



SAINT PAUL NATURAL RESOURCES

A Section of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

2015 Accomplishments

January 1, 2016

Environmental Education Accomplishments

Environmental Education continued to increase program participation:

- 1,015 participants in FY2013
- 2,677 participants in FY2014
- 3,388 participants in FY2015 as of 11/4
- Launched Explore Outdoors Saint Paul, an online calendar populated with over 100 nature-based and outdoor recreation events in Saint Paul's parks, with over 1,000 website hits
- Created loyalty rewards program with prizes, including over 200 fishing poles, State Parks Pass, and gift cards. Over 700 prize entries generated.
- Implemented a \$12,000 grant from Capitol Region Watershed District to connect recreation center youth to their watershed

(sPARK program)

- Secured a Macalester work study student at 9.5 hours per week for 2015-2016 school year to expand bird-related education offerings
- Held professional development workshop on bird education for 15 teachers
- Conducted bird surveys at habitat restoration volunteer events
- Helped establish two honey bee hives in Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary
- Hosted four in-hive bee classes for youth with Pollinate Minnesota
- Worked with City staff to prepare an underutilized East Side building for



- year round education programs
- Doubled ExploraTots and Green Time offerings to meet demand
- Created two new inter-generational community events to engage people with nature:
- Phalen Freeze Fest, engaging 2 rec centers, 5 schools and drawing 300 visitors
- National Public Lands Day Celebration at Hid-

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- den Falls Regional Park, drawing 300 visitors
- Continued existing programming, such as:
- Citizen science (conducted surveys of dragonflies, macroinvertebrates, bird, mammals, bumble bees), AweSnap! nature photography, StoryWalk, Place-based education with SPPS and Wilderness Inquiry, Snowshoeing, Geocaching, Interpretive tours

Volunteer Program Accomplishments

- 2625 volunteers, 6250 volunteer hours, 49 volunteer groups engaged
- Successfully piloted the revamped EcoStewards volunteer program - 9 individuals adopted 5 different natural areas in the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom. Main responsibilities were to remove invasive species, clean up trash and report any interesting facts and changes.

- Made changes to the annual Citywide Spring Cleanup. Most notably: Moved the date of the event to take place closer to Earth Day (April 22); changed the format of the event allowing volunteers to drop by a site any time between 9 and 11:30 am to pick up materials and refreshments; worked with organizations, groups or businesses to

become hosts for 5 of the 6 Citywide Spring Cleanup sites.

- Created three short habitat restoration training videos for volunteers.
- Created three short habitat restoration training videos for volunteers. Worked with videographer Jeff Achen from CallSign51. Videos



were made possible by grant from the Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administrators (MAVA).



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Arts & Gardens Accomplishments

Gardening Accomplishments:

- Maintained 600 hanging baskets
- Worked with grower to change plant palette for shade tolerant hanging baskets resulting in 25% increase in plant size, a 100% decrease in insect damage and a 50% higher water tolerance rate.
- Acquired new, more sustainable hanging basket container material and hardware while composting all basket plant material
- Commissioned by the Ordway Theatre to design and install seventh International Children's Festival garden
- Took on maintenance of 3.2 acres of planted medians along Green Line light rail
- Planted and helped repair rain garden at Como Pool (1,200 plants)
- Replanted repaired median on Kellogg Boulevard at Xcel Energy Center (1,000 plants)
- Replanted Marshall Medians (5,000 sq ft and 450 plants)
- Replanted Upper Landing garden beds that were destroyed by flood in 2014 (570 plants)
- Ran a ten week summer youth employment program – 12 Right Track youth
- 20 Garden-in-a-Box programs ran at 11 recreation centers
- Grew and installed over 5,000 pollinator friendly plants throughout downtown Saint Paul
- Contributed to ongoing research and development of a pollinator friendly resolution for St. Paul
- Published two outreach articles about the hanging-basket program in two publications: MRPA's Minnesota Recreation



and Parks magazine and MNLA'S The Scoop

Blooming Saint Paul Awards:

- 154 nominations
- Added 2 new sponsors
- Successful Blooming Saint Paul Awards Ceremony with guest speaker The Renegade Gardener, Don Engebretson and 150 attendees (largest attendance ever)

Other

- Worked with illustrator James O'Brien to develop a logo for Saint Paul Natural Resources
- Published and disseminated three Natural Resources newsletters

Environmental Services Accomplishments

- Logged 5,115 volunteer hours (2,516 volunteers), equivalent to 2.46 full-time employees.
- In coordination with partnering organizations, administered approximately \$440,000 in grants and donations, including \$39,700 of in-kind professional labor to maintain natural areas.
- Provided employment and education for 16 Right Track members in the EcoRanger program curriculum and directed another 110 Right Track



youth, in partnership with Conservation Corps Minnesota and Urban Roots.

- Planted approximately 2,225 trees and shrubs, 3,300 native grasses and flowers, collected 14 pounds of native seed, propagated over 400 native plants, and sowed native seed across more than 8.5 acres of parkland.
- Utilized prescribed burns to manage native plant communities for a total of 15 acres across 9 sites.

Forestry Accomplishments

- Completed the annual city-wide tree survey, identifying and facilitating the removal of 256 diseased elm trees and 21 dangerous trees on private property. Completed annual city-wide tree survey of diseased and dangerous trees, identifying and facilitating removal of 256 diseased elm trees and 21 dangerous trees on private property
 - Responded to 578 Citizen Service Office requests for tree service and 911 Branch Down and Hangers
 - Completed updates to the city-wide tree inventory in Districts 3 & 12
 - Removed over 200 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infested public trees. Ordered the removal of 326 private property EAB infested ash trees
 - Removed 1,482 other non-ash diseased, dead, dangerous, or construction related public trees on the ROW and 237 in parks
 - Responded to June storm cleaning up 181 lost trees
 - Pruned 8,300 ROW trees and 237 park trees
 - Planted 144 bur and white oak seedlings in Como Park to study the use of soil amendments and tree tubes in the establishment of new oak canopy
 - Planted 1,800 trees with 600 being Emerald Ash Borer replacement trees.
- different parks
- University of Minnesota: College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Science (CFANS) - 30 volunteers plant 40 trees at Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary
 - Children & Nature Network and the Sun Ray Natural Library - 30 trees at Conway Park
 - District 7 residents - 10 trees at the new Frog Town Farm
 - National Park Service and the Mississippi River Connection - 7 cottonwood trees at Harriet Island
 - Completed the 7th year of partnership with the University of Minnesota on research and outreach. Since 2009, the University has supplied over 900 trees for planting projects throughout the city

Celebrated Arbor Day/ Month:

- The annual Arbor Month celebration held at Linwood Recreation Center included tree climbing, exhibitors, music, face painting, tree-related activities, and more. Approximately 500 people attended the May 30th event
- Horton Park on April 24th - 12 trees planted with Friends School of Minnesota.
- Launched the Roots in Minnesota campaign to educate citizens of the importance of proper tree care
- Organized the annual Arbor Month poster contest with the theme "St. Paul's Great American

Partnered with several organizations to plant trees

- Friends of the Parks and Trails - 74 trees in 12



Elm." The program engaged over 400 third grade students and included 18 in-class forestry presentations. A ceremony and tree planting at Highland Park Elementary were held to honor the student with the first place poster

- Continued development of the Forestry gravel nursery bed to plant 130 trees into City parks and parkways with plans to double bed capacity
 - Maintained Tree City USA status through the Arbor Day Foundation for the 35th straight year. The program recognizes cities that support sustaining a healthy urban forest
 - Assisted the University of Minnesota in developing and teaching a new small tree pruning workshop
 - Continued the Citizen Forestry and the Citizen Pruners program through the training of five new Citizen Pruners in 2015, for a total of seventeen trained pruners
 - Completed the 7th year working with the citizen Tree Advisory Panel, who advise Forestry and
- advocate for urban forestry issues
- Was awarded an eleven-month MPCA Minnesota GreenCorps staff to serve as an Urban Forestry Specialist working on public outreach and education
 - Completed the sixth year of a partnership with the Frogtown Neighborhood Association Tree Frogs to increase canopy cover on residential property in the Thomas-Dale planning district. To date, the Tree Frogs have added 105 trees to the neighborhood
 - Provided technical support for projects managed by the Department of Public Works, Ramsey County Public Works, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, Xcel Energy and MetTransit. Projects included Como-Chatsworth RSVP, Ford Parkway and Randolph Avenue reconstruction, Snelling Avenue, Third Street East, Jackson Street Bikeway and Grand Round projects, numerous other paving projects, gas main replacement projects and 80 projects brought before site plan review

Partners

Arlington Hills Army Training Site
 Audubon Minnesota
 Bell Museum
 BOMA
 Capitol Region Watershed District
 Como Active Citizen Network (CACN)
 Como Lake Action Network
 Como Woodland Advisory Committee
 Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa
 Friends of Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County
 Friends of Swede Hollow
 Friends of the Mississippi River
 Great River Greening
 HandsOn Twin Cities
 Lower Phalen Creek Project
 Macalester College
 Metro Bowhunters Resource Base
 Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board
 Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration (MAVA)
 Minnesota Department of Agriculture
 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 Minnesota Dragonfly Society
 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 Mississippi River Fund
 National Park Service
 Parks and Trails Fund of the Minnesota Clean Water
 Parks Conservancy
 Ramsey Conservation District
 Ramsey County
 Ramsey County Master Gardeners
 Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
 Saint Paul Garden Club
 Saint Paul Public Library

Saint Paul Public Schools
 Tamarack Nature Center
 Tree Advisory Panel
 Twin Cities Photography Club
 Unites States Forest Service
 University of Minnesota
 Urban Roots
 Wilderness Inquiry
 Will Steger Foundation

Highland Business Association
 Hinding Heating
 J. J. Hill Library
 Kern Landscape Resources
 Landmark Center
 Logo of Panther Head – Sponsor name not identified
 Mancini’s Char House
 Markham Group
 Metropolitan Council
 Mississippi Market
 Mississippi Market
 Parks Permit Office
 Parks Special Events
 Peace Coffee
 REI
 Rice Park Association
 Rice Street Businesses
 Right Track
 Saint Paul Pioneer Press
 Selby and Snelling Businesses
 Super Mom’s
 Terrace Horticultural Books
 The Essex
 Visit Saint Paul
 Wells Fargo

Sponsors

9th Street Lofts
 All In
 Associated Dentists
 Cargill
 Chinook Book
 Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment
 College Nannies + Tutors
 Come Clean!
 Egg|Plant Urban Farm Supply
 Friends of Mears Park
 Friends of Upper Landing Park
 Friends School Plant Sale
 Genesys Works
 Gertens Greenhouse
 Golden Rule Building
 Great Northern Lofts

Initiative	Grants	Sponsors
Volunteer Programs	\$3,375	\$44,000
Environmental Services	\$440,000	-
Arts & Gardens	\$3,835	\$75,320
Environmental Education	\$29,000	-
Total:	\$476,210	\$119,320
Total External Revenue:	\$595,530	