



## Sustainable Saint Paul Briefings August 2014

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### Count volunteers needed!

The City of Saint Paul is preparing for its second annual bicycle and pedestrian counts and needs your help! The counts are taking place from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 with a planned rain date of Thursday, September 11, 2014.

Volunteers will be asked to count bicyclists and pedestrians at key locations throughout the city. Counting helps City staff understand where and how people are walking and biking around the city, helping to guide investment in infrastructure improvements. Annual counts also allow staff to track traffic volumes over time to understand trends.

If you would like to volunteer for the upcoming September count, please email [Luke Hanson](mailto:Luke.Hanson@cityofstpaul.org) or call 651-266-6146. For more information about the upcoming counts and to view data collected in previous years, visit the [project's website](http://www.cityofstpaul.org/projects/counts).

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### Register today for the Saint Paul Bike Classic Tour



Registration remains open for Minnesota's largest bike tour, the Saint Paul Classic. Excitingly, this year is the 20th anniversary ride so come out and experience traffic-free glee on Minnesota's biggest bike tour! Cycling participants have the option to choose between the 15-mile Summit Ave. Loop and the 30-mile Saint Paul Grand Round. Riders can also choose to do both routes for a 45-mile ride. The Classic is a unique and wonderful opportunity to explore the beauty of Saint Paul. The event is scheduled for September 7, 2014. Register [here](http://www.saintpaulclassic.com).

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### Natural Resources outdoor recreation and education highlights

The City of Saint Paul's Natural Resources Division recently received a grant from REI to monitor wildlife at Trout Brook and Como Woodland over three years. The City has conducted four mammal surveys and two nature photography programs and engaged over 60 participants in environmental education and citizen science.

Natural Resources staff and Summer Blast youth from Arlington Hills Community Center are also working together to adopt Trout Brook (formerly known as Trillium) Nature Sanctuary. Trout Brook is an approximately 42 acre site located west of I-35E between Norpac Rd. and Cayuga Ave. Youth are being engaged in learning about the environment at the park and helping to restore the wetland areas. The 1-6 grade youth have planted wetland species along the Trout Brook stream bed- plants which the same youth members helped grow from tiny plugs at the start of the summer.



The park is scheduled to open in the spring of 2015. Follow the [Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary updates](http://www.cityofstpaul.org/projects/troutbrook).

## Don't miss celebrating National Public Lands Day with the Natural Resources Team



Photo by Urban Landreman

Come volunteer, learn and sip some hot chocolate as we ring in a new season. The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 9-11:30 a.m. at Hidden Falls Regional Park at South Gate/Prior Ave. Entrance (entrance is at intersection of Prior Ave. and Mississippi River Blvd.) This event will include planting trees, shrubs and acorns; birding activities and drinking hot cocoa! [Register online](#).

Visit the Natural Resources [website](#) or [like](#) them on Facebook.

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## Upcoming opportunities to properly dispose your unwanted items - 2014 Citywide community cleanup events



Do you live in Saint Paul? Are you looking for ways to properly dispose of items such as furniture and construction materials and recycle items like mattresses, appliances, electronics and scrap metal? If so, mark your calendars for upcoming opportunities to properly dispose your unwanted items. Residents may also donate usable household items for reuse. All Saint Paul residents are welcome to participate in the cleanups. Click here for a short [video](#) or visit the [website](#).

Scheduled cleanups:

- **Saturday, September 20, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.**, MN State Fair Grounds (Northwest corner of fair grounds; enter off Larpenteur Ave. west of Snelling Ave.). For more information, call the Saint Anthony Park Community Council at 651-214-6788.

- **Saturday, September 27, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.**, Shepard Rd. (between Davern St. and Alton St., enter at Alton St.). For more information, call the Highland District Council at 651-695-4005.

- **Saturday, October 18, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.**, Phalen Lake Beach House, 1400 Phalen Lake Dr. For more information, call the Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council at 651-774-5234.

Available to help volunteer? Email [Kris Hageman](#), Environmental Coordinator, or call 651-266-8866.

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## See the world's biggest Wad of Paper at the Minnesota State Fair



The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) created a large wad of paper for the Eco Experience at the 2014 Minnesota State Fair. This exhibit showcases how much paper Minnesotans throw away in 30 seconds – paper that could be recycled. The un-recycled paper in cartons is part of the stream of paper which the MPCA is highlighting graphically in the giant wad of paper. Please help spread the word that cartons can be recycled. The City of Saint Paul's residential curbside program accepts milk cartons and juice boxes! To see the full list of acceptable items in Saint Paul, click [here](#). To learn more about the exhibit or see a video of its construction, click [here](#).

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## Healthier concession offerings at aquatic facilities a success

This summer the City of Saint Paul's Aquatics Division featured a new menu with healthier drinks and wholesome snacks at Como Regional Park Pool and Highland Park Aquatic Center. While the season has not ended yet, the healthier menu has been a hit with visitors. Concession sales are a significant contributor in helping the City keep its aquatic admission prices the lowest in the Twin Cities.

New menu items include fresh apples, baby carrots, dried fruit, and dole fruit cups. Don't forget the healthier smoothies that are gluten free, not from concentrate and have no sugar added. New signage at the sites also highlights healthier features of food products (such as whole grain pizza crusts) and includes more information about locally made products.

Check out the [City's aquatics](#) website or [like](#) Highland Park Aquatic Center on Facebook.



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## Come to the Community Meal

On September 14, 2014, 2,000 people will gather at a ½ mile long table in the middle of Saint Paul's Victoria St. for a civic table conversation about food access, food justice, and healthy eating. Known as "CREATE: The Community Meal," this event draws its inspiration from Public Art Saint Paul and renowned Twin Cities artist Seitu Jones. Public Art Saint Paul brings artists together with communities to shape a public sphere that fosters imagination, explores civic values and the community's evolving history, and strengthens public places as vessels of public life.

The September gathering will feature locally grown produce from urban farms, which will be served to 2,000 neighbors and invited guests. For additional information, to register or to volunteer for the event, [click here](#).

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## Explore University Ave. in a new way – Saint Paul Open Streets



Open Streets events bring together families, neighbors and friends to mingle, recreate, dine, play and shop in their community in a safe, car-free environment. Participants can explore the street that is open only to foot, bicycle and skate traffic. In addition to bicycling, walking and skating, there are programmed recreational activities for all ages along the street. Some of these activities might include yoga, zumba, games and dance lessons. There will also be musical performances and classes on bike safety and repair. The event is scheduled for Sunday, September 21 from 12-4 p.m. on University Ave. between Lexington Pkwy and Marion St. in Saint Paul. Watch a quick [video](#) of the event from last year, read more [here](#) or [like](#) it on Facebook.

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Visit the Sustainable Saint Paul [website](#) for more updates. Questions? Email [Pa Vang](#) or call 651-266-8533.