spotted horsemint (3)  
Virginia bluebells (4)  
Wild lupine (6)  
Wood betony (4)

346.6ft<sup>2</sup>  
55 plants @ \$6 ea  
= \$330.00

## Maplewood Nature Center Landscape Plan Bird and Pollinator Observation Area 2



### KEY

- Maximillian Sunflower (3)
- New England Aster (5)
- *Liatris* Species (Blazingstar) (11)
- ▲ Brown-Eyed Susan (5)
- Aromatic Aster (20)

— Fence

44 plants @ \$6.00 each = \$264.00