



Blooming Saint Paul Newsletter

City of Saint Paul, Division of Parks and Recreation

WINTER 2010-2011

Welcome to the Blooming Saint Paul Newsletter. This newsletter appears twice a year to inform groups involved in city gardens about activities and opportunities in Saint Paul parks.

GOLDEN BLOOM AWARDS

The 6th annual Golden Bloom Awards ceremony will be held on January 24, 2011 at the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center. The invitation-only affair is sponsored by the Saint Paul Pioneer Press and will be hosted by Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, the Saint Paul Garden Club, the Ramsey County Master Gardener program and Public Art Saint Paul. Guest speaker at this year's ceremony will be garden author Bonnie Blodgett. The gardens were judged this summer by twenty five Ramsey County Master Gardeners.

Award categories include: Residential, Business/Institutional, Environmental, Art in the Garden, Public Volunteer Garden, Vegetable Garden and Gardening Advocate. Winners are announced at the ceremony and published in the Saint Paul Pioneer Press and on the Blooming Saint Paul webpage the following week.

ELECTRIC CART

The Blooming Saint Paul hanging basket program is going green! We purchased an electric watering cart for watering our hanging baskets. The cart does not use gas and is much quieter than the cart it has replaced. At the end of the summer, our crack squad of mechanics figured out a way to make the water pump electric as well. The water pump was by far the noisiest part of the cart. Now, when our waterers are out watering early on Saturday and Sunday mornings, downtown dwellers are not awoken to the noise of the watering carts. Kudos to all involved in making our city more beautiful AND healthier.



PARKS AND REC'S NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, BETH ALBRECHT

After developing record breaking volunteer programs in her previous jobs, Beth Albrecht brings motivation, energy and ideas to Saint Paul Parks and Recreation as the Volunteer Coordinator for Park's Operations section. Beth's work will include encouraging groups and individuals to take part in existing volunteer opportunities and to work with staff to develop new opportunities and events as well. She also will be trying to gather and record volunteer hours as much as possible. Many volunteer gardeners like to simply garden without letting anyone know how many hours they have been working. But volunteer hours are important because many grants and funds applications are strengthened by providing volunteer participant statistics. Volunteer hours are easy to log with a quick e-mail to Beth beth.albrecht@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Parks volunteers and their families are invited to take part in many community events and are provided with links and

resources to other volunteer opportunities on the city's volunteer webpage.

VISTA STAFF

The Blooming Saint Paul horticulture team was honored to have a VISTA staff person on board this year. Alison Bunge, a Horticulture graduate from the University of Minnesota did a wonderful job improving the job training aspects of the Horticulture Academy program. Horticulture Academy consists of twenty-six teenagers from the Youth Job Corp program who garden with us all summer. Alison developed the program to better educate the youth in gardening, landscaping techniques and job skills. She helped create partnerships with green industry businesses and set guidelines for promoting Academy graduates for employment. She also was instrumental in applying for and winning the 2010 National Gardening Association's Youth Garden Grant Program award (9 see next article).

Alison was the third and final VISTA staff person working for the Natural Resources Unit of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation. Because of the great work of the three VISTA staff, we now have a complete Horticulture Academy job training curriculum and connections to green-industry employers.

NATIONAL GARDENING ASSOCIATION YOUTH GARDEN GRANT AWARD

The Horticulture Academy was selected from over 1,000 kids' gardening programs from across the country as a winner of the National Gardening Associations' 2010 Youth Garden Grant. We received a \$500 gift card from Home Depot which was used to purchase gardening tools for Horticulture Academy projects. This award was for the participants to design and install four garden spaces in Kellogg Mall Park. The designs they created are the designs that will be used as the other beds in Kellogg Mall Park are replanted over the next three years.

FESTIVAL GARDEN

Flint Hills and the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts has once again invited the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Arts and Gardens program to create a large floral display for their eleventh annual International Children's Festival. Last year's display used over 30,000 flowers.

This year, staff, students and volunteers will create a Discovery Garden where children will play a Discover and Find Game while parents can sit and enjoy the garden. Come and visit us festival weekend: June 5 and 6 or during construction the preceding week. Volunteers welcome! Volunteers who work a minimum of two hours on June, 6 Sunday afternoon receive flats of free plants. Contact: Angie Koebler 651 248-2017 for more details.

Blooming Saint Paul Contact Information

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Parks and Recreation Design Section

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Public Works Traffic Engineering

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Youth Job Corps

Gwen Peterson (651)266-6430

Park Stewards/ Parks Clean-Up

(651)266-6459

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Parks and Recreation - General Information

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