



Sustainable Saint Paul Briefings October 2014

Don't mess with raking, bagging and hauling leaves - mulch 'em!



Mulching the leaves in your yard with a lawn mower helps feed your lawn, save you work, and improve your soil. Remember to keep leaves and other debris from clogging storm drains and polluting our lakes and rivers. Do not push leaves, grass clippings or other debris onto the street – it can cause safety hazards and is against the law. Watch this short [video](#) to learn more.

Ramsey County organics recycling

Ramsey County yard waste collection sites, except for Arden Hills, began accepting source-separated organics for the first time this past spring. The new program has helped more than triple the number of residents recycling organics since the program began in April. According to Ramsey County Public Health's Environmental Health Division, there were there were 2,717 visits in July. The three yard waste sites seeing the most visitors are located in Saint Paul: the Midway site with 1,039 visits in July, Summit Hill with 896 visits, and Frank and Sims with 499 visits.

Ramsey County provides residents free compostable bags for organics recycling at the yard waste sites. More about [organics recycling opportunities](#).

Saint Paul Public Housing Authority- a leader in recycling at multi-family buildings

The Saint Paul Public Housing Authority (PHA) has been an outstanding leader in recycling at multi-family apartments. In a typical year, the PHA hi-rises recycle almost 140 tons of materials, reducing PHA's cost for refuse hauling and helping the environment. PHA incorporates a replicable, incentive model for increasing recycling in multi-family buildings, employing one or more residents in each of its sixteen hi-rises to serve as a recycling coordinator.



Saint Paul Public Housing Authority Staff



The coordinator's duties include preparing the bins for collection day, distributing recycling-related literature to residents, assisting residents with their recycling and encouraging participation in the recycling program. In return, the coordinator receives a monthly stipend for his/her assistance.

This summer, PHA also purchased new bins for the hi-rises (see photo on the left). Great job PHA!

Community Climate Change Conversations

This past summer, residents from the Macalester-Groveland, Payne Phalen, Summit-University, and West Side neighborhoods met to discuss climate change adaptation in their communities. These neighborhood-specific conversations engaged residents in discussions about the potential negative impacts of climate change, as well as potential community actions residents can take to make their communities more ready and resilient.



On September 30, participants from each of the four summer conversations gathered at the Science Museum of Minnesota to share and present the ideas they contributed at the summer meetings with Mayor Chris Coleman and City of Saint Paul staff. Community participants shared which climate change impacts they were most concerned about and what solutions they thought would be most effective in their communities. These conversations were facilitated by Macalester College, in partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota and the City of Saint Paul. More about [climate resiliency in Saint Paul](#).

Restoration of Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary



On Saturday, October 11 over 150 volunteers joined together to transform the new Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in Saint Paul! Led by Great River Greening and the City of Saint Paul's Parks and Recreation Department, over 200 large-potted trees, 475 shrubs, and a good number of native grass plugs were planted in just a few hours. Thank you volunteers for helping to restore the area.

Trout Brook (Trillium) Nature Sanctuary is an approximately 42 acre site located west of I-35E between Norpac Road and Cayuga Avenue. More about [Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary](#).

Mayor Coleman's Statement on Record METRO Green Line Ridership



In the month of September alone, over 1 million rides were taken on the METRO Green Line. Mayor Chris Coleman released the statement saying, “This milestone is a true testament to the hard work of the great men and women who have dedicated their time to build, create and perfect the Green Line – and to the real need this transit option is fulfilling for residents and businesses alike.

“Our goal with this project was to move the dial on racial equity, bring those with few options that much closer to economic opportunities, inspire economic development and deliver vitality to neighborhoods – all goals that take ridership to accomplish, and these numbers are proof that we’re well on our way to achieving them.”

The METRO Green Line began service on June 14, 2014 and connects downtown Saint Paul to downtown Minneapolis. More on the [METRO Green Line](#).

The City of Saint Paul’s 8-80 Vitality Fund

On October 22, the Saint Paul City Council voted in favor of Mayor Chris Coleman’s 8-80 Vitality Fund, putting into motion funding for city projects such as street reconstruction, new and improved bicycle infrastructure, Palace Theatre renovations and green space development along the Green Line. The 8-80 Vitality Fund includes:

- \$8 million towards reconstructing Jackson Street and completing the first phase of the downtown bike loop;
- \$13.2 million toward completing the Grand Round – including road reconstruction and bike pathways along Wheelock Parkway and additional bike pathways along Johnson Parkway and Pelham Boulevard;
- \$9.5 million toward 8-80 streets and public spaces;
- \$2 million toward adding green space along the Green Line, including Dickerman Park;
- \$8 million toward the renovation of the historic Palace Theatre into a live music venue and hotspot in downtown Saint Paul’s Central Business District; and
- \$1.8 million for optical fiber infrastructure necessary to support the city government’s network.

Read the full [press release](#).

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