

Hidden Woods Pond

Restoring water quality and natural habitat



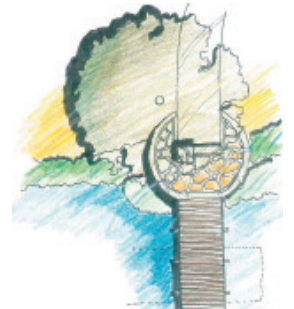
Hidden Woods is an 27-acre park that includes a two-acre lake, wetlands, native grass and wildflower plantings and preserved tree stands. The park has been designed with the Rain to Recreation goals clearly in mind: to reduce flooding, protect water quality and natural habitat and to provide educational and recreational opportunities for Lenexa citizens.

The existing pond was heavily sedimented and often covered with algae blooms. Construction involved dewatering the stormwater detention pond to dredge it and deepen it for better flood prevention, water quality and habitat.

The pond and surrounding wetlands are a vital link between the land and water. They temporarily collect and hold stormwater, mitigate flooding and erosion and provide important habitat for plants, birds, fish and other aquatic organisms.

Amenity for residents

Park features, including a recreational fishing pier and 170-foot curved boardwalk, have been designed preserve existing natural features, minimizing environmental damage. The pier improves resident access to the restored pond, while other value-added features, such as catfish spawning tubes and wood duck houses, encourages fish and birds to make their homes around the pond, and the trail and boardwalks allow the public to enjoy the pond's habitat.



Functional value

The pond restoration was designed to increase safety, function and amenity. For example, the trail serves a dual purpose: passive recreation and improved access for maintenance crews and city security staff, such as police officers. Landscaped areas were placed and designed for easy maintenance, and the water quality treatment for the pond helps minimize pollutants, sedimentation and algae.

The nutrient battle

Hidden Woods pond still suffers from algal blooms in warm months due to excess nutrients in the pond. The city's maintenance crews are diligent in fighting algae. Efforts



Mojo, the city's coyote decoy used to control the pond's goose population.

include: planting buffer strips of native plants, transplanting native aquatic plants to outcompete the algae, minimizing fertilizer use and using integrated pest management (IPM) techniques to control nuisance wildlife and plants.

Origins of algae

Human activity often can trigger or accelerate algal blooms. Natural sources of nutrients, such as phosphorus or nitrogen compounds, are often supplemented by:

- Fertilizers
- Sediment
- Pet waste
- Wildlife, such as geese

Quick tips to protect water quality:

- Properly apply fertilizers
- Prevent erosion
- Scoop your pet's poop
- Don't feed the geese