



SAINT PAUL NATURAL RESOURCES

A SECTION OF THE SAINT PAUL DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Inside this issue:

- Parks after Dark Series 2
- Landmark Tree Program 2
- RightTrack 2014 3
- Flying Squirrel 3
- National Public Lands Day 4
- Program Calendar 4

Volume 1, Fall Issue

September 10, 2014



Welcome to the Natural Resources Newsletter!

By Eric Thompson, Parks Program Supervisor, and Cy Kosel, Natural Resources Manager

As your Natural Resources team (Arts & Gardens, Environmental Education, Environmental Services, Forestry, and Volunteer Resources), we strive to meet our mission, to **create life-long connections to a healthy natural environment for all.**

With the understanding we all may want to “connect” in different ways. We look forward to creating “connections” with all of you through this newsletter. The City has recently enhanced our

trail connections by partnering with PedalMN and Health Partners to install four new bike repair stations along the Sam Morgan and Bruce Vento regional trails. These stations allow cyclists to stop along the way and make minor repairs to their bikes. Each station allows for a bike to be held in place with an assortment of tools securely attached. We hope this will encourage people to ride their bikes more frequently knowing that if something goes wrong, there are areas provided to make

repairs and get them on their way.

The Sam Morgan Regional Trail has three stations. Two are adjacent to the information kiosks at the Ford Dam overlook and the Elway entrance to Crosby Farm Regional Park. The third is located near

downtown at Lower Landing Park. The Bruce Vento Regional Trail unit is located at the Southeast corner of Johnson Parkway and East Shore Drive. We encourage you to ride the trails that connect to our beautiful parks.

Bike repair stations are now available along the Sam Morgan and Bruce Vento trails.



Contact Natural Resources

Cy Kosel, Natural Resources Manager
Cy.Kosel@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651-632-2412

Eric Thompson, Permit and Park Program Supervisor
Eric.Thompson@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651-632-2445

Arts and Gardens
651-632-2454
Mark Granlund
Angela Koebler

Environmental Education
651-632-2455
Faith Krogstad

Environmental Services
651-632-2457
Adam Robbins
Meghan Manhatton
Shannon Montante

Forestry
651-632-5129

Volunteer Resources
651-632-2411
Ryanna Jackson

Newsletter Editor
Kaitlin Ostlie

Parks after Dark Series Kicks Off this Fall

Get out your flashlight and lace up your boots! This fall, a new program series engages the public in wildlife monitoring in parks under cover of darkness.

Join us as we attract nocturnal insects using a black light at Crosby Farm Regional Park on Friday, Sept. 12, 9-11pm with the help of entomologist Alex Egan. Then on Tuesday, October 28, 7-8:30pm, find out about your urban owl neighbors by dissecting an owl pellet and venturing out to call owls in Como Regional Park. Future Parks after Dark programs will focus on bats, mammals, and frogs and



Polyphemus moth

toads. We are grateful to REI and the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment for their

generous support of our wildlife survey and educational outreach efforts.

Landmark Tree Program Nominations Now Open



The Landmark Tree Program was established in 2010 to document the remarkable trees found growing throughout the neighborhoods and parks of Saint Paul.

Since the program's inception, 29 trees representing 22 tree species have been selected with two trees currently listed as state

champions. Nominations for the 2014 Landmark Tree Program are now being accepted through November 1, 2014.

The Saint Paul Tree Advisory Panel will review the nominations and the selected trees will be announced at the Blooming Saint Paul Awards in January 2015.

Nomination forms are available at www.stpaul.gov/forestry

Visit www.stpaul.gov/forestry for more information or contact the Forestry office at 651.632.5129.

RightTrack Team 2014 Worked Hard to Beautify City

With 12 youth and two supervisors, the Blooming Saint Paul Right Track team took on the responsibility to beautify the city's public spaces through garden maintenance.

The team carried out this responsibility with a variety of services, including weeding, planting, and mulching. Not only did the Blooming Saint Paul Right Track team maintain St. Paul's status as a beautiful city, but also learned the inner workings of a job.

The purpose of the Right Track program is to get youth on the *right track* to a career. Supervisors Kyle and Ryan guided the youth through their first job and helped them understand the importance of timeliness, communication, and work ethic.

Further, the



The Blooming Saint Paul Right Track Team jumps for joy, enjoying the fruits of their labor. Right Track works with youth to beautify the City of Saint Paul.

youth of Blooming St. Paul Right Track had biweekly education sessions on horticulture. In these sessions, the youth learned about plant anatomy, general ecology, strategies to maintain gardens, and the varieties of plants native to Minnesota (especially

weeds).

The program lasted for 10 weeks. Throughout those weeks, a group of strangers found common interests and developed relationships to facilitate a group dynamic that paralleled the atmosphere of a summer camp. The team crossed

cultural, ethnic, and social barriers in order to complete the demands of the job. Bringing youth together and providing a positive experience provided the most beauty to the city, even more than the gardens themselves.

Flying Squirrel was Guest of Honor at Mammal Survey

Did you know that flying squirrels are actually quite common in the Twin Cities? We rarely see them because they are a truly nocturnal animal and thus are quite elusive. We lucked out when we caught one during our AweSnap! mammal survey at Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary last month. Over 30 photographers learned wildlife photography tips from volunteers Gordon Dietzman and Debbie Koenigs, while helping collect mammal traps for

the survey. *This flying squirrel was one of many mammals photographed at the mammal survey.* Volunteer mammalogist Carmen Martin taught participants about mammal life and behavior while collecting data from 90 traps over four days. We'll be continuing these efforts as Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary is transformed from a brownfield to a restored natural area in the coming years, thanks to a grant from REI. We also want to thank all the volunteers



who helped set traps each night as well as the photographers who contributed to our mission in Project Noah. Our favorite feature of this furry

friend was a toss-up between its large bulging eyes, and its patagia—the flap of skin that connects the wrists and ankles.

**Find
Saint Paul
Natural
Resources
Online!**

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
saintpaulnatural
resources](http://www.facebook.com/saintpaulnaturalresources)

Blog:

[www.restoresaint
paul.blogspot.com.](http://www.restoresaintpaul.blogspot.com)

Celebrate National Public Lands Day

National Public
Land Day
**Saturday, Sept 27,
9-11:30am**
Hidden Falls Regional
Park

Come celebrate the 21st annual National Public Lands Day with Saint Paul Natural Resource on Saturday, September 27th. You will be able to volunteer, learn more about St. Paul's public lands and sip some hot chocolate as we ring in a new season. Last year 175,000

volunteers and park visitors celebrated at 2,237 public land sites in all 50 states, This volunteer event will include:

- Planting trees, shrubs and acorns
- Fun birding activities
- Hot cocoa

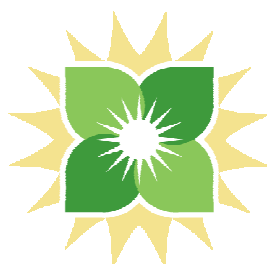
Enter through the North Gate/Prior Avenue Entrance at the



Photo by Urban Landreman

intersection of Prior Ave. and Mississippi River Blvd.

**Register online at
bit.ly/NPLD2014**



National Public Lands Day

Environmental Programs Calendar

Preschool

ExploraTots

Parent-child nature exploration class for 2-5 year olds. Held second Wed. from 10 am-noon.

- **Sept. 10**, Crosby Farm Regional Park
- **Oct. 8**, Crosby Farm Regional Park
- **Nov. 12**, Battle Creek Recreation Center

Family

Parks after Dark: Black Light Insect Hike

What insects will we see when we hang a white sheet under a black light? We're going to find out! 9-11 pm.

- **Sept. 12**, Crosby Farm Regional Park

StoryWalk

Enjoy a children's book posted page by page along a trail. 1-3 pm.

- **Sept. 14**, Summit Monument (Mississippi River Blvd & Summit Ave)

Green Time

Child-led nature play meet-up group. Held third Thur. from 10 am-noon at Hidden Falls Regional Park Picnic Shelter (North Gate).

- **Sept. 18**
- **Oct. 16**
- **Nov. 20**

Parks after Dark: Owl Prowl

Dissect an owl pellet and go on a short owl-calling hike. 7-8:30 pm.

- **Oct. 28**, Como Street-car Station

Geocaching Basics

Try out the high tech treasure hunt game that has swept the globe! 10-11:30 am.

- **Nov. 8**, Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

Adults of All Ages

Interpretive Tour of Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

Enjoy the fall colors of the bluff and prairie while learning about the history of Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. 10-11 am.

- **Oct. 11**, Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

These programs are funded in full or in part by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment and REI.



More activities at:

**[https://apm.activecommunities.com/
saintpaul/](https://apm.activecommunities.com/saintpaul/)**