

2 BIRCH POND

HISTORY

Birch Pond is a small pond (approximately 6 acres) on the east side of Theodore Wirth Parkway, in Theodore Wirth Regional Park. It has no public access or fishing docks. The pond is nestled into the hillside near Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary. The main recreational values Birch Pond provides are aesthetic values and bird watching. Today, it is fairly protected from winds by large hills and mature trees. In 2006, buckthorn was removed from the understory of the Birch Pond basin as a part of vegetation restoration efforts for the 2007 centennial anniversary of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary. Figure 1A. This has opened historic sightlines dramatically. Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* and *Rhamnus frangula*) is a non-native invasive species that threatens native woodlands.

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) currently does not include Birch Pond in its regular lake sampling program.



Figure 1A. Birch Pond after 2006 buckthorn removal.

WINTER ICE COVER

Ice came off Birch Pond on April 6, 2006, which is just three days later than average ice off. Ice came on the pond November 30, 2006, which is also just a few days later than average. See Section 1 for details on winter ice cover records and Section 18 for a comparison with other lakes.