

William Berry Woods (aka 'Thoreau's Woods') **An urban forest in Linden Hills**

Working with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), LHiNC's Environment Committee 'adopted' the William Berry Woods, a small urban forest (bounded by Richfield Road and William Berry Parkway) that is one of the few remaining native plant communities in Minneapolis.



During a trip to Minnesota in 1861, Henry David Thoreau visited these woods (then called Interlachen Park) and stayed at a nearby boarding house on the shore of Lake Calhoun (on what is now Richfield Road).

In 1916, the area was renamed in honor of the first Superintendent of the Minneapolis park system.

A woodland with native wildflowers in an urban area is unusual and very valuable. William Berry Woods also provides a resting and feeding place for migrating birds. Linden Hills residents have long recognized the beauty and value of this special place, and LHiNC has sponsored numerous events to remove invasive species and restore native plants. Our agreement with MPRB will enable us to make a more sustained contribution to help preserve and protect this treasured green space.

Our goals at William Berry Woods

Our intention is to continue to partner with MPRB to preserve and restore William Berry Woods as a nature preserve. Current activities include:

- Identifying and documenting plants growing on the site.
- Recruiting and training volunteers to remove invasive plant species (buckthorn and garlic mustard) during volunteer events. When possible, we will plant native species in conjunction with invasive species removal and then maintain new plantings.
- Educating people about birds, wildflowers and other features of the area, through tours, events and literature.
- Removing litter.
- Monitoring the area and reporting any damage, safety hazards, or other problems to MPRB.

How you can help

Spread the word about this jewel in our community. Join your neighbors at scheduled events to pull invasive species. Consider becoming a 'Legacy Steward of William Berry Woods, by signing up to monitor a specific small section of the Woods and working with neighbors to remove invasive species and maintain native plants at your convenience.

For more information, contact Connie Pepin at cpepin@bitstream.net

