

# FOR THE BIRDS...

## GUARDING OUR NATIVE WATERFOWL

Aquatic habitat is critically important to our native waterfowl. Lakes, rivers and wetlands provide food, shelter, migration stops, breeding areas and nesting grounds to many species of birds.

Over the years, urban development has changed our neighborhood lakes and wetlands. Although these areas are not as wild as they once were, they are still essential to our native waterfowl.

Please help make this lake a quality urban habitat for our native waterfowl:

- Follow park ordinances that preserve and protect wildlife and their habitat.
  - Resist the temptation to feed the wildlife.
  - Stay on marked trails at all times.
  - Pick up trash and dispose of it properly.
  - Keep pets on a leash at all times and always clean up after your pet.
- Become familiar with native waterfowl.
- Get involved in habitat protection and restoration projects.

For more information on waterfowl management, call the City of Bloomington Park Maintenance at 952-563-8760, TTY 952-563-8740, or visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn), keyword: Waterfowl.



Common Loon



American Coot



Great Egret



Canada Goose



Double-crested Cormorant



Hooded Merganser



Mallard



Canvasback



Great Blue Heron



Green Heron



Wood Duck

How many native waterfowl species can you find during your park visit?

### BIRDWATCHING A NATURE-FRIENDLY ACTIVITY

- Bring your binoculars and keep your distance.
- Wild birds will fly away if you try to get too close. During breeding or nesting season, expending energy unnecessarily is not good for them.
- Use a field guide to help you identify bird species.
- Become part of the environment and allow birds to come near you. Sit or lean against a tree, moving as little as possible.
- Learn about seasonal bird behaviors. Watch for courtship, mating, parenting, migration, feeding and other behaviors.
- Every behavior has a purpose - can you tell what it is?
- Bring along food and water in case you get "carried away" enjoying nature.
- Wear comfortable, natural-colored clothing and prepare for changing weather.