



# SAINT PAUL NATURAL RESOURCES

## A Section of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

Volume 2, Spring Issue

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### Environmental Services 2016 Grants



Installation of native plants around a Phalen golf course pond.

Environmental Services has recently received several grants to fund projects in Saint Paul Parks. Included is a Conservation Partners Legacy grant for \$143,475 to restore 60 acres of oak woodland and oak savanna at Indian Mounds Regional Park. Grant money will also help fund prescribed burning, a valuable management tool for these plant communities.

Another recent grant from Capitol Region Watershed District for \$40,000 will restore 4.25 acres near the north shore of

Lake Como, including pockets of oak woodland, oak savanna, and a small area of lakeshore. The installation of native plants will improve erosion issues and help prevent sediment from entering Lake Como.

Environmental services was also able to secure 2,120 hours of Conservation Corps crew time to work on projects that protect water quality through the Clean Water Fund. The crew time will be used to maintain raingardens and native plantings near water bodies. These plantings include native wildflowers, providing nectar for pollinators.

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### 11th Annual Blooming Saint Paul Awards Ceremony

With over 150 nominations and more than 160 attendees, the 2015 Blooming Saint Paul Awards Ceremony was the most attended award ceremony yet. Once again, the Ramsey County Master Gardeners served as the judges for the Awards, with partnership support being provided by the Saint Paul Garden Club.

Thanks to our sponsors: Saint Paul Pioneer Press, Capitol Region Watershed District, Kern Landscape Resources, Egg|Plant Urban Farm

Supply, Minnesota State Horticultural Society, Bartlett Tree Experts and Public Art Saint Paul. At the ceremony held on Monday, January 25 at Como Dockside, the following winners were announced:

#### Egg|Plant Edible Garden Award

- *Bronze Bloom:* Stryker Community Garden
- *Silver Bloom:* Eleanor Graham Community Garden
- *Golden Bloom:* 2172 St. Clair Ave

#### Business/Institutional

- *Bronze Bloom:* Health Foundations, 968 Grand Ave
- *Silver Bloom (tie):* Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 1460 Almond Street
- *Silver Bloom (tie):* Forepaugh's, 276 Exchange Street S
- *Golden Bloom:* Your Enchanted Florist, 1500 Dale Street N

#### Garden Steward Award

- *Golden Bloom:* Friends of Upper Landing and Mary Hilfiker

#### Kern Landscaping Residential Award

- *Bronze Bloom:* 817 Maryland Avenue
- *Silver Bloom:* 1269 Como Blvd W
- *Golden Bloom:* 681 Montcalm Place

#### Public Art Award

- *Golden Bloom:* Winnie the Pooh by Dennis Roghair, 15 Benhill Road

#### Outstanding Gardening Advocate

- Joe Baltrukonis
- Jennifer Porwitt



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**Newsletter Editor**  
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## Saint Paul Natural Resources Photo Contest

Get outside, visit a park and share the natural beauty of Saint Paul! Saint Paul Natural Resources will be running two seasonal photo contests each year to showcase natural spaces in our parks. Photos taken and submitted within each contest period will be posted on Saint Paul Natural Resources' Facebook page for public voting.



*Geese fly off as a prescribed burn gets too close for comfort at Phalen Regional Park.*

The top 10 rated photos in each category will be judged by a panel to determine the winning entries. Judges are members of our partner the Twin Cities Photographers Group. Along with an annual exhibit of winning entries, winners will receive a cash prize, and runners

up will win a choice of gift certificates and other prizes. Details can be found at the Saint Paul Natural Resources Facebook page. Click on the "SPNR Photo Contest" tab at the top of the page.

**Submit a photo:**  
[www.facebook.com/saintpaulnaturalresources](http://www.facebook.com/saintpaulnaturalresources)

## Share Your Love of Nature

Enjoy working outside? Get excited about native plant identification? Are you passionate about teaching others about habitat restoration? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please consider volunteering as a Restoration Supervisor.

Restoration Supervisors, or "Restos," are skilled individuals who volunteer to lead other volunteers in small groups. With the help of Restos, we are able to accommodate more and large volunteer groups. Restos also provide instruction and supervision for work groups of 10-20

volunteers at large public events. You may help others plant trees, remove invasive species, haul brush and more.

As a Resto you will have the opportunity to learn more about the rich natural and cultural histories of Saint Paul parks and pass on your love of volunteering to restore the environment.

If you are interested in becoming a Restoration Supervisor or learning about other volunteer opportunities, please contact Ryanna at [ryanna.jackson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ryanna.jackson@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or visit

[www.stpaul.gov/naturalresources](http://www.stpaul.gov/naturalresources).

*Brush hauling in Hidden Falls Regional Park.*



**Volunteer Today!**  
Contact Ryanna at  
[ryanna.jackson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ryanna.jackson@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



## Birds, Bees, and the Trees



Trees in the city, whether they are in the boulevard, the parks, or our yards provide us with many benefits such as cleaner air, increased shade, and increased health and happiness. They also provide essential habitat for the smaller residents of Saint Paul.

Often when people think of pollinators, they think of bees and butterflies and flowering herbaceous plants. Just as there is a larger range of pollinating insects, such as beetles, flies, and moths, there is a larger range of plants that provide essential habitat for these pollinators, including trees. A few trees, like serviceberries and willows, bloom before most other flowering plants in Minnesota and are an essential early spring food source.

Trees flower throughout the spring and summer, and a few even flower in the fall, providing a persistent source of pollen and nectar. The Pollinator Project, a non-profit dedicated to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems, has a great guide for pollinator friendly plants and tree ([www.pollinator.org/guides.htm](http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm)).

Trees are also essential habitat for birds, providing habitat for nesting, protection, and food. While nearly all trees provide some habitat for birds,

certain tree species are more beneficial than others.

The Saint Paul Audubon Society is a good source for more information on bird-friendly trees ([saintpaulaudubon.org/education/habitat-helpers/](http://saintpaulaudubon.org/education/habitat-helpers/))

go-native-to-sustain-songbirds).

So when thinking about birds and bees, remember that trees are just as important to them as they are to us.

Tree Species	Blooming Period									
	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.		
Apple/Crabapple										
Catalpa										
Cherry/Plumb										
Dogwood										
Hawthorn										
Linden										
Mountain ash										
Pear										
Redbud										
Scholar Tree										
Serviceberry										
Sugar Maple										
Sumac										
Tree Lilac										
Tulip poplar										
Willow										

## Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom Guidebook Completed!

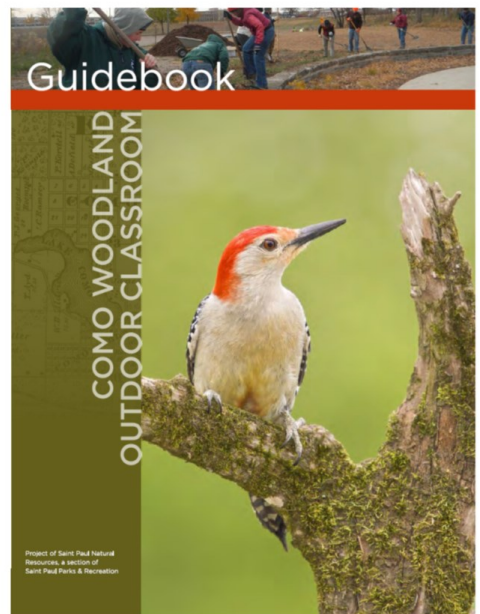
Saint Paul Natural Resources has completed the guidebook for the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom! The guide provides background information for educators and members of the public visiting the Classroom. It includes a history of the area, stewardship strategies used, and information about the plant communities represented throughout the 17.5-acre site.

Twenty-seven numbered posts were installed throughout the Classroom in 2013. As part of the guidebook project, natural and cultural history content was developed for each post. Visitors in the Class-

room will be able to access the content at each post on mobile devices.

The guidebook is available through the City of Saint Paul website. The guidebook was financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

**You can access the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom guidebook at:**  
<http://bit.ly/CWOCGuidebook>





**SAINT PAUL  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

**Find Saint Paul  
Natural Resources  
Online!**

**Facebook:**

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

**Blog:**

[www.restoreaint  
paul.blogspot.com](http://www.restoreaintpaul.blogspot.com)



# Citywide Spring Cleanup

**Saturday, April 23  
9-11:30 a.m.**

**Volunteer to clean  
up litter in our parks  
and neighborhoods**

Register at [www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment)



## Environmental Programs Calendar

### Green Time

Fee: Free / All ages  
Unstructured nature play  
meetup for families. In-  
door space available to  
warm up as needed.  
*Phalen Lakeside Activity  
Center*  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays:  
6pm-7:30pm

**Green Time, Continued**  
*Phalen Lakeside Activity  
Center*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays:  
10am-11:30am  
Jan 7- May 19, 2016

### ExploraTots (Parent/Child)

Fee: Free / Ages: 2-5  
Preschool nature class;  
siblings welcome.  
*Phalen Lakeside Activity  
Center*  
10am-11:30am  
2nd/4th Wednesdays  
Jan 13 - May 25, 2016



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

### URBAN BIRDING FESTIVAL

*Metro-wide birding activities for all levels of birders.*  
Friday, May 13 – Sunday, May 22

### 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 equip-  
ment provided for free. All ages.*  
DNR Central Region Headquarters, 1200 Warner Road  
Saturday, May 21, 11am-3pm

### ECOARTS FESTI

*A celebration of creativity, culture and conservation at the Mississippi River!*  
Saturday, May 14, 10am-3pm

**More activities at:  
[https://apm.active  
communities.com/  
saintpaul/](https://apm.activecommunities.com/saintpaul/)**