



River Bend
NATURE CENTER

Strategic Plan | 2024-2027



MISSION

River Bend Nature Center inspires curiosity, respect, and care for nature.

VALUES

- 1. Learning.** We value education because it inspires current and future generations to care for our planet and the unique natural habitat of River Bend.
 - 2. Stewardship & preservation.** We value the prairies, forests, river, ponds, trails, flora, and fauna entrusted to our care and strive to preserve this natural wonder for the benefit of all members of our community.
 - 3. Wellness.** We value the healing power of nature to make us healthier and more joyful and seek to ensure everyone has access and connection to this source of well-being.
 - 4. Diversity & inclusion.** We value the diversity of people who live, work, and play in our community and seek to remove all barriers to this unique habitat and our programming.
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GOALS

- Increase awareness and diversify participation.
- Address vital facility and infrastructure needs.
- Protect, preserve, and enhance our natural resources.
- Grow resources to achieve our priorities.

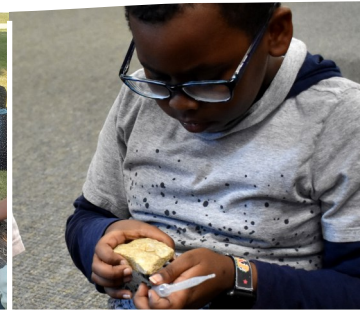


Building Community through nature

743 acres of woodlands, prairie and wetlands with 10 miles of trails to hike, bike, ski and snowshoe.

Community Engagement

- Over 300 school programs September - May
- Over 800 people attend annual events, Maple Syrup Fun Run and Bats, Bones & Bonfires
- Program offerings for all ages and abilities



OPERATING PLAN

1. Increase awareness & diversify participation.

1a. Invest in telling and sharing our story better (improved storytelling, increased outreach).

1b. Add intentional programming for diverse and underrepresented audiences (Deaf and Blind, Somali, Latinx, seniors) to pursue careers in conservation e.g.).

1c. Pursue sustainable, incremental growth in educational programs for school districts beyond Faribault.

1d. Grow engagement in adult programming.

2: Address vital facility & infrastructure needs.

2a. Leverage existing and confirmed resources to address deferred maintenance.

2b. Determine scope and potential project costs; conduct feasibility study for capital campaign.

2c. Build a public case for support focused on interpretive center, wayfinding, and trails.

3: Protect, preserve, & enhance our natural resources.

3a. Develop master plan.

3b. Address invasive species and habitat restoration through funding from public grants.

3c. Pursue opportunities to acquire and preserve adjacent and nearby lands as they become available.

4: Grow resources to achieve our priorities.

4a. Seek regional park designation.

4b. Build fundraising infrastructure.

4c. Invest in staff to achieve the priorities of this plan

4d. Plan for a potential campaign for capital improvements (see goal #2).

