

WHV – Amidst the Feathers: A Bird Conservation Initiative

Connecting People and Nature at the Three Hills and Five Gardens

Summer Palace, an Imperial Garden in Beijing China

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1998)

PROJECT DATES

15 May – 15 July 2025

THE SITE - The Summer Palace in Beijing – first built in 1750, largely destroyed in the war of 1860 and restored on its original foundations in 1886 – is a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design. The natural landscape of hills and open water is combined with artificial features such as pavilions, halls, palaces, temples and bridges to form a harmonious ensemble of outstanding aesthetic value.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to empower students and communities to actively participate in safeguarding the cultural and ecological heritage of the Three Hills and Five Gardens, located within the buffer zone of the Summer Palace's UNESCO World Heritage site. By integrating bird monitoring, the project will enhance the understanding of biodiversity conservation, contributing to the preservation of both the natural and cultural heritage of the Summer Palace.

ACTIVITIES - The project includes awareness-raising activities such as bird monitoring workshops, habitat restoration projects, educational campaigns on heritage value, and community conservation training. Hands-on activities involve bird monitoring and data collection, habitat restoration, cultural-ecological heritage workshops, and conservation capacity building for communities. The activities emphasize skills development for volunteers, community engagement, and collaboration between international volunteers, site management, local authorities, and the community, along with sharing best practices and using non-formal education.

PARTNERS – Beijing Forestry University; National Park Research Center; Old Summer Place Park Management Office; Friends of Nature (NGO); One Yangtze Environmental Conservation Project; National Key R&D Program; China-Canada Joint Laboratory for National Parks; Youth Environment Public Welfare Promotion Program

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