



SAINT PAUL NATURAL RESOURCES

A SECTION OF THE SAINT PAUL DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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10th Annual Blooming Saint Paul Awards Ceremony

2014 was an exciting year for the Blooming Saint Paul Awards! With over 195 nominations and more than 150 attendees, it was the largest award ceremony yet. This year also marks the tenth anniversary of the program and tenth year of sponsorship from the Saint Paul Pioneer Press. To show our appreciation for their support and all they do to support gardening, the Saint Paul Pioneer Press received an Outstanding Gardening Advocate Award. We would also like to thank our additional sponsors: Capitol Region Watershed District, Kern Landscape Resources, Egg|Plant Urban Farm Supply, Union Depot and The Saint Paul Hotel. It is with the

help of our generous sponsors that we are able to continue to hold the Blooming Saint Paul Awards Ceremony each year. Once again, the Ramsey County Master Gardeners served as the judges for the Blooming Saint Paul Awards. Nearly twenty Saint Paul homes, businesses and people received awards for their exemplary work! The



Award received by the Aurora/St. Anthony Peace Sanctuary Garden

Awards Ceremony was held on Monday, January 26th at a new venue, The Redcap Room, located in the Union Depot, and was catered by D'Amico and Sons Catering. We were fortunate to have Don

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Engebretson, The Renegade Gardener, as our informative and humorous guest speaker, as well as an appearance by Mayor Coleman.

Co(rps)operating and Restoring: Partners with Saint Paul



Longer days and warmer weather means one thing – field season! With over two thousand acres of wild lands in our park system, Saint Paul Natural Resources highly values partnerships with local environmental organizations to help enhance and maintain wildlife habitat in the city. Conservation Corps Minnesota has been a partner in this effort for over a decade. Conservation

Corps, a national non-profit affiliate of AmeriCorps, provides youth and young adults with training and job experiences in natural resources work. On average, the Corps employs eight young adults who mentor sixty-six youth each year in Saint Paul's natural areas. The young adults split their time between specialized fieldwork, such as chainsaw operation and



prescribed burning, and leading crews of high school students controlling invasive species and planting native vegetation. Be on the lookout for hardhats in our parks – it just might be the Conservation Corps!

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Citywide Spring Cleanup

Saturday, April 18

9:00 - 11:30 am

Parks and neighborhoods
in Saint Paul

Join forces with family, friends and neighbors alike to clean up the garbage that has recently become exposed due to the melting snow. We invite **everyone**—families, friends, neighbors to come together to help beautify the city of Saint Paul.

Participating is **easy!** Register online, and then drop by your selected Cleanup Site any time between 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 18th, to pick up bags, gloves and snacks and meet your neighbors and community members. Then head out and clean up your park or neighborhood of choice.

More info at
www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment.

Register at <http://bit.ly/StPaulCleanup2015>.



Citywide Spring Cleanup

Saturday, April 18 | 9-11:30 a.m.

Volunteer to clean up litter in
our parks and neighborhoods

Drop-in Cleanup Sites:

Como Picnic Pavilion

Swede Hollow Park

Harriet Island Regional Park

Phalen Regional Park

Highland Park

Hamline Park

Register at www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment



Natural Resources Brings Learning Outdoors

Saint Paul Natural Resources is partnering with Wilderness Inquiry and Saint Paul Public Schools to engage students in Saint Paul parks. Natural Resources staff members are providing youth with outdoor recreation and environmental learning opportunities to connect students to nature. The partnership is engaging students at 14 participating Saint Paul schools.

In one program, students at Washington Technology Magnet are exploring urban wildlife ecology, learning mapping skills through geocaching,

researching the regional park system, and studying stormwater runoff and water quality to prepare for field trips to Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary. As a part of this program, Natural Resources staff will provide hands-on bicycle safety training so that students can navigate to the Sanctuary by pedal power.

We are thankful to Cargill for funding



Washington Technology Magnet students use GPS units to explore the outdoors

geocaching equipment and the Capitol Region Watershed District for providing field trip transportation for these programs.

Arbor Month 2015: Celebrating St. Paul's Great American Elms

Saturday, May 30
10:00 am- 2:00 pm
Linwood Park
860 Saint Clair Avenue
(east of Rec Center)

Most St. Paul residential streets during the 1960s were lined with large, mature American elms creating a tunnel-like effect over the road. It has been estimated that 80% of the boulevard trees during that time were American elms. They were the perfect tree - strong, fast-growing, and tolerant of drought. That is, until Dutch elm disease (DED) hit, killing tens of thousands of elms during the 1970s. Today, DED continues to kill old, large elms which currently comprise less than 1% of the total boulevard tree population. If losses continue at the average

annual rate, there will be approximately 50 left by 2025.

To mark 50 years since DED was first found in the City, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation in partnership with the Tree Advisory Panel (TAP) and the University of Minnesota will have a special focus on the history and future of the American elm at this year's annual Arbor Month event. At the event, arborists will be on hand to answer questions and share useful tree care tips. Exhibitors from local organizations will be



Lombard Avenue, 1978 Courtesy, Minnesota Historical Society, [014271-35]



Lombard Avenue, 1975 Courtesy, Minnesota Historical Society, [014271-23A]

offering a variety of tree-related information and disease-tolerant elm trees will be available for free adoption. There will be

many other family-friendly activities, including food and music performed by the Midway-Frogtown Arborators.

Pollinator Protection



Saint Paul Natural Resources (SPNR) is acutely concerned about the decline of pollinators, such as bees, worldwide linked to increased uses of

insecticides and habitat loss. While this has been an issue for many years, 2014 saw a large uptick in publicity and educational awareness partially led by

efforts of the University of Minnesota Bee Squad. As such, SPNR staff members are currently working on a couple of fronts:

- 1.SPNR is working with City officials to develop a City Council Resolution taking a position in support of practices that help protect pollinators. At this point, a resolution would be focused solely on internal City staff and the fieldwork they do.
- 2.SPNR is working with the Bee Squad on the possibility of developing a Community Apiary to provide a home for bees and engage the public on pollinator issues.

Stay tuned for more buzz on SPNR's pollinator projects.

**Find
 St. Paul
 Natural
 Resources
 Online!**

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/saintpaulnaturalresources

Blog:
www.restoresaintpaul.blogspot.com



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

Environmental Programs Calendar

Preschool EXPLORATOTS

Parent-child nature class for 2-5 year olds held second Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30am at Crosby Farm Regional Park.

June 10, July 8, Aug 12

Family GREEN TIME

Child-led nature play meet-up group held third Thursdays from 10-11:30 am at Hidden Falls Regional Park Picnic Shelter (North Gate). All ages.

June 18, July 16, Aug 20

BUMBLEBEE SURVEYS

Help researchers learn more about threatened pollinators by catching bees on flowers. It's easy and fun for all ages.

Como Lakeside Path
Sun, June 28, 3-4:30pm
Sat, July 11, 2-3:30pm
Sun, Aug 2, 10-11:30am

STORYWALK

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

Jun 7, Como Lakeside Path near Pavilion
Jul 26, Phalen Lakeside Path near Pavilion
Aug 2, Como Lakeside Path near Pavilion

Sep 6, Summit Monument (Miss. River Blvd & Summit Ave)

Adults DISTRICT 10 SUNDAY SERIES: COMO WOODLAND OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

How did this 17 acre site transform into an outdoor classroom? What habitat restoration is underway? Find out more at this tour. Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom
Sunday, May 3, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

URBAN BIRDING FESTIVAL

The Twin Cities Urban Birding Festival is an opportunity for novice birders and experienced birders alike to explore and learn.

Dates: June 5-7

SAINT PAUL ACTIVITIES: BLUEBIRD TRAIL TOUR

Get an inside-of-the-box view of urban bluebirds as conditions allow. All ages.

Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom

Fri, June 5, 10-11:30 am

Fee: \$5, pre-registration required

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

Learn to identify common birds and pick up tips and tricks of birdwatching. Geared toward adults.

Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom

Sat, June 6, 9-10:30 am

Fee: \$5, pre-registration required

FAMILY BIRDING FUN

Join us for a variety of Urban Birding Festival activities including making birdfeeders, birdwatching around the lake, learning about bird habitat, a StoryWalk, and more! All ages.

Como Lakeside Path near the Pavilion

Sat, June 7, 1-3 pm

Visit www.urbanbirdingfestival.org for a list of all metro-wide activities.



EXPLORE OUTDOORS SAINT PAUL

Check out our online calendar of outdoor activities between our Take Aim at Summer Fun kickoff and National Public Lands Day (info below). The more you participate, the more chances to win prizes. Visit www.bit.ly/exploreSTP.

Explore Outdoors Saint Paul



TAKE AIM AT SUMMER FUN

Ever wanted to try fishing, geocaching, biking, archery, climbing, and more? Here is your chance to explore outdoor recreation activities with all equipment provided for free. All ages.

DNR Central Region Headquarters, 1200 Warner Road

Sat, May 16, 11am-3pm

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Cook food over a fire, see live native fish, try geocaching, scale the climbing wall, and more. All ages.

Hidden Falls Regional Park – North Gate

Sat, Sept 26, 11am-2pm

More activities at:

<https://apm.activecommunities.com/saintpaul/>