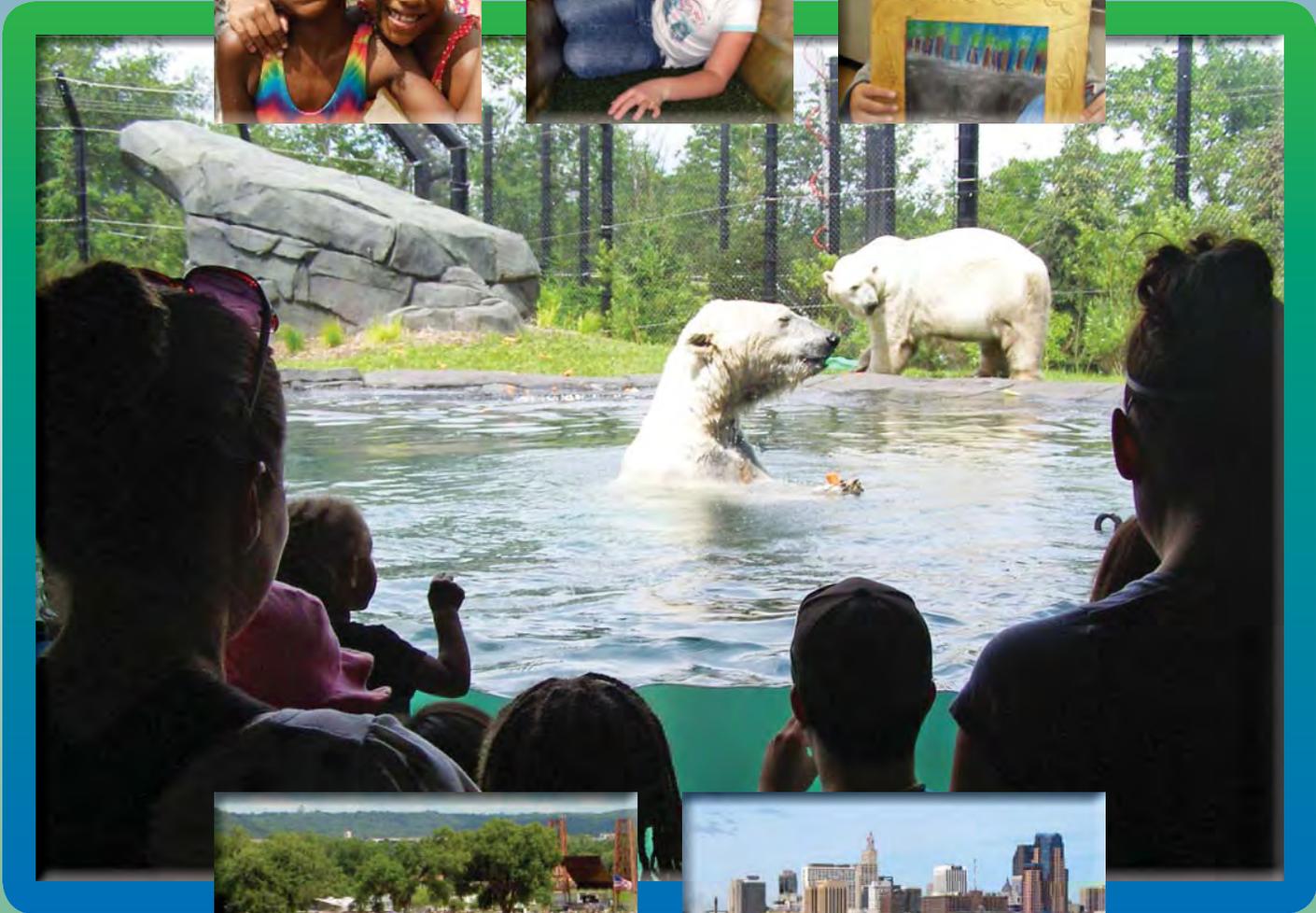


# Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



**Helping to Make Saint Paul  
The Most Livable City in America**





## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The current economic situation has challenged local governments across the nation, and Saint Paul hasn't been immune from these challenges. While resources have diminished, the demand for our services has continued to soar. To respond proactively, we have embraced innovation and become more efficient

in how we deliver our services. Our Parks and Recreation Department has been a leader in these efforts, and has worked aggressively and creatively to meet this growing demand.

In the last year, investment in quality community driven needs and infrastructure became realities with our nationally accredited Como Park Zoo & Conservatory opening the one-of-a-kind Polar Bear Odyssey exhibit, construction was completed on the Samuel H. Morgan Regional Trail and for our younger users, play areas at Baker and Hancock Recreation Centers were completed. In addition to new infrastructure, great progress was made in our work on education. A new initiative to partner on programming with the Parks and Recreation Department,

Saint Paul Public Library, and School District saw great progress this past year. In 2011, this afterschool initiative will be launched as "Sprockets" and will ensure every child in our City has access to quality learning opportunities in their own neighborhood. By investing in every neighborhood throughout Saint Paul, we will ensure our youth have the tools they need to succeed in school and in life, while working to close the achievement gap.

Whether it's meeting an increased resident demand by investing in new facilities, or developing new innovative quality programs, the Parks and Recreation Department continues to be a leader in making Saint Paul more livable. It is my honor to present our 2010 Annual Report for the Department of Parks and Recreation. This summary of activities, programs, services, and facilities reinforces that Saint Paul Parks and Recreation is among the best in the entire country.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman  
Mayor



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Saint Paul has a thriving park and recreation system and an equally strong community that supports it. In 2010, we again exceeded expectations in attendance and participation throughout our system. Although we have undergone a great deal of change in past years, we have set and achieved

high goals, and will continue to do so in the future. Our system is focused on providing quality over quantity, which enables us to reach and serve the highest number of people citywide.

2010 was a banner year for our department, and featured such things as; being able to showcase our award winning parks and recreation system to parks and recreation professionals from around the nation who came to the Twin Cities during the 2010 National Recreation and Parks Association's annual congress hosted in Minneapolis, the Como Zoo receiving accreditation, and for the first time, urban youth experienced Glacier National Park and were connected with jobs as part of a new annual program in partnership with Wilderness Inquiry, the National Parks Service, and the Saint Paul Public School District. Although

this list can go on and on, two additional important planning projects began in 2010 that will forever shape our department in the future.

The Parks and Recreation System Plan and Great River Park Plan are two of the largest planning projects our department has ever undertaken. Both visionary projects will be completed in 2011 and will guide future decision-making and leave an equally large impact on the future of Saint Paul's parks and recreation system. We are looking forward to unveiling the final plans in 2011 – so stay tuned.

As we look to next year, new opportunities will be presented for our department, and while we expect to encounter challenges, we will continue to champion efforts to maintain and enhance the parks and recreation system in Saint Paul.

We are excited about this past year's accomplishments and looking forward to another great year.

Sincerely,

Mike Hahm, CPRP  
Director



### CITY OF SAINT PAUL ADMINISTRATION

**Mayor Christopher B. Coleman**

**Deputy Mayor Ann Mulholland**

### CITY OF SAINT PAUL CITY COUNCIL

WARD 1 COUNCILMEMBER Melvin Carter III

WARD 2 COUNCILMEMBER Dave Thune

WARD 3 COUNCILMEMBER Pat Harris

WARD 4 COUNCILMEMBER Russ Stark

WARD 5 COUNCILMEMBER Lee Helgen

WARD 6 COUNCILMEMBER Dan Bostrom

WARD 7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Kathy Lantry



# 2010 Annual Report



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# Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

## “Our Promise To You”

The staff of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation promises to cheerfully and respectfully serve you. We will provide access to quality programs at clean and safe facilities with timely and effective service. We will listen to your suggestions and concerns and respond to the best of our abilities.

### Mission

To help make Saint Paul The Most Livable City in America, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will, facilitate the creation of active lifestyles, vibrant places and a vital environment.

### Vision Statement

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will make Saint Paul The Most Livable City in America by:

- Responding creatively to change
- Innovating with every decision
- Connecting the entire city

### Statement of Benefits of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

- Fosters human development and supporting education
- Strengthens community image and a sense of place
- Promotes economic development in Saint Paul
- Protects, sustains and revitalizes environmental resources
- Increases cultural unity and building community relationships
- Strengthens safety and security
- Provides the essential support service for park and recreational experiences

### Core Functions Statement

1. Development and Operation of the Como Campus
  - a. Provide for major community wide natural resource education and appreciation experiences
  - b. Present unique recreation opportunities for all segments of the community
2. Development of Unique Recreational Opportunities and Protection of Natural Resources in the National Great River Park (Mississippi River Corridor)
  - a. Coordinate the numerous plans that have been developed by a multitude of agencies / community organizations
  - b. Carefully plan and add special recreational experiences
3. Implementation and Maintenance of Quality Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces
  - a. Allow for structured, unstructured, active and passive recreation opportunities
  - b. Ensure safety and usability of community investments
4. Development, Operation, and Facilitation of Recreation, Arts and Special Events Programming and Facilities that Meet the Needs of the Community within the Established Resources
  - a. Operate a system that is responsive to resident needs, incorporates national trends and is flexible in the use of maximizing available resources
  - b. Provide facilities that serve the needs of the entire community
5. Development and Support of Specialized Facilities and Programs that are Substantially Self-Supporting
  - a. Allow for city wide participation and non-resident fee support
  - b. Provide for more stable revenue source
  - c. Encourage popular special events
6. Protection and Enhancement of Natural Resources
  - a. Master plan management of resource areas
  - b. Restoration of degraded areas
7. Encourage Resident Participation
  - a. Involve residents in design and delivery of programs and facilities
  - b. Encourage community collaboration and involvement
8. Develop and promote education opportunities, job preparedness, and leadership development for the youth in Saint Paul
  - a. Second Shift Initiative
  - b. Como Campus education programs and Youth Job Corps



# Awards / Recognition

## Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

- Environmental Services was awarded funding from the State of Minnesota Outdoor Heritage-Parks & Trails Fund for two key positions; a Volunteer Coordinator and an Environmental Education Coordinator.
- Awarded a Minnesota Green Corps member for the second year from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- Awarded \$21,000 in grant money from the DNR Community Conservation Assistance Program to Complete an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment.
- Awarded a Tree Trust grant allowing Parks to add sixty new trees to Cherokee Regional Park which were planted by volunteers.
- Won first place in the 2010 Art in Bloom contest for the most creative/whimsical floral display. This springtime celebration highlights the talents of floral artists who are inspired by works of art at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and create a floral version of the masterpiece that resonates with them the most.
- Ellis and Associates, Saint Paul's licensed lifeguard provider for aquatic safety, awarded Parks and Recreation the Bronze International Aquatic Safety Award. This prestigious award is only given to those licensed lifeguards who are held accountable to maintain the highest standards at all times and pass a very rigorous audit with above average scores.
- Creative Water Solution's sphagnum moss conditioning system used at Highland Parks Aquatic Center and Great River Water Park received a "Sustainable Saint Paul Award" in the Green Products Category last year. This year, Saint Paul was listed in Public Works Magazine as one of 10 trends for 2010 proving that sometimes nature is the simplest, safest, and least-expensive solution to using less chlorine to keep pool water clean. Thus, our aquatics program generated an additional \$100,000 in revenue from last year, demonstrating participants love the idea of not swimming in eye-stinging pools cleaned with chlorine.



## COMO PARK ZOO & CONSERVATORY

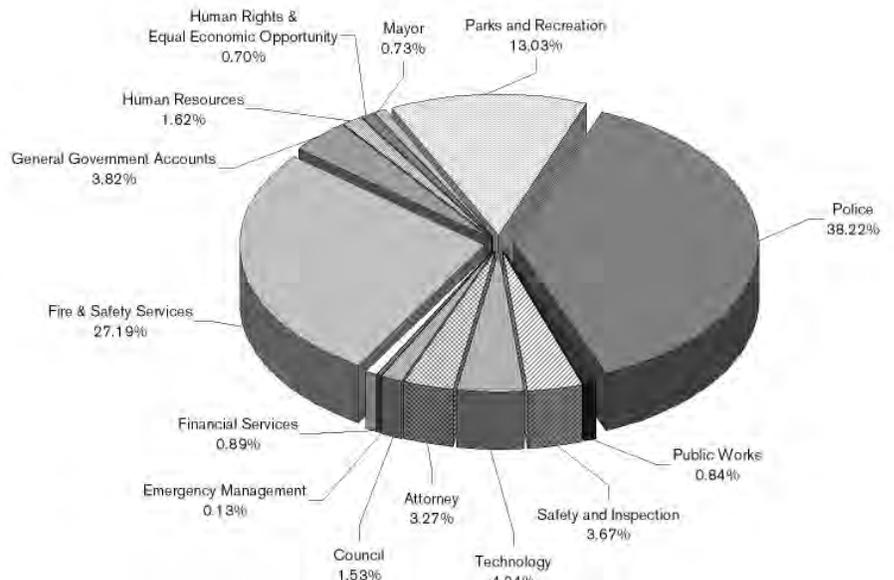
- The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) announced that Como Zoo was granted accreditation by AZA's independent Accreditation Commission.
- Minnesota Monthly's 2010 Best of the Cities: The Best Homecoming award went to Neil & Buzz, Como Zoo's Polar Bears. Polar Bear Odyssey, which emulates a Hudson Bay ecosystem complete with a river-washed stream, rocky cliffs, and evergreen vegetation, is a world-class habitat. It was designed to not only meet, but exceed all national and international standards. The habitat received the Three Diamond Rating by Polar Bears International, one of only two zoos in the world with that distinction.
- The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory was selected as an official All-America Selections (AAS) Display Garden. This honor will allow the Conservatory to grow and display AAS plants which they will grow from seed using horticulturally sound practices.
- The 2010 Winter Carnival Orchid Show had 81 plants that were on exhibit. Marjorie McNeely Conservatory received 15 first place ribbons, 11 second place ribbons, and 6 third place ribbons.
- The Orchid Laelia, cultivar "Greg McNeely" received two American Orchid Society awards: Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE) award and the Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) award.
- Pat Evans from KARE-11 featured in his video blog the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory as his "favorite indoor spot in the Twin Cities, bar-none".



# Budget Summaries

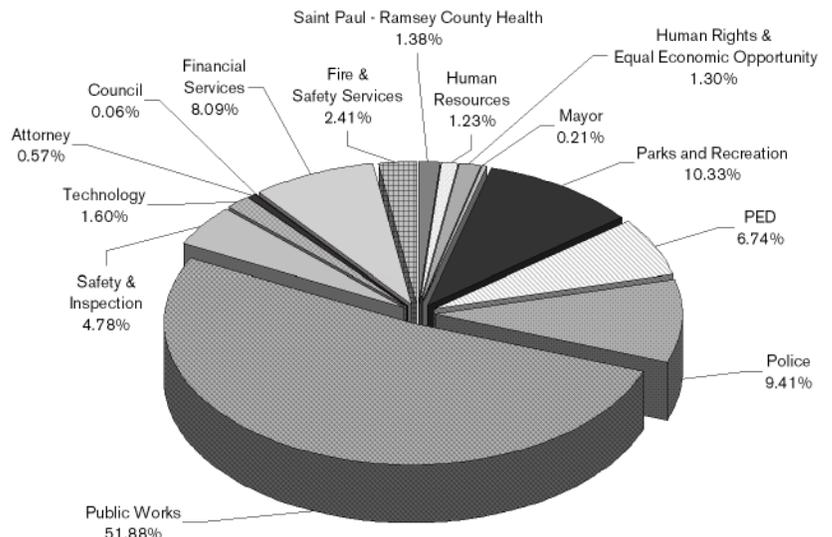
## City of Saint Paul 2010 Adopted General Fund Budget - \$195,582,633

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Attorney                                  | \$6,396,084  |
| Council                                   | \$3,000,388  |
| Emergency Management                      | \$252,429    |
| Financial Services                        | \$1,738,434  |
| Fire & Safety Services                    | \$53,178,411 |
| General Government Accounts               | \$7,469,095  |
| Human Resources                           | \$3,169,122  |
| Human Rights & Equal Economic Opportunity | \$1,370,164  |
| Mayor                                     | \$1,434,754  |
| Parks and Recreation                      | \$25,493,943 |
| Police                                    | \$74,757,844 |
| Public Works                              | \$1,651,733  |
| Safety & Inspection                       | \$7,176,195  |
| Technology                                | \$8,494,037  |



## City of Saint Paul 2010 Adopted Special Fund Budget - \$274,065,230

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Attorney                                  | \$1,557,961   |
| Council                                   | \$158,444     |
| Financial Services                        | \$22,170,837  |
| Fire and Safety Services                  | \$6,616,673   |
| Saint Paul - Ramsey County Health         | \$3,777,352   |
| Human Resources                           | \$3,379,141   |
| Human Rights & Equal Economic Opportunity | \$3,573,579   |
| Mayor                                     | \$586,890     |
| Parks and Recreation                      | \$28,314,144  |
| PED                                       | \$18,467,902  |
| Police                                    | \$25,790,591  |
| Public Works                              | \$142,196,012 |
| Safety and Inspection                     | \$13,096,505  |
| Technology                                | \$4,379,199   |



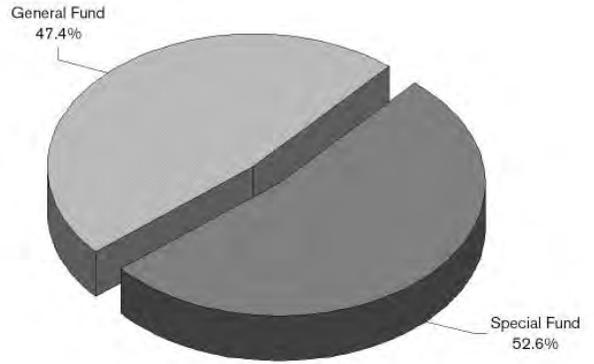


**Saint Paul Parks and Recreation**

**2010 Adopted Budget - \$53,808,807**

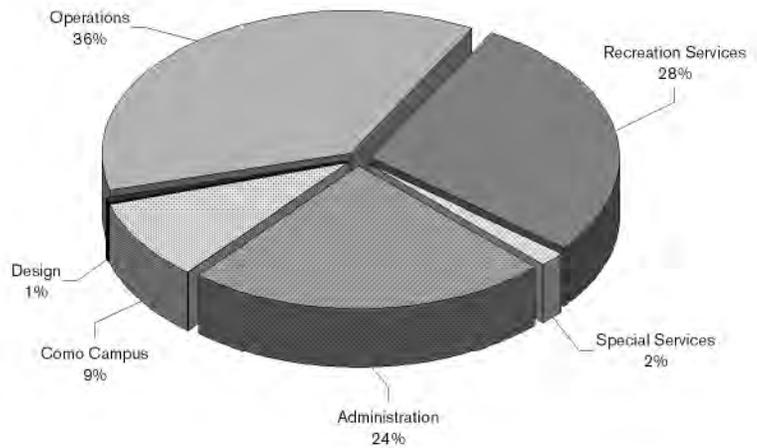
General Fund Adopted: \$25,493,943

Special Fund Adopted: \$28,314,144



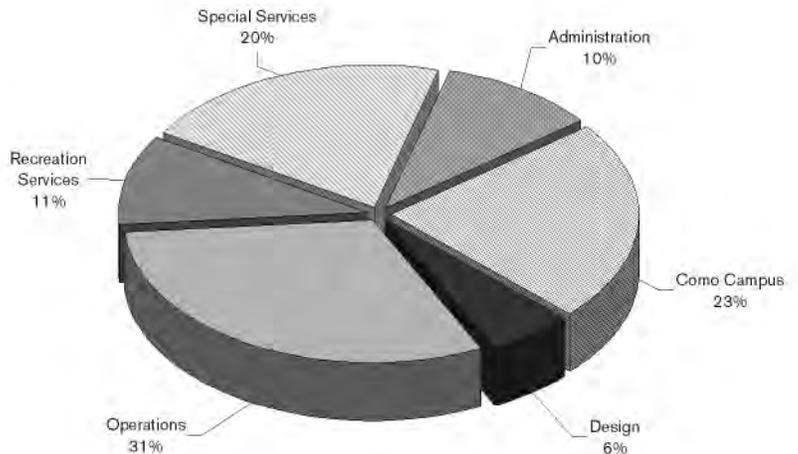
**Saint Paul Parks & Recreation • 2010 General Fund – \$25,493,943**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Administration</b>      | <b>\$5,992,900</b> |
| <b>Como Campus</b>         | <b>\$2,355,005</b> |
| <b>Design</b>              | <b>\$179,223</b>   |
| <b>Operations</b>          | <b>\$9,486,655</b> |
| <b>Recreation Services</b> | <b>\$7,049,649</b> |
| <b>Special Services</b>    | <b>\$430,511</b>   |

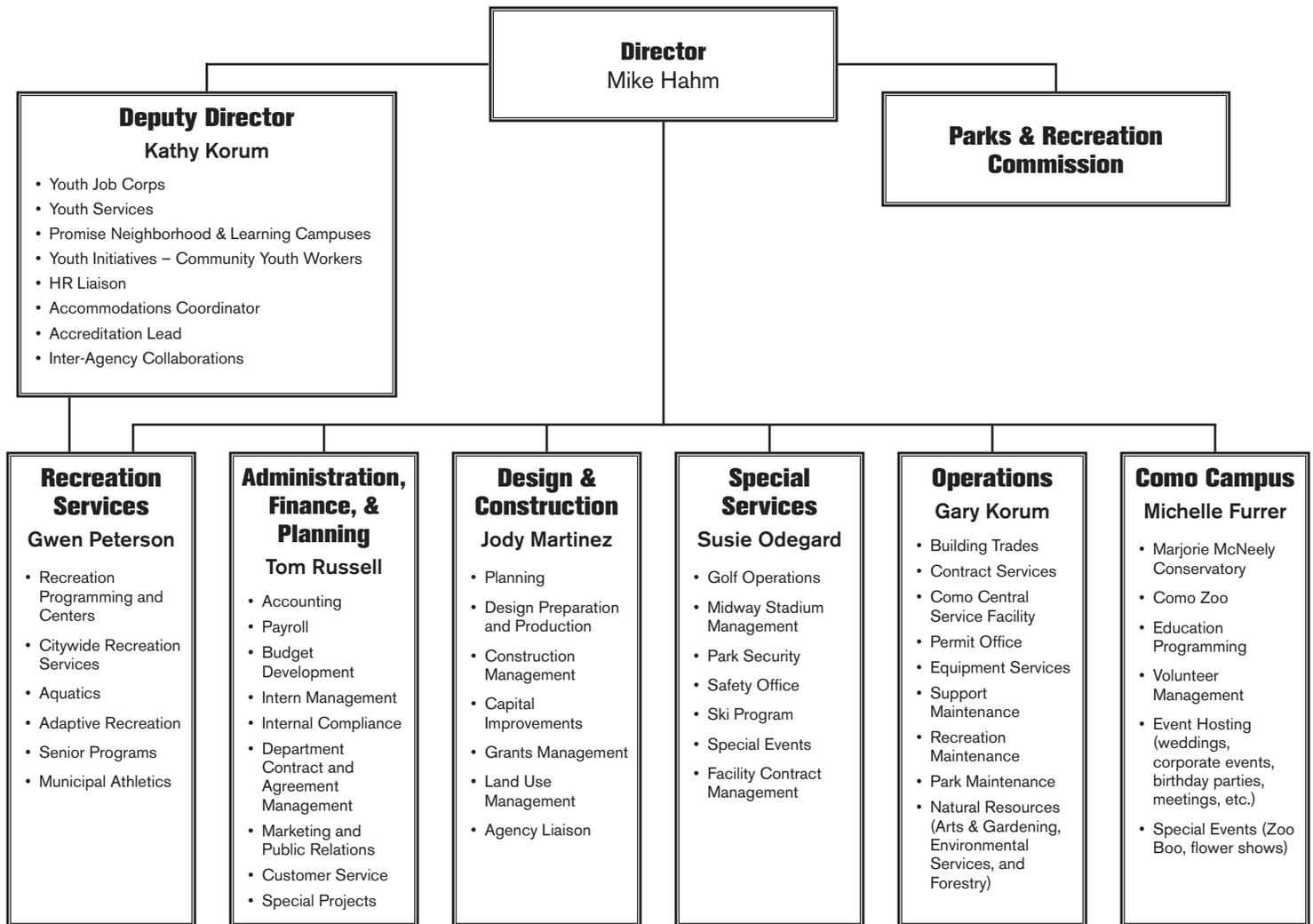


**Saint Paul Parks & Recreation • 2010 Special Fund – \$28,314,144**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Administration</b>      | <b>\$2,901,324</b> |
| <b>Como Campus</b>         | <b>\$6,439,102</b> |
| <b>Design</b>              | <b>\$1,611,287</b> |
| <b>Operations</b>          | <b>\$8,709,442</b> |
| <b>Recreation Services</b> | <b>\$2,922,198</b> |
| <b>Special Services</b>    | <b>\$5,730,791</b> |



# Organization Chart



## 2010 NRPA Congress & Exposition



*Como Park Zoo & Conservatory hosted an off-site tour as part of the 2010 NRPA Congress & Exposition*

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) “connected communities” at the 2010 Congress and Exposition hosted in Minneapolis on October 25-29, 2010. The NRPA Congress is one of the nation’s premiere gatherings for parks and recreation professionals, provides a one-stop training and development venue combined with cutting-edge education and research sessions, distinguished keynotes, the largest trade show in the field, and valuable networking opportunities. Saint Paul supported the conference by hosting several off-site tours and outings which showcased Saint Paul’s Parks and Recreation system. Como Park Zoo and Conservatory hosted an off-site tour to professionals from around the country.





# Parks & Recreation Commission



## Purpose

The purpose of the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission is to advise City officials on matters of citywide and long range importance to the Parks and Recreation system. The Parks and Recreation Commission consists of nine at-large Saint Paul residents appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. Members serve three-year terms. Meetings are held each month at various Saint Paul Parks and Recreation facilities and are open to the public.

## Members

Carrie Wasley, Chair

Paul Middleton, Vice Chair

Lynda Anderson

Susan Bishop

Jonathan Carter

Erick Goodlow

Dave Haley

Betsy Mowry

Andrew Trcka



## 2010 Adopted Resolutions

- Plans
  - 2010-2015 Department Strategic Plan
  - Street and Park Tree Master Plan
  - Phalen/Keller Park Master Plan
  - Como Regional Park Transportation Implementation Plan
  - Merriam Park Concept Plan
  - Landmark Tree Program
  - T-Mobile use at Edgcumbe Recreation Center
- Leases / Use Agreements
  - St. Paul Yacht Club
  - Thomas Dale District 7 Planning Council at West Minnehaha Recreation Center
  - Animal Humane Society
- Other
  - Storm Water Management Cooperative Agreement
  - Developed a Youth Commission
  - Updated Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations Policy
  - Sgt. Bergeron Memorial at Phalen Park
  - Recognition of the Naming opportunity process for the future one-of-a-kind facility at Payne Avenue and Maryland Avenue

# Heritage & Legacy Amendment

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund

### ***Saint Paul Oak Woodland Enhancement, \$125,000***

Outdoor Heritage funding has been received through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program. Funding will be used to enhance and manage approximately 54 acres of native oak woodland within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area through invasive species removal, prescribed burns, and reforestation efforts. An in-kind match of \$55,000 will be provided jointly by the City of Saint Paul, the National Park Service, Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Conservation Corps Minnesota, and community volunteers.

### ***Metro Big Rivers Habitat, \$65,000***

In coordination with Great River Greening, through the Metro Big Rivers Habitat partnership, Parks and Recreation will restore thirty acres of native prairie and oak savanna on Mississippi River bluff lands at Indian Mounds and Cherokee Regional Parks while engaging volunteers in science-based restoration. Between the City, Great River Greening, and community volunteer efforts, an in-kind match of \$20,000 is anticipated to help with this restoration project.

### ***Clean Water Fund, \$48,900***

An appropriated portion of the Clean Water Fund was contracted with the Minnesota Conservation Corps to provide funded labor to watershed districts to undertake projects consistent with the goals of the Clean Water Funds. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, partnered with the Capitol Region Watershed District and the Ramsey-Washington Metro Conservation District to receive approximately \$48,900 in labor services from the Corps. Projects included runoff reduction, rain garden maintenance around Como Lake, and shore land improvement at Lake Phalen.

## Metropolitan Council Parks & Trails Fund

### ***Education Coordinator***

Working to grow and support a vibrant environmental education program within Saint Paul's regional parks, funding from the Parks and Trail Fund helped create an Education Coordinator position which will develop and implement environmental education programs and bring new environmental interpretation programs into the parks. Working with volunteers, partnering organizations, and the community, this position will create an environmentally literate citizenry and memorable outdoor experiences in all regional parks in Saint Paul.

### ***Volunteer Coordinator***

Working towards maximizing and leveraging volunteer resources and to increase public awareness and support for Parks and Recreation, a volunteer coordinator position has been funded with help of the Metropolitan Council Parks and Trail Fund. Enhancing the existing volunteer program, implementing new volunteer initiatives, and leading volunteers in land stewardship and wildlife monitoring projects, this position will be responsible for natural resource and environmental work within Saint Paul's regional parks.

## Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund

### ***Como Park Zoo & Conservatory***

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory was awarded \$111,375 in Arts and Cultural Heritage funds and \$60,109 for the competitive grant portion for fiscal year 2010-11. The projects began in 2010 and will be completed by June 2011. The projects include Educational and Interpretive Signage in the Primate and Marine Mammal Buildings, an Animal Show called Creature Feature, a Blooming Butterfly Exhibit, Temporary Exhibits that include 'Up Close and Personal' - A Journey into the World of Insects from Their Perspective as well as African Cats and Edible Gardens, and lastly the Frog Conservation Exhibit called 'Ribbit Zibit'.

### ***Arts Programming***

In coordination with community arts organizations, more than \$300,000 in Arts and Cultural Heritage funds were appropriated for fiscal year 2010-11 that enabled the expansion of arts related programming throughout the Parks and Recreation system. Professional artists were brought in to share and teach youth various arts related programs at multiple sites around Saint Paul.

### ***Other Projects***

Several other projects were appropriated funds including the restoration of the Joyce Kilmer Fireplace and the Lilydale Regional Park project.

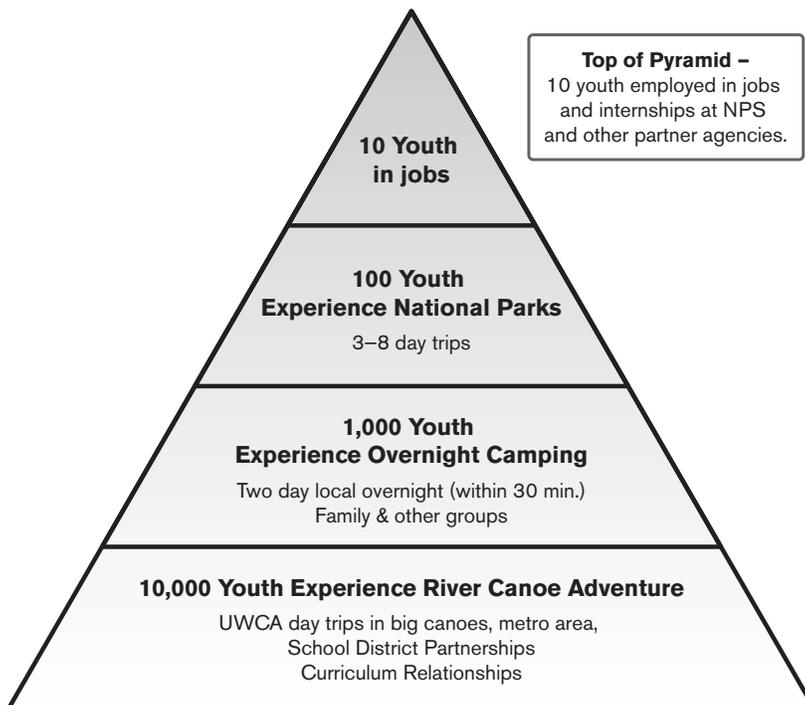




# Glacier National Park Project

The Glacier National Park Project began in 2010 as a partnership between the City of Saint Paul, Wilderness Inquiry, U.S. National Parks Service, and the Saint Paul Public Schools Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) program. The partnership creates opportunities for Saint Paul students in the AVID program to travel to Glacier National Park to build life skills such as teamwork, self confidence, and positive relationships with peers and adults. Many urban minorities are not aware of national parks as a potential venue for meaningful summer employment so this project expands participants' expectations of the opportunities available to them.

The sponsoring agencies believe coordinating these trips will spur interest in the outdoors on a grandiose scale and partners will work within their organizations and affiliations to offer youth meaningful internships and job opportunities that further develop their employment skills after the trip. Youth who go on to work at Glacier National Park and in other parks agencies serve as role models among their peers who may seek similar experiences for themselves. A larger initiative exists (*see pyramid graphic*) that works to engage youth in a variety of outdoor experiences and gradually moves to a point where selected youth are paired with jobs.



In August, a group of 12 AVID students went to Glacier National Park. It was an eye-opening week filled with hikes, lake cruises, and many learning opportunities for the students, none of which had ever travelled outside of Minnesota or Wisconsin. Upon returning, several students were paired with jobs that maximized their new skills.

## SAINT PAUL PARKS CONSERVANCY

The Saint Paul Parks Conservancy was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2008 to raise funds to enhance and expand parks and recreation opportunities throughout Saint Paul. In late 2007, realizing that the City alone could not provide adequate funding for creative park enhancements, Mayor Chris Coleman and other community leaders applied for and received funding from the McKnight Foundation to help launch the Conservancy. Since achieving tax

exempt status in March of 2009, for its first project, the Conservancy raised over 80% of the \$559,000 needed for overdue enhancements to Lilydale Regional Park. This undeveloped parkland just a few blocks from downtown Saint Paul was a natural first choice for attention. In 2010, in addition to completing funding for Lilydale Regional Park enhancements, the Conservancy is raising the \$361,000 needed to complete the lower athletic field at Oxford Community Center.



Saint Paul  
**Parks**  
Conservancy

# Planning

## Great River Park

The Great River Park Master Plan is intended to transform Saint Paul in profound ways. The year long planning process began with a community picnic and kick-off event held at Harriet Island in August. Over 300 people attended this event, initiating an extensive public and stakeholder participation process seeking community input in the development of a plan for Saint Paul's 17 miles of riverfront park land. The project's guiding principles: *More Natural, More Urban, and More Connected*, represent a grand vision for unifying the entire length of Saint Paul's riverfront.

The master plan, anticipated to be completed in June of 2011, will set the stage for the manifestation of sustainable parks and open spaces, ecological restoration, and economic development; while connecting the City, its neighborhoods and people, to Saint Paul's unique Mississippi River resources. The project team is led by Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, with the consulting team of Wenk Associates from Denver Colorado and the local Minneapolis firm, Hoisington Koegler Group. For more information, please visit the project website at [www.greatriverpark.org](http://www.greatriverpark.org).

## Parks and Recreation System Plan

The current Parks and Recreation system is not sustainable. In order to ensure future decisions are made in the best interest of the entire system, this plan was developed to analyze current facility conditions and pair that with community needs and financial realities. The net result is a plan that works to transform the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation system into a 21st Century Parks and Recreation System that is economically viable and responsible with tax dollars.



## Characteristics of a 21st Century Park and Recreation System

- The system is activity-oriented, not facility-oriented
- The system responds quickly to the community and its needs
- The system provides equitable service to all sectors of the community
- The system is sustainable – economically and environmentally
- The system capitalizes on strong partnerships
- The system is organized around linear elements (trails and greenways) rather than around smaller neighborhood sites
- The system recasts City recreation centers as “community centers” that are about more than recreation and are open and accessible
- Following more than a year long review and community discussion, the final plan will be completed in 2011

# Administration & Finance



- Completed implementation of the Active Network, the Department's new automated registration and reservation system.
- Responded to more than 6,200 customer service related requests and issues.
- Secured more than 1,200 media mentions and clips by proactively promoting various Department initiatives, services, and events.
- Continued preparation and implementation for COMET, the City's new financial system. Full integration and implementation is expected to continue throughout 2011.
- Processed 12,172 invoices, recorded 2,861 cash receipts, and processed 21,778 paychecks during 2010.



# After School Education

## LinkUp Saint Paul

Linkupsaintpaul.org is a fast growing website where young people and families can search and find after-school and summer programs in their neighborhood and throughout the city. The website is a partnership of the City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul Public Schools, and community organizations. The website features 130 community organizations, libraries, recreation centers, and schools that offer activities for young people and the number of sites is growing. In association with the Second Shift Commission's efforts to help youth get involved in after-school and summer programs, the website is a great way to learn new things, meet friends, build leadership skills, and help youth reach their potential.



## The Saint Paul Second Shift Youth Commission

The Saint Paul Second Shift Youth Commission provides a place for young people in Saint Paul to have a voice at City Hall and develop innovative solutions while working with adults and other youth to tackle serious issues that Saint Paul youth face today. This year, twenty high school students from neighborhoods across Saint Paul served as Youth Commissioners to organize community action projects. Guided by the Saint Paul Youth Policy Platform, they developed and organized two action projects. Partnering with the Highland Park Senior High School Gay-Straight Alliance, their first project organized an awareness assembly during PRIDE week. The goal of this assembly was to advocate for equal rights within the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) community and to bring more meaning to the Day of Silence. The group brought in two local Poetry Out Loud poets to perform at the assembly as well as an opportunity to perform their own pieces.



The second project included a partnership with LinkUp Saint Paul, a web database to compile all afterschool, weekend, and summer program opportunities for Saint Paul youth.

In an on-going effort to ensure programs serve as a one-stop-shop for youth and families to find information, the Youth Commissioners recognized the fast growth of LinkUp Saint Paul and expanded the collaboration of youth serving agencies, to begin the process of a new and improved program to be unveiled in April of 2011. Working diligently, the group participated in the name, design, and data entry of the website.

In addition to their action projects, Youth Commissions participated, offered feedback on the Parks and Recreation System Plan, and contributed to the creation of the Saint Paul Framework for Youth Success, which calls the Saint Paul community to action to ensure our youth develop the skills, qualities, and knowledge necessary to thrive as productive, contributing citizens.

## East Side KidVenture

Celebrating its third year, the East Side KidVenture provides programs for no school days and summer activities and had consistently full summer camps this year with 150 youth in grade K-8 participating. Highlights from summer activities included field trips to the Minnesota Zoo, Caponi Art Park, and swimming at the East YMCA. A joint effort with the East Side Arts Council, Parks and Recreation, and Polly's Coffee Cove, allowed youth to work with an artist in the creation of beautiful art work that was displayed in Polly's community gallery and an opportunity for youth to visit the gallery as well as enjoy free ice cream! The Community Design Center of Minnesota, Metropolitan State University, and Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education all continued to work together to expand and strengthen after-school and summer opportunities for youth in the Payne Phalen and Dayton's Bluff neighborhoods and help make this program a success.

## Circulators

East Side Circulator provided 2,747 free rides to youth in the Dayton's Bluff and Payne Phalen area who took advantage of the programming at various locations in their neighborhood. In addition, a team of young people, including four Youth Job Corps Members and two Circulator Team Leaders, took responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the buses. This staffing model proved highly effective in ensuring a safe and engaging experience for all riders. A partnership with the YWCA was also launched to pilot Circulator transportation in Council Ward 1. In keeping with the Circulator's philosophy, this collaborative will strengthen civic capacities and community-based organizations can determine the process and protocols for a Circulator model that fits their neighborhood.



## Art Grants

Parks and Recreation was a recipient of a Partner in Arts Participation grant and an Arts Learning grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. Many of our out-of-school time activities are funded, in part, by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment. These grants funded Teaching Artists in all Rec Check, Summer Blast, and KidVenture programming, as well as an Arts Coordinator position at the Canvas. Field trips to Highpoint Center for Printmaking, the Children's Theatre Company, and other first-class local art venues were also supported through these funds. The art grants dramatically increased Parks and Recreation's ability to use its many community spaces to engage at-risk youth in grades K-12 in high quality art learning opportunities during out-of-school time hours.

# Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

## Como Zoo Accreditation

The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) announced that the Como Zoo was granted accreditation by AZA's independent Accreditation Commission. To be accredited, the Zoo underwent a thorough investigation to ensure it has and will continue to meet ever-rising standards which include animal care, veterinary programs, conservation, education, and safety. AZA requires zoos and aquariums to successfully complete this rigorous accreditation process every five years in order to be members of the Association.

The accreditation process included a detailed application and a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo and aquarium professionals. The inspecting team observes all aspects of the institution's operation including: animal care, keeper training, safety issues, educational programming, conservation efforts, veterinary programs, financial stability, risk management, visitor services, and other areas. The inspection team prepares an extensive written report for the Accreditation Commission. Finally, top officials are interviewed at a formal Commission hearing, after which accreditation is granted, tabled, or denied. Any institution that is denied may reapply one year after the Commission's decision is made. Less than 10% of the 2,600 USDA-licensed wildlife exhibitors are independently accredited by AZA.



**COMO PARK  
ZOO & CONSERVATORY**



## Zoo Nooz

- The Minnesota State Legislature and Governor Pawlenty approved the 2010 Bonding bill that included \$11 million for a new gorilla habitat. Construction is slated for the spring 2011 with an anticipated opening in 2013.
- Como Zoo received ten Wyoming Toads on loan from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. They were introduced to Como Zoo's other toads as part of our continuing participation in the Wyoming Toad Species Survival Plan, a coordinated effort to save an endangered species through captive breeding, public education, and habitat preservation. This is the Zoo's first official breeding recommendation for Wyoming Toads. Additionally Como Zoo received six Panamanian Golden Frogs.
- Three new African hedgehogs were received and will be part of the education collection and hedgehog breeding program.

- 2010 was an active year for the giraffes at Como Zoo. Unfortunately, the patriarch, Jahari, passed away in January. Jahari sired 25 offspring, was grandfather to 11 and great grandfather to 34. He was 18. Jahari's final 2 offspring were born in August. A healthy male calf named Howie was born to mother Daisy and less than a month after his arrival, another healthy calf named JJ, in honor of Jahari, was born to mother Clover.
- Como Zoo received a one-year old male giraffe, Skeeter, from Jacksonville Zoo.
- A new male blue-eyed black lemur named Sinatra was introduced to Thurman, a female blue-eyed black lemur. The previous blue-eyed black lemur male, Cruise, was sent to San Francisco Zoo. Zoo keepers are hopeful that successful breeding will occur.
- In April, Gordy, the 23 year old, 400 pound male gorilla, died suddenly. Necropsy results showed that he died of Myocardial Fibrosis, essentially a heart attack, a common cause of death for captive male gorillas in Gordy's age range.
- Several of Como Zoo's Emperor Tamarins were shipped to institutions around the country per Species Survival Plan recommendations for breeding and exhibition. Como has once again been recommended to breed tamarins.
- A new female Bison arrived in November, after Bell died of age-related complications.
- Chandler Farm of Littleton, Colorado has created an organic bar of soap named after Markisa, a Como Zoo orangutan. The soap is part of Chandler Farm's Great Ape Collection and is 100% palm oil free. Chandler Farm donates a portion of its proceeds to the Phelps Great Ape Foundation, a contributor to rehabilitation centers for orphaned orangutans. Additionally, 10% of the proceeds made from Markisa's scent will be sent to Como Zoo to spend on orangutan conservation efforts.



## Polar Bear Odyssey

In June, Como Zoo proudly unveiled “Polar Bear Odyssey”. This world-class exhibit provides bears a natural environment that offers dramatically more space and a multitude of opportunities for them to exhibit natural behaviors such as digging, swimming, foraging and hunting.

Polar Bear Odyssey emulates a Hudson Bay ecosystem complete with a river-washed stream, rocky cliffs, and evergreen plantings. Specific design elements featured in the new habitat include:

- A 13,140 square foot outdoor habitat that is four times larger than the former polar bear exhibit.
- A 3,260 square foot state-of-the-art holding building to provide large indoor bedrooms, daylight, pools and a cub den.
- Two pools of various depths that provide the bears with options that mirror their native tundra habitat. One pool contains live fish for the bears to hunt.
- A 260 square foot digging pit filled with bark chips, gravel and sand.
- Two separate habitat areas that can either be separated or joined by a corridor. This structure allows Como Zoo staff to separate the two habitats if housing a family group as the male bear must be isolated from the female and cubs.
- Land space covered with soil and gravel so the bears have a soft, natural surface to walk on.

Visitors can delight in up-close and personal views of the world's largest land predator by observing the bears inside the Outpost, the 1,270 square foot climate-controlled building that provides both underwater perspective and expansive views of the entire habitat. Outside, visitors have unobstructed views that bring the bears as close as twenty feet.

A 650 square foot Lodge provides a great get-away for business meetings, education classes, and private receptions. The Lodge has floor to ceiling windows looking into Polar Bear Odyssey.

Two designated stations for the public to watch operant conditioning animal training sessions between zookeepers and polar bears. During training sessions, zookeepers teach bears specific behaviors that help staff monitor the bears' health and safety. For example, bears are taught to present their paws for inspection or to open their mouths to check on dental health.

Polar Bear Odyssey was designed to meet and exceed all national and international standards. The habitat received the Three Diamond Rating by Polar Bears International, one of only two zoos in the world with that prestigious distinction.



## Polar Bear Climate Change Literacy Program

In conjunction with Polar Bear International, the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory have been invited to be a partner in the Climate Literacy Zoo Education Network coordinated by the Chicago Zoological Society. Through this partnership and resulting strategic plan and research findings will help define our future approach to climate change education.

Participation in this proposal to the National Science Foundation's Climate Change Education Partnership Program provides an opportunity to contribute to the development of contemporary strategies and learning tools that can improve climate change education for a vast public audience of zoo visitors. This partnership will also build a strong foundation for evaluating and disseminating innovative strategies that will have great national impact.



### Marjorie McNeely Conservatory

Celebrating its 95th anniversary, the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory was honored to be selected as an official All-America Selections Flower Display Garden. An All-America Selections (AAS) Display Garden is a public or privately funded garden open to the public that grows AAS Winner plants from seed in an attractive outdoor landscaped setting using horticulturally sound practices which beautify the environment. As an AAS Display Garden, the Conservatory will receive shipments of AAS annual plant seeds which the Conservatory will grow in its greenhouse and display for visitors beginning the summer 2011.

81 beautiful orchids were on exhibit at this year's Winter Carnival Orchid Show. The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory received 15 first place, 11 second place, and 6 third place ribbons. In addition, two American Orchid Society awards were given to the Orchid *Laelia*, cultivar "Greg McNeely": Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE) award with a score of 92 was awarded to the exhibitor of a specimen plant of robust health and appearance with an unusually large number of flowers. This amazing plant had 396 flowers on 22 inflorescences, and the Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) award with a score of 79. The plant receiving this award is given a permanent cultivar name. The name chosen for this plant will be Greg McNeely and all future divisions of the plant will be called *Laelia* (*Schomburgkia*) *moyobambae* 'Greg McNeely' HCC/AOS.

The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory displayed 63 select orchids at the Minnesota State Fair winning a total of 13 first place, 12 second place, and 6 third place ribbons. Two special ribbons were awarded for Best Specimen Plant (*Catasetum fimbriatum*) and Best Exhibit of more than 26 plants.



*como friends*  
TOGETHER WE GROW

### Como Friends

Como Friends, the nonprofit partner of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, contributed more than \$2 million in capital payments and program support in 2010. Through Como Friends' community fundraising efforts, Como was able to provide for many of Polar Bear Odyssey's state-of-the-art features, invest in value-added education experiences that reached more than 450,000 visitors, finish the facelift on Como's primate building, and supply everything from beneficial bugs to tulip bulbs for the Conservatory gardens. Como Friends funding also invested in behind-the-scenes species preservation projects and sending a Como Zoo primate keeper to Borneo and Sumatra to take part in a professional exchange to preserve threatened orangutans.

### Como Shuttle

The MRPA award-winning Como shuttle provided rides to 30,485 visitors. The three eye-catching shuttles wrapped in animal prints not only provide transportation, but also ease the congestion and traffic issues which are notorious for the areas by the Como Parks Zoo and Conservatory. New in 2010, daily service began June-August, in addition to weekends May-September.





# Design & Construction

## Historic Phalen Arch Bridge Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation has been taking place at the stone bridge over Phalen channel and will renew the appearance of this historic structure. Completion of the rehabilitation process will re-establish canoe and kayak navigation on the channel between Lakes Phalen and Round, and Keller, Spoon, and Gervais Lakes farther upstream.



## Riverfront Riprap Renovation and Overlook Construction

Riverfront riprap construction began in 2010 and despite late summer flooding and the discovery of contaminated soil, construction will resume and be completed in the summer of 2011. Construction of the scenic overlook is complete and allows trail users a closer view of the river, commercial river traffic, and the scenic beauty of Harriet Island and the bluffs beyond.

## Phalen – Keller Regional Park Master Plan

The Phalen – Keller Regional Park Master Plan was formally approved by the City of Saint Paul City Council providing an update to the 35 year old original plan. Various improvements identified in the plan include wetland restoration, expansion of native plantings, restoration of Phalen channel, improvements to pedestrian and bicycle trails, renovations to the beach house, Lakeside pavilion boat house, and picnic pavilion, replacement of the tennis courts, adding a splash pad at Phalen beach, restoration of the Historic Phalen Waterfall, and the addition of a Chinese pavilion and garden.

## Trails

### Samuel H. Morgan Regional Trail

Renovation was completed in 2010 and improvements included widening and separating the pedestrian and bicycle trail in the 1.9 mile section between Highway 5 and 35E. The safety and comfort improvements have already increased trail usage of both recreational and commuter cyclists and pedestrians.

### Cherokee Trail Design

With significant input and support from the neighborhood and task force, design staff developed plans for a major regional trail connection between the existing trail systems at Harriet Island through the Cherokee Park neighborhoods. Construction of the trail will begin in 2011 which, when completed, will improve the safety and appearance of Cherokee Regional Park.



## Play Area Improvements

### Ryan Park

A top play area equipment manufacturer, located right here in Minnesota, chose Saint Paul to unveil and install a new line of Play Equipment at the country's top Parks and Recreation trade show. Ryan Park was chosen to receive the installation which includes play equipment for 2-5 and 6-12 year old children. Pieces include a clear rock climbing wall, spinning overhead wheel, net climbing structure, and an extreme teeter-totter.

### Saint Clair/West 7th Community Center

A new children's play area was built at Saint Clair/West 7th Community Center, including sidewalks, benches, and landscape plantings. The completed play area has been popular with the children, and parents can now sit comfortably and watch their kids at play, read a book, or just sit and enjoy the scenery.

## Construction Projects Under Way to be Completed in Spring of 2011

- Highland Park Aquatic Center
- Joyce Kilmer Fireplace
- North End Teen Center
- Baker Recreation Center Play Area
- Hancock Recreation Center Play Area
- Holly Play Area
- Harriet Island Regional Park Play Area

# Operations

## Building Trades

Provides plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, and heating/cooling needs for the Department and citywide events.

- Implemented new flood plan for two seasonal flood events on the Mississippi River.
- Completed the installation of a generator system for Emergency Management Mass Care at Battle Creek Recreation Center.
- Co-managed over 2 million dollars in capital maintenance upgrades to department facilities including HVAC controls, special lighting projects at Como Zoo, and resealed the pools in the Como Zoo bird yard.
- Installed six additional security camera systems in department facilities.
- Completed modifications to facilities allowing partnering agencies to begin programming at re-partnered sites.
- Worked with Police and Neighborhood Housing Property Improvement departments to identify and remove over 1,000 incidents of graffiti on parks and private property.

## Contract Services

Provides maintenance services for property owned by the Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) and the St. Paul Port Authority, and cleans properties for the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) and provides contractually arranged services to the Sewer Utility.

- Responded to 6,105 summary abatement work orders for DSI Parks staff completed 4,297 and 1,805 were done by the property owners.
- Provided trash hauling services for 150 properties ordered by DSI.
- Provided property oversight, tree trimming, grass-cutting, snow-plowing, and other general maintenance services for 428 PED properties.
- Provided snow removal, grass cutting, brush cutting and removal of unwanted vegetation for the Sewer Utility's holding ponds, lift stations, and levee sites.

## Como Central Service Facility Storeroom

Provides custodial and automotive supplies and equipment for the Department.

- Increased and diversified standard inventory base to better accommodate on demand supply needs.



## Equipment Services

Provides acquisition, management, and maintenance of small and specialized equipment/apparatus, as well as facility management for the Como Central Service Facility.

- Purchased the last of four circulator buses to provide free shuttle service from the state fair grounds parking lot to the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory.
- Completed Phase III of 800 MHz Radio Project by purchasing 185, 800 MHz radios, base stations, hand held and vehicle mounts to replace the obsolete UHF system and improve overall direct communication.
- Reorganized lower parking area to streamline access and departure of City vehicles, gain parking space, and provide an additional security gate. Repave the upper parking lot and added a rain garden at the Como Central Service Facility.
- Started a second golf cart lease program at Highland National 18 for 2011 that will save additional thousands of dollars in maintenance fees and staff time and increased revenue generating ability in golf cart rentals.
- Installed a 250 kW emergency standby generator at Battle Creek Recreation Center as part of the City's Homeland Security/Emergency plan.
- Provided flood fighting and protection services for the three public docks at Harriet Island, i.e. the Public Dock, Show Boat Dock & the Concessions Dock.
- Maintained 630 units of specialized equipment and 1,125 units of small equipment.

## Support Maintenance

Provides support for recreation centers, parks, and municipal athletics and heavy equipment operation.

- Increased rink maintenance coverage on both outdoor and refrigerated rinks resulting in improved ice conditions and increased usage.
- Provided trash removal for Parks and contracted service for the Fire Department and Library's which added up to approximately 1,941 tons of garbage.
- Provided maintenance on play equipment at 75 play areas to ensure on-going safety.
- Moved/delivered 56,975 items including tables, chairs, staging, barriers for Parks and other city departments.



Issued  
2,060 permits  
for events at  
shelters and  
pavilions  
in 2010

## Recreation Maintenance

Provides recreation centers with the daily custodial/grounds maintenance needed to operate in a clean and safe environment.

- Purchased and installed white vinyl lines for all hockey rinks thereby eliminating the puddles and sink holes formed by the sun reflecting the painted lines.
- Vinyl lines increased ice safety, longevity, and are reusable each season.
- Initiated a restoration program to reestablish high playability on infields used for baseball/softball by using a functional multifaceted approach to field care, purchasing more efficient equipment, and identified better ways to integrate versatility in operations.
- Developed a replacement program for floor equipment, replacing five outdated machines thus limiting large unexpected capital expenditures and to ensure equipment cache does not become obsolete.
- Assisted with the completion of a sidewalk and driveway entrance at Palace's refrigerated rink providing safe access to rink area.
- Maintained more than 360,000 square feet of interior building space, 248 acres of grounds, 140 ball fields, 65 soccer/football fields, 12 hockey rinks, and 14 general skating rinks.

## Park Maintenance

Performs routine grounds and facility maintenance of regional, city, neighborhood parks, parkways, and open space as well as preparation, management, and disassembly for programs and events occurring in the parks.

- Maintained over 4,000 acres of parkland, 100 miles of paved off-road trails, 38 tot lots, 15 picnic/rental facilities, dozens of athletic courts, and 3 maintenance facilities.
- Provided service to large regional events such as; the Saint Paul Winter Carnival, Flint Hills Children's Festival, Dragon Fest, Irish Fest and hosted the Hmong International Freedom Celebration.
- Began a recycling program at all large events and festivals.
- Implemented flood maintenance measures for two back-to-back flood events.
- Opened Eastside Heritage Park, a new park and picnic facility on Saint Paul's east side.
- Took over the outdoor maintenance of seven decommissioned school sites.



## Parks Permit Office

Issues permits for special events, picnic shelters, pavilions, open spaces (walks, runs, photo and video shoots, fossil hunting, and ice climbing), and Showmobiles.

- Delivered the remaining Showmobile (covered stages) to 33 events throughout the city.
- Issued 297 Lilydale fossil hunting permits serving over 12,189 participants.
- Issued 2,060 permits for shelters and pavilions for variety of events ranging from large public events to small private gatherings including 75 permits for walks/runs (of which 14 permits were for Mississippi River Blvd walk/runs with participant attendance at over 210,000).
- Issued permits for 124 weddings in downtown parks in Saint Paul;
  - 39 Irvine – attendance 4,256
  - 9 Kellogg – attendance 3,430
  - 50 Mears – attendance 12 719
  - 26 Rice – attendance 10,754
- Issued 20 film/photo permits including a training tape for the Mayo Hospital, an independent feature film entitled The Statue of David, and a documentary about the Peanuts and Charles Schulz done by a film crew from Japanese TV.

## Natural Resources

Encompasses Forestry, Environmental Services, and the citywide Art and Gardening program and collectively protect, restore, and encourage environmental stewardship of our environmentally unique areas.

## Arts & Gardening

Manages the department's public gardens and public art collection through a variety of programs, partnerships, and projects.

- Increased sustainability and reduced noise by purchasing an electric motorized cart and pump for watering flowers.
- Increased community support of the Blooming Saint Paul program by more than \$10,000.
- Secured funding for the maintaining the City's public art collection.
- Engaged 395 volunteers for 3,887 hours of service to maintain gardens, the equivalent of 1.86 full time employees.
- Maintained over 220,000 square feet of garden beds, 156 planters, and 568 hanging baskets.
- Hosted the sixth annual Blooming Saint Paul Awards program for recognizing and celebrating beautiful gardens in Saint Paul.
- Created an outdoor floral installation of more than 30,000 flowers for the Flint Hills Children's Festival.

## Environmental Services

Manages the Department's sensitive natural resources through a variety of programs, partnerships and projects.

- Awarded funding from the State of Minnesota Outdoor Heritage–Parks & Trails Fund for two key positions, a Volunteer Coordinator and an Environmental Education Coordinator.
- Awarded a Minnesota GreenCorps member for the second year from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- Hosted the third year of an AmeriCorps VISTA member to help build program capacity.
- Engage 2,982 community volunteers for 9,000 hours of service to maintain and restore parks and natural areas, the equivalent of 4.3 full time employees.
- Partnered with other agencies and organizations to administer over \$400,000 in grants and donations to maintain natural areas, including funding from the state's Conservation Partnership Legacy Grant.
- Partnered with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota to provide employment and education for 26 Youth Job Corps members in the Eco-Ranger program curriculum and directed another 49 youth in the Youth Outdoors program.
- Removed woody biomass – buckthorn and other invasives – from 50 acres of parkland.
- Planted 3,300 native trees and shrubs, 50,000 acorns and 1,200 native grasses and flowers.
- Initiated the new Hike It! interpretive program in August. This program engaged 65 visitors in educational hikes on the Lilydale brickyard trail during the summer.
- Provided 774 youth with educational environmental activities while partnering with recreation centers, National Park Service, Science Museum of Minnesota, and the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom Advisory Committee.
- Partnered with Digital Bridge to Nature (MN DNR) to provide two teacher workshops integrating education, digital media, and the outdoors.



## Forestry

Maintains the city's urban forest of 150,000 right-of-way public trees and 200,000 parkland trees by implementing modern practices and techniques.

- Continued implementation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan using, in part, a State of Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund grant of \$722,600, which led to:
  - Partnership working with other agencies such as the State of Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
  - Adding another Forestry crew to focus on EAB while not impacting the Forestry section flow of daily duties.
  - Continued monitoring and inspection of public and private property ash trees.
  - Removed 117 EAB infested public trees.
  - Removed 936 declining ash trees and stumps as part of the EAB management strategy "structured removal".
  - Began reforestation with a more diversified planting scheme with 1,110 trees.
- Awarded \$21,000 in grant money from the DNR Community Conservation Assistance Program to complete an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment.
- Awarded a Tree Trust grant adding sixty new trees to Cherokee Park planted by volunteers.
- Updated the Street and Park Tree Master Plan and made it available online through the Forestry website.
- Established the Landmark Tree Program to honor remarkable trees. Over sixty nominations were submitted with eight winners selected for the inaugural year.
- Coordinated Arbor Month planting and outreach events combining education and entertainment such as a poster contest and providing several in school forestry presentations.
- The Tree Advisory Panel concluded its second year by helping to update the city's tree trimmer licensing ordinance, selecting finalists for the poster contest and the Landmark Tree Program.
- Processed 1,715 diseased and dangerous trees on private property, removed 2,400 public trees and 1,400 stumps, and planted 2018 boulevard trees.
- Planted 144 donated trees in parks through the Friends of the Parks & Trails program.
- Partnered with the University of Minnesota on a research project at Phalen Boulevard and Payne Avenue to identify trees that will grow in challenging urban areas.
- Partnered with Public Works to remove and replant trees in Residential Street Vitalization Projects using the re-construction opportunities to replace threatened ash trees.

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# Special Services



## GOLF

Golf as an industry has experienced a downward trend in play over the last several years. Saint Paul's four municipal courses; Highland National, Highland 9-hole, Como, and Phalen saw rounds decrease again in 2010, so beginning December 2010, the courses were put on performance plans. The plans were developed to help improve course performance and ensure new steps were taken to recruit new golfers to the courses.

- 117,304 golf rounds were played in 2010.
- The 2nd annual Highland 9 for \$9 program had a successful season, almost doubling the participants from 2009.
- Family Fun Golf continued with more than 200 new golfers taking part in the program for the first time.

The First Tee of St. Paul program has raised \$700,000 of the \$800,000 necessary for construction of a golf learning center at the Highland National Golf Course. The facility will be located at the driving range of the golf course and will provide a safe shelter during poor weather conditions, a classroom area to teach the Life Skills portion of the program, office space and a storage area for The First Tee of St. Paul Chapter. This will allow more St. Paul Youth to be served by The First Tee as well as benefit the patrons at Highland National GC. An overhang above the back of the driving range will provide an area for golfers to practice hitting range balls when the weather is poor as well as planned improvements in the practice area.



## MIDWAY STADIUM

During the 209 days of their season, the Midway Stadium hosted 182 events ranging from baseball and football games to charity events. 90 of these events were sponsored by the Saint Paul Saints, the facility's major tenant, the rest were City sponsored. With an overall attraction of 237,325 guests other events included; State Class AA High School Baseball Tournament, high school sectional tournaments, recreation center youth football games, Team USA Showcase Tournament, and charity walks for the prevention of child abuse and for the National Kidney Foundation.

## PARK SECURITY



Park Security is committed to serving park patrons by ensuring the safe and peaceful use of parks for all, protecting park property and facilities by education, and courteous enforcement of Park Rules and Regulations. Park Security Officers patrol the 170 Saint Paul City parks containing over 4,500 acres of parkland. Park Security Officers are a friendly presence at our many recreation centers and facilities and are equipped with state of the art 800 MHz radios which allow them to communicate directly with Saint Paul Police and dispatch in the event that police, fire or medics are needed. As ambassadors of Saint Paul Parks, Officers are prepared to offer any type of assistance to the thousands of patrons who visit Saint Paul parks.

- Park Security responded to 1,629 calls for service including calls for:
  - Finding lost children
  - Directional information
  - Responding to alarms at park facilities
  - Securing and opening gates, doors, and restrooms
  - Dogs off-leash
  - Traffic control
  - Addressing hostile encounters
  - Issue citations when necessary
- Park Security provided significant security coverage for both Como Park Zoo Boo and Phalen Holiday Lights providing 560 hours of security coverage.



## WELLS FARGO WINTERSKATE

18,950 people skated at the Wells Fargo Winterskate Rink in downtown Saint Paul this winter. The historic Landmark Center created a beautiful backdrop for this outdoor refrigerated rink. Participants included youth hockey groups, broomball teams, afterschool groups, corporate events, and family open skating.

## SKI & SNOWBOARD PROGRAM

The Como Park Ski Center offered 5K of intermediate-advanced level groomed classical, and skate-style trails, 1/7K loop of lighted trail for the beginner-level and instruction and classical style equipment rental for all ages. The program had an overall 13% increase in number of participants for lessons and clinics. Snowboarding enrollments saw the biggest increase with 62% more participants than last year followed by cross country skiing with a 21% increase.

- Cross Country: 119 enrollments
- Downhill: 602 enrollments
- Snowboarding: 295 enrollments
- Overall Total: 1,016 enrollments



## FLUGTAG

Red Bull Flugtag, which means “flying day” in German, is a competition that dares both the brave and the brainy to design, build, and pilot homemade flying machines off a 30-foot high ramp in hopes of achieving human-powered flight. 95,000 spectators witnessed a world record breaking 207 foot flight by team Major Trouble and the Dirty Dixies at Harriet Island on July 24. The previous record of 195 feet had held strong for ten years!

## PHALEN HOLIDAY LIGHTS

53,000 visitors enjoyed the magical transformation of Phalen Park into a fantasy of lights, color, and action this holiday season. A spectacular array of more than 50 larger-than-life holiday light sculptures and animated displays brighten the season as visitors toured beautiful Phalen Park from the comfort of their own vehicle. This successful event donated all of its \$35,000 proceeds to multiple charities.

## Recreation Services



Attracted  
2.87 million  
visitors to  
Recreation  
Centers  
in 2010.



## RECREATION CENTERS

25 recreation centers provided programming in 2010. New partnership efforts were developed with the Saint Paul Public School District and Public Library.

- Recreation Centers attracted more than 2.87 million visitors for drop-in and programmed activities. A 7% increase over 2009.
- A total of 4,811 classes/activities were offered at recreation centers. More than 36,900 people participated in these activities. This is an almost 12% increase over 2009.
- During the school year, more than 500 children participated in the Rec Check program which was expanded to 14 sites during the fall of 2010. The Rec Check program is a free after school program where youth in grades 1-6, can engage in homework help, reading, crafts, games, and physical activities.
- A total of 155 camps were offered during the summer. More than 1,400 youth participated in these camps doing art, computer, cooking, dance, outdoor discovery, science, sports, and theatre.
- During the summer 689 youth participated in the Summer Blast program at 11 sites. The summer blast program is a free afternoon program for youth in grades 1-6. Activities included crafts, art, tennis, cooking, swimming, games, outdoor nature and play, kitchen science, and more.



## THE CANVAS TEEN ARTS CENTER

The year old Canvas Teen Arts Center at Hancock Recreation Center has developed into a premiere site for youth-driven art workshops and events. Over 150 young people participated in free workshops, including: photography, dance, drawing, fiction writing, graphic storytelling, rapping and songwriting, poetry, and urban textile design. Concerts, student performances, plays, and a monthly open mic night, drew more than 300 spectators. COMPAS for the Arts continued to play a strong partnership role in bringing high quality art learning opportunities to the site.

The Canvas Youth Leadership Council played a vital role in making decisions about the Canvas Teen Arts Center on matters such as designing the space, hiring artists for workshops, and special events during school breaks. Collaboration with the Hamline Midway Coalition and Mosaic on a Stick, led to the construction and installation of a stunning mirrored tile mosaic on the exterior of the building providing a visible sign to the community of the art-friendly space inside.



## CITYWIDE RECREATION SERVICES

### Mobile Recreation

- The Roaming Rec Program provided outdoor recreation activities during the afternoon and evening for youth, ages 6-17, at 16 passive parks and public housing sites throughout the summer. Total attendance was 5,508.
- A new swimming initiative which included free transportation and pool admission was introduced in the summer in which 1,130 youth from various recreation centers and passive parks enjoyed the Great River Water Park and Highland Park Aquatic Center.
- Community outreach initiatives continued with programming at a senior housing site, two Hmong senior programs, two Loaves and Fishes sites, and the Ramsey County Family Service Center.

### Summer Meals

- The Summer Food Service Program, co-sponsored by Saint Paul Public Schools Nutrition Department, provided 61,708 meals to Saint Paul youth at 29 recreation centers, roaming rec sites, and summer camps.

### Urban Tennis

- 2,313 youth (ages 5-18) participated in daily tennis lessons and life skills training at 32 sites in Saint Paul. An additional 1,423 youth participated in various outreach programs.



### Night Moves

- 1,027 teens participated in programs at 14 sites throughout the City. Programs offered included volleyball, basketball, recording studio, hip-hop dance, disc golf, girls' programs, skateboarding, and field trips for transition teens through the Adaptive Recreation program.



### Saint Paul Getting Fit

- Saint Paul continued to get fit with the "Active Living" Fitness Membership. More than 1,800 residents took advantage of the \$30 annual fitness membership that grants unlimited access to all recreation fitness rooms and walking tracks. 50 non-residents participated by paying a \$60 non-resident annual rate and enjoyed unlimited access as well.





## ADAPTIVE RECREATION

The Adaptive Recreation Program provides a wide variety of activities for individuals with mental and/or physical disabilities. Activities include league sports, crafts, fitness, swimming, music, special events, and more. The Adaptive Recreation Program also coordinated inclusion efforts by providing assessments and support when a person with special needs registers to participate in programs that are offered to the general public.

- The program provided more than 37,800 hours of programming for people with disabilities or other special needs, including over 900 hours of volunteer services.
- Colleen Tusa, Assistant Director for Adaptive Recreation, presented the Focus on Fitness Program at the National Park and Recreation Association's Poster Session for Therapeutic Recreation in Minneapolis in October.
- Activities added in 2010 included a show tunes dance class, kickball, yoga, painting, drawing, and framing classes, as well as an indoor soccer league.

## AQUATICS

The Aquatics section operates the year-round indoor Great River Water Park, outdoor Highland Park Aquatic Center, and Phalen Beach and had a very successful 2010 swim season.

- Lifeguard staff received the annual Bronze International Aquatic Safety Award presented by Ellis and Associates, which requires staff to meet various standards and adhere to multiple safety requirements.
- Highland Park Aquatic Center will re-open for the 2011 season with a new bathhouse and concession facilities.
- Como Pool will continue construction with an estimated opening of summer 2012.

Great River Water Park provided:

- 1,603 swim lessons, a 20% increase from last season.
- 24 Friends of Oxford Pool Swim Lesson Scholarships were awarded to youth.
- 40 Swim Lessons for youth in Police Athletic League were awarded.

Highland Park Aquatic Center provided:

- 1,224 swim lessons, a 1% increase from last season.
- 125,000 visitors enjoyed affordable swimming opportunities from Memorial Day thru Labor Day. A 10% increase from last season.

Lake Phalen Sailing provided:

- 37 sailing lessons thru the Come Sail Away Program, a 48% increase from last season.

## SENIOR PROGRAMS

Parks and Recreation's Program for Adults 50+ offered a variety of activities, trips, tours and special events for seniors, retirees and adults over the age of 50.

- City Passport, a partnership between HealthEast Passport Program and the City of Saint Paul's Recreation Program for Adults 50+ had over 13,700 visitors in 2010. City Passport had nearly 6,000 hours of volunteer service on various projects throughout the year.
- The Recreation for Adults 50+ Program partnered with the Saint Paul Police Department and the Saint Paul Public Housing Authority to offer several new walking groups located in communities with senior high-rises.
- Over 1,200 people participated in special events, day trips, and special interest classes offered by the Recreation for Adults 50+ Program.
- On-going activities, such as the Golden Melody Makers chorus, the Over the Hill Gang bowling league, and the Hiking Club had almost 4,000 participant hours in 2010.
- The '50+ Across Saint Paul' quarterly newsletter is distributed to nearly 2,200 individuals, agencies, libraries, senior housing facilities and recreation centers.
- The Recreation for Adults 50+ Program partnered with Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota and the Department of Natural Resources to take a group of about 100 Vietnamese Elders to Lake Phalen for a day of fishing.



# MUNICIPAL ATHLETICS

## Programming

### YOUTH

- **RBI Baseball and Softball Program**
  - 1,600+ participants
  - 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 15U, 18U age groups - recreational
  - 12U, 13U, 14U Baseball Triple Play Leagues
- **Basketball**
  - 1,600+ participants
  - 10U, 12U, 14U, 18U age groups - recreational
- **Volleyball**
  - 630+ participants
  - 10U, 12U, 14U, 18U age groups - recreational
- **Football**
  - 1,050 participants - Tackle - recreational
  - 10U, 12U, 14U age groups - recreational
- **Fall Soccer**
  - 780 participants - recreational
  - 10U, 12U, 14U age groups
- **Indoor Soccer**
  - 200 participants
  - 10U, 12U age groups

**Total youth participants – 5,860**

### ADULT

- **Broomball/ Boot Hockey**
  - 1,800 participants
- **Touch Football**
  - 280 participants
- **Softball**
  - 7,500 participants
- **Basketball**
  - 220 participants
- **Baseball**
  - 550 participants

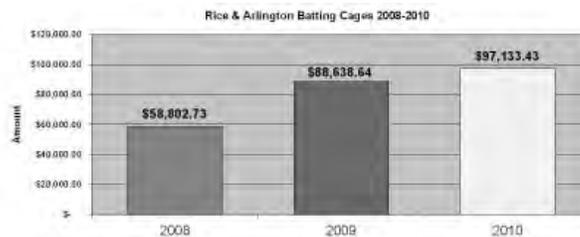
**Total adult participants – 10,350**

## Projects

- In ground irrigation installed at Dunning South Softball field
- New safety fencing installed at Dunning Stadium (Toni Stone Field)
- Completion of the Billy Peterson baseball field
- New road sign installed at Municipal Athletics
- New concession stand and garage built at Dunning Stadium (Toni Stone Field)

## Batting Cages

- 68,000+ participants



## Featured Rental Facilities

- **McMurray**
  - Soccer
  - Lacrosse
  - Football
  - Rugby
  - Gaelic Football
  - Ultimate Frisbee
  - Hurling
  - Baseball
  - Softball
  - Kickball
- **Rice/Arlington**
  - Softball
  - Baseball
  - Soccer
  - Field Hockey
  - Kickball
  - Football
- **Dunning**
  - Baseball
  - Softball
- **Arlington/Arkwright**
  - Baseball
  - Soccer

## Officiating Program

Municipal Athletics provides the administration for employment, training, assigning and evaluation of 300 sports officials in our youth and adult athletic program.

- Football
- Baseball
- Softball
- Broomball
- Boot Hockey
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Volleyball

## Support Group

Friends of St. Paul Baseball is the non profit support group that generates private dollars to help support, maintain, and improve our athletic field infrastructure related to baseball and softball. Friends generated \$320,000 in 2010.

## Grant Programs

### Minnesota Twins Community Fund Grant

- \$65,000 annually for programming distributed to our recreation center baseball/softball program including entry fees, equipment, apparel, etc.
- \$10,000 annually for renovation of a Saint Paul baseball or softball field.
- \$5,000 annually for Futures Baseball Program.
- \$2,500 annually for Jason Kubel's Kub's Kids T-Ball program.

### STAR Grant

- \$156,000 was awarded to the Friends of Saint Paul Baseball non profit support group to build a new concession stand and garage at Dunning Baseball Stadium (Toni Stone Field).

## Partnerships

- MLB/Minnesota Twins
- NFL/Minnesota Vikings
- JR. NBA/Jr. WNBA
- USSSA Softball – United States Specialty Sports Association
- NAFA Softball – North American Fastpitch Association
- MBA Baseball – Minnesota Baseball Association
- MYAS – Minnesota Youth Athletic Services
- MSF – Minnesota Sports Federation
- American Legion Baseball
- VFW Baseball
- Multiple Community Business Partnerships
- Tri County Softball
- Concordia – St. Paul University
- St. Thomas University
- USA Broomball
- University of Minnesota
- Saint Paul Saints Baseball
- Saint Paul Pioneers Football

# Events of 2010

## Cultural Festivals

- Dragon Boat Festival
- Ethiopian Celebration of the Cross
- Rondo Days

## Downtown Events

- Flint Hills Children's Festival
- T.C. Hot Summers Jazz Fest
- Classic Car Shows
- Concrete and Grass

## Neighborhood Celebrations

- Highland Fest
- Payne Ave Fest
- WaterFest

## Holiday Lights at Phalen

## Harriet Island Events

- Wishes for the Sky
- American Diabetes Association (ADA) Bike Ride
- Time to Fly Run
- Taste of Minnesota
- Irish Fair
- Red Bull Flugtag USA

## Winter Skate

## Winter Carnival

## Athletics

- Minnesota Class A State Amateur Baseball Tournament
- 35+ State Baseball Tournament
- Rice St. Festival Softball Tournament
- Paul Molitor Classic Youth Baseball Tournament
- Dave Winfield/Kirby Puckett 12U RBI Tournament
- MSF Winter Carnival Broomball Tournament
- Rookies/Harding Area Youth Softball Tournament
- 14U NAFA National Fastpitch Softball Tournament
- Multiple Youth and Adult Playoffs/Tournaments
- First Annual Halloween Bash Softball Tournament

## Como Zoo & Conservatory Events

- Orchid Show
- Winter Flower Show
- Woo at the Zoo
- Enchanted Evening
- Spring Fling
- Bridal Showcase
- Go Green for Gorillas
- Party for the Planet
- Summer Flower Show
- Bonsai Show
- Wings of Wonder
- Sunset Affair
- Lantern Lighting Festival
- Zink
- Free to be Green
- Wolf Awareness Weekend
- Zoo Boo
- Orangutan Awareness
- Ikebana Show
- Holiday Tea
- Family New Year's Day



## ***Things to look for in 2011...***

- Parks and Recreation System Plan
- Great River Park Plan
- Highland Park Aquatic Center Building Renovation

# **MAYOR CHRIS COLEMAN'S STRATEGIC PLAN**

## ***Saint Paul: The Most Livable City in America***

Saint Paul is a world class city by any measure – home to historic neighborhoods, a burgeoning 21st century transit system, a significant and growing center for the arts, and strong businesses, both big and small. Ours is a city that invests wisely in our strengths, creating a safe and diverse urban center that is large enough to be a model city, but just the right size to feel like home.

Strong communities are the foundation on which great cities are built. In Saint Paul we know that our strength lies in our residents. Our vision for the city's future is anchored by our community values. We will be a city that does right by our children and our environment, a city that fosters innovation and creativity to bring new jobs and grow our economy, a city that inspires public and private investment to build a 21st century infrastructure, and a city that invests wisely to protect our quality of life.

All great cities grow out of strong communities, and especially in these challenging times we will continue to tap into the energies and talents of our residents and partners to move our city forward. These are the goals of our administration. With them, we will finish the work we started four years ago, and continue to write a new story for our city that we can carry proudly into the future.



### **CITY OF SAINT PAUL NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY**

The City of Saint Paul will not discriminate against or harass any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, religion, sex, sexual or affectional orientation, color, national origin, ancestry, familial status, age, disability or marital status with regard to public assistance.

# Landmark Tree Program

The City of Saint Paul is rich in history, culture, and natural resources. With over 500,000 trees, Saint Paul's urban forest contains trees that have endured since the city's inception. These trees continue to provide environmental, physical, social, and economic benefits that have been instrumental in shaping our communities.

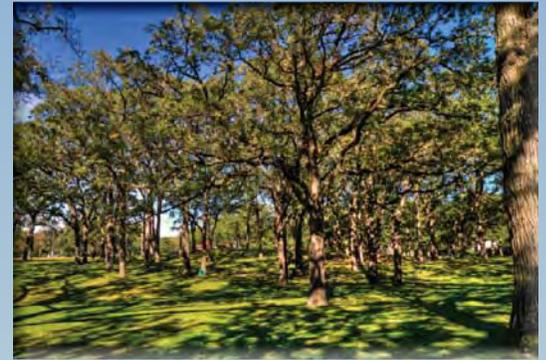
The Landmark Tree Program was created to document and compile a record of significant trees within the City of Saint Paul. In addition, the program aims to promote the importance of trees, foster community appreciation, and educate citizens about proper maintenance and planting practices. By identifying these remarkable trees, citizens will also learn interesting facts about diverse tree species and their historical relevance.

From the expansive oak on Hartford Avenue to the abundant oak savannah at Newell Park, this year's nominated trees were ideal examples of the Landmark Tree Program significance. For example, the Hartford Avenue Oak, planted on the west side of the house, provides shade on hot sunny afternoons exemplifying the economical benefit of trees by helping lower the resident's energy bills.

The oak tree grove at Newell Park features more than 150 mature, native white, bur, and red oaks. Most of the oak trees in this grove were well established when Newell Park was dedicated in 1908 and exemplifies what most of the city looked like before development. The dense overhead canopy creates plenty of shade for a picnic on a warm summer day. The underground connection of roots and mycorrhizae (a symbiotic association between a fungus and the roots of a vascular plant) ensures the oak grove's survival by sharing water and nutrients.

Interesting tree facts indeed!

*Special thanks to photographer  
Teresa Boardman for her time, talent, and  
enduring love for our parks!*



Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

