

Fairmount Park

Houston Meadow Reclamation Project

Meadow Maintenance & Restoration Project

Wissahickon Valley Park

Partners

- Friends of the Wissahickon
- Audubon Pennsylvania

Contact

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Project Description

This project is aimed at enlarging, enhancing and maintaining Houston Meadow, which provides a unique and important habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. The work will include:

- delineating the new boundaries of the meadow, which was nearly four times its current size in 1959
- removing many early-successional trees (such as black locust, black cherry, trembling aspen and red maple) which are encroaching on the meadow. The majority of this work is to occur from November 2009 – March 2010.
- identifying important trees (such as oaks, hickories and hollies) to keep for bird habitat. These trees are marked with blue paint.
- controlling invasive non-native plants, such as autumn olive that degrade the meadow
- seed areas with native wildflowers and warm-season grasses
- plant native shrubs along meadow edges



Houston Meadow at the beginning of the restoration work.

Benefits

The benefits of this project include:

- a substantially expanded area and improved quality of meadow & shrubland, both under-represented habitat types in the Park
- increased food, cover, breeding, and nesting areas for a 24+ species of birds, including yellowthroats, eastern towhees, indigo buntings, willow flycatchers, orioles, eastern kingbirds, and more
- the creation of conditions that favor the return of formerly -present breeding bird species, such as yellow-breasted chat, white-eyed vireo, blue-winged warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, yellow billed cuckoo, broad winged hawk and more
- A beautiful vista for park hikers



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Environment, Stewardship & Education Division
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