



# HOLLAND PONDS

BURGESS SHADBUSH  
NATURE CENTER

RIVER BENDS PARK  
SHELBY TWP.  
Parks & Recreation



So how did the Great Blue Herons do this year, 2011, at the Herony, located at HOLLAND PONDS? Well...this was a banner year for them. A total of 37 occupied nests were recorded in both the front rookery and the recent rear rookery.

Each nesting pair of Great Blue Herons were successful at hatching 2-4 chicks per nest. That unfortunately was not the number of Heron chicks to be fledged from each nest. As with any nesting season for the Herons, there would be the natural order of things ruling the outcome of the Heronry.

Each nest does not fledge all hatched chicks. In many cases at least one chick per nest is lost as the weakest or sickly of the hatch. This chick will either not receive enough food, due to the competition amongst it's siblings, or a chick will succumb to illness. This is the way for the strongest of hatchlings to fledge to adulthood.

Another loss to the Heronry was weather. This year it was a very bad, high wind storm, late in the nesting cycle that took down 4 nests with 3-4 chicks per nest. This was a great loss to the Heronry, but part of the cycle of life there.

Even with these losses, expected and unexpected, the Heronry had an excellent year for producing a new brood of young Herons to continue the species. We seen 4 new nests being built this year alone. And all four new nests produced youngsters that fledged the nests. This is a very good sign of a healthy, active and growing Heronry at HOLLAND PONDS Park.

We hope 2012 will bring even more new nests and even more successful breeding Great Blue Herons to Shelby Twp., HOLLAND PONDS Park.



*HOLLAND PONDS Park is part of RIVER BENDS Park in Shelby Twp. It is managed by the Burgess Shadbush Nature Center, and is located: Just north of 22 mile rd. on Ryan road, Shelby Twp., MI.*