

the Friends of Loring Park

Summer/Fall 2010

Volume 13, No. 2

Loring Park Entrance Improvements on Track for Fall 2010 *Federal funds to cover much of cost, but donations are needed*

The Master Plan for Loring Park included new entrances, each giving a special presentation to the Park experience through the use of trees, signage, materials and other ways to make entering the Park exciting and unique.

The most challenging and highly visible gateway to Loring Park at the Southwest corner facing the Cathedral of St. Mark, the Walker Art Center and Sculpture Garden, will be representative of the beauty to be found in the park.

Thanks to a federal grant that encourages increased bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and the generosity of Friends of Loring Park and Citizens for a Loring Park Community, construction will be underway on a key component of the Master Plan this fall, weather and final plan approval permitting.

It has been a challenge for Friends and others to come up with a feasible plan that first and foremost would improve the safety for an area that is used by hundreds of pedestrians and bicyclists every day in all seasons. This is also one of the most congested intersections for automobile traffic, especially during rush hours.

While much of the funding is in place to start construction this fall, additional funds are still welcome and needed. Each of the 'Crimson Spire' oaks can be purchased at a cost of \$400.00 and perennial plants are \$10.00 each (buy as many as you like!)

If you would like to enter the park knowing that you helped make these improvements possible please consider making a donation in the enclosed envelope with a notation for the entrance fund. As funding permits, we hope to continue making improvements to other entrances as well.

Kudos for a job well done to all who have donated their time and funding to create an entrance befitting Loring Park, the 'Crown Jewel' of the Minneapolis Park system. — by *Richard Anderson*



Park Entrance Plan Highlights

- A large plaza using colored concrete and texture to define it from the pedestrian and bicycle pathways entering the park, providing a safe place to wait for walkway crossing lights to change.
- A well-defined crosswalk across Oak Grove/15th St. for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Behind the plaza, a large garden with eight new 'Crimson Spire' columnar oaks and approximately 1,500 perennial shrubs!
- New signs to help pedestrians and cyclists know which paths to follow.
- A re-designed bus stop.



Our Sing-a-Long is Going Green!

The August 17th Sing-a-long singers enjoyed the successful trial run of a potential earth-friendly improvement!

Much to the delight of participants, the debut of a new overhead projector borrowed by Friends meant no more scrambling for that sheet of lyrics. The words were easily viewed by all, and best of all - no paper was wasted. Planning for funding is moving forward after the evening's success.

Kudos to Kay Samuelson and MaryFaith Fox for researching and printing the lyrics and providing refreshments to keep the energies high for an evening of fun and relaxation!

Visit Friends on-line! www.friendsofloringpark.org

TREES OF LORING PARK: *Colorado Blue Spruce*

Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) is not native to Loring Park, or to Minnesota, but having been to the San Juan Mountains of southern Colorado this past June, where the species reaches its optimum development, I thought it would be nice to highlight this non-native but often planted tree. It stinks (the latin name *pungens* is very descriptive) and the species lacks the pleasant pine scent that is common in many evergreens. The 'flying spruce' of Loring Park was a Colorado blue spruce. The tree, about 30 feet tall, pulled out of the ground from its location at the edge of the park across the street from the entrance to the Loring Park Office Building slightly after 10:00 pm on May 30, 1998, and flew about 100 feet towards the interior of the park. Its brief flight was facilitated by the 100 mph winds of a derecho* that leveled 20,000 trees in Minneapolis in about 5 minutes, including 30 trees within Loring Park.

In its native habitat Colorado blue spruce grows in intermittent stream drainages in the mountains at elevations of 5,000-8,000 feet. Some specimens reach 158 feet in height, with a many-storied pagoda-like crown. It is a beautiful tree in its native habitat where it has wet feet and dry air, and a somewhat scrubby tree in Minnesota (maximum height of only 40-60 feet) where its habitat of dry feet and wet air is about as opposite to its optimum habitat as possible. With the humid summers of Minnesota, the branches gradually die one by one from Cytospora canker, a fungal disease that enters through twig tips. Over 10-20 years, branches die from the ground up until a tree no longer has sufficient living crown to photosynthesize enough to keep the tree alive.

Most Minnesota trees are also warped by our high winds, with a crooked trunk that leans towards the northeast (compared to amazingly straight trunks in the relatively wind-free environment of Colorado).

Despite these problems, people in Minnesota like its foliage, and it is a commonly planted tree throughout the Midwest and eastern U.S., where it lives perhaps 40-60 years, compared to one or two centuries in its native Colorado. Foliage colors vary a lot among individual trees. Some are quite blue to almost silver, while others are plain green (these latter trees may be called Colorado green spruce, but they are the same species). A variety of colors have been selected and propagated to be sold at nurseries, where the buyer may choose their favorite foliage color. Some people like to mix several different colors in one planting. The blue color comes from light refraction in a waxy coating on the needles, not from a blue pigment. The cones are a pretty shade of beige, but very resinous, so don't touch them unless you want to stick to everything else you touch for the rest of the day. The advantages this tree species has in Minnesota are great resistance to cold temperatures, moderate resistance to road salt, evergreen foliage during the winter, ability to hold snow on its branches, providing shelter from wind and predators for birds and other small animals within its dense crowns, and the species does not become invasive in Minnesota. Although we emphasize native tree species for planting, there will always be room for a few Colorado blue spruce.



– by Lee E. Frelich, Friends of Loring Park president

Meet Rosey Vogan, Loring Park Recreation Supervisor



Loring Park welcomes Rosey Vogan!

An experienced MPRB employee, Rosey's focus has been on youth sports,

the adaptive arts and sports. She is a proud grandmother and has two sons, one of whom is learning disabled. Rosey has coordinated the Special Olympics events via the Park Board, and has won an award for her work with people with disabilities.

Loring Park is not primarily a children's park so here her focus will be different. She has met the Russians who use the park, as well as the young men who play basketball. Tops on her list is hearing from park users and area residents in order to develop programming that will serve the interests of the neighborhood. Your input is welcome, so stop by the Art Center to introduce yourself and greet Rosey!

Garden Hotline 612 673-5395



Did you know that...

Not only did Loring Park boast the city's first park bandstand, it was also the horseshoe pitching hotspot of the city.

The setting was so popular that a national horseshoe tournament was held in Loring Park in 1921!



*To the wonderful garden volunteers, horticulture interns
and my co-workers: Thanks for all your help this summer.
The gardens at Loring look great!
—Sherry, MPRB Gardener*

Nurture the Park You Love

Whether it is digging up a weed...Sponsoring a bench, brick or tree...
Choosing a beautiful Loring Park card to send to a friend...
Your help and support are what makes the future of Loring Park bright.

Call 612-673-6050



Just two of the beautiful notecard designs by photographer Todd Miller. See p. 5

Arts Center Window Wins MAC Award

The Arts Center's "Awakening," window has received the Award for Community Involvement in Public Art by the Minneapolis Arts Commission (MAC).

A memorial to longtime Minneapolis parks employee and neighborhood leader Carol Fox, the window, designed by Reynaldo Diaz and created in stained glass by Connie Becker, features favorite Loring Park motifs. Over 1,000 hours were spent assembling over 3,000 pieces of carefully selected glass. The finished window creates an ever-changing variety of lighting effects throughout the day and the seasons.

"The award is another fitting tribute to a woman whose passion for the Minneapolis park system will long be remembered," said Olson. "This award recognizes all the people involved in this project for their hard work, dedication and creative talents."

The Friends of Loring Park was the commissioning agency for the window.

The artwork, first of its kind in the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board system, was installed in August 2009 in the signature quatrefoil window of the MPRBs first permanent park building: the distinctly Spanish-style Loring Park Community Arts Center, which was built in 1906.

The MAC presented the award August 6th at the Uptown Art Fair.



Lee Frelich, and artists Reynaldo Diaz and Connie Beckers accepting the Award for Community Involvement in Public Art by the Minneapolis Arts Commission.

Thanks to the donors who made the award-winning 'Awakening' window a reality

Ione & Sam Siegel
Kueck & Viking
Stephen Gangstead
Joe & Yvonne Mullen
Anita Makar,
Helen Rice Walker
Randy Schultz
Carol Johnson
Tracy Nordstrom
Dee Rowe

James Daly
Robert Hanson
Marcia Stout
Susan Lasoff
Max & Martha Maguire
James Kemp
Janis Sarles
Nancy Jo Johnson
& Mike Addy
Dennis & Gail Alexander

Helen Garnaas
Arthur Himmelman
Lisa Goodman
Andrews, Annette
Wallace & Marlyn Small
Carl Schenk
Ray Nelson
Lois Gibson
Highland Bank
Sylvia Sabo

Kairos Dance Theater
Sharon Pressler
Renee Rhodman
Charmaine Jones
John Haines
James Mullin
Sandi Werthe
Charmaine Jones
Jon Olson
Arlene Fried

Contributions

Friends of Loring Park extends thanks to the following donors who have contributed financial support to Loring Park between February 15 and August 1, 2010:

GARDENS

In memory of her mother, Lytton V. Davis
by Domenica DiPiazza
Thomas Akin
Marjorie Schwier
In memory of Marvin S. Norman
by Mary Lou Norman

GENERAL FUND

Arnold & Helen Rice Walker
Mary Jane Bradley
Anne Munholland & John Kim
Bruce Langbein
Lillian Wallis
Wheelock Whitney, The Whitney Foundation
Tom & Diana Ursin
Ameriprise Financial (matching grant)

BERGER FOUNTAIN

William & Polly Posten

PARK ENTRANCE

Hope Esparolini

TREES

Alice E. Lincoln

BRICKS

In memory of Mark P. Lehmann by Rebecca Wood
To celebrate Edna by Jane Young
In memory of her mother Clarice Ordahl
by Sharon Clark
In honor of Linda & Warren Mack
by Marcia & John Stout
In honor of the wedding of Tom Knabel & Kent Allin
by Tom Knabel
Megan Wiley
In honor of Mia, Stefani, Seidi, Sami & Maggie
by Sally & Jon Westby
In memory of Bernie Farstad
by Max & Adam Alcott, Bonni Cutts & Carole Beard
In memory of Jeanine & Juli
by Carole Beard & Barb Farstad
In memory of Emme by Virginia Barzan
In honor of the Barbara & Michael Sill family
by Marcia & John Stout
In honor of Barb Brin and John Beal's April birthday
by Annie Omer
In honor of the 5th anniversary of Dana & Laura Buska
by Dana Buska
Remembering Jay T. Pappas by Sue Towey
In memory of Shari Lynn Shanklin
by Christine Rasset & Terri Hommerding
In memory of Dere Bistodeau by Greatapes
In honor of Kent Allin's birthday by Tom Knabel

VARIOUS

In memory of her mother by Sharon Sechrist

Unique Opportunities to Support Loring Park

The Friends of Loring Park works with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to provide financial and volunteer support for Loring Park so that it will continue to serve the recreational and leisure needs of the public.

Friends offers three unique opportunities to honor, remember, or recognize a special person, event or place.

Donate a brick...

to the Garden of the Seasons. The ongoing personalized brick campaign seeks to replace the asphalt outer walkway of the Garden of the Seasons with a beautiful brick pathway.

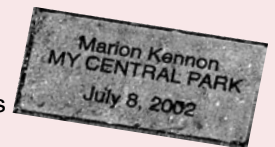
\$75 donation—a 4x8 brick

with three lines of print (14 characters and blank spaces per line)

\$120 donation— 8x8 brick

with six lines of print (12 characters and blank spaces per line)

Special characters (bell, star, heart) are available for \$10 per symbol. Custom logos: call for quote.



Sponsor a native tree...

Friends of Loring Park is working closely with the MPRB to support the master plan that will create a vibrant canopy of hardy native trees in Loring Park.

\$250 donation

Dedicate a Bench

to a friend, a loved one, your company or family, or perhaps to remember a special event. Your dedication or message (up to 37 characters) can be forged on the cast iron armrest.



Bench with

personalization — \$2,500

Anonymous sponsorship — \$2,000

Please consider a tax-deductible donation

**For further information,
call 612-237-6050**

Support Loring Park Today!

Yes! I'd like to support Loring Park with my tax deductible donation!

Bench Sponsorship: \$2500 with inscription, \$2000 without inscription

Inscription - 37 characters including blank spaces:

Bench is being donated ___in honor of ___in memory of :

4x8 Brick Donation: \$75.00

Inscription - 3 lines, 14 characters per line including blank spaces:

Brick is being donated ___in honor of ___in memory of:

8x8 Brick Donation: \$120

Inscription - 6 lines, 12 characters per line including blank spaces:

Brick is being donated ___in honor of ___in memory of:

Awakening Notecards (\$12.00 per 5 pack) Qty: ___ Total: ___

Loring Scenes Notecards (\$12.00 per 5 pack) Qty: ___ Total: ___

Loring Scenes Postcards (\$12.00 per 10 pack) Qty: ___ Total: ___

To sponsor the trees or perennials for the park entrance improvements mentioned on page one, please call 612-237-6050.

Your Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ **E-mail** _____

Please send notification of my gift to (name and address):

Total Donation enclosed: _____

Mail this form with your check to: Friends of Loring Park, P.O. Box 52074, Mpls, MN 55402

Get Ahead on Holiday Shopping

Donate a brick, sponsor a bench or make a general donation on behalf of someone who lives or works near (or just plain appreciates) the beauty of Loring Park!

Looking for a smaller gift?

We have beautiful new notecards and postcards featuring classic park scenes and the Art Center's stained glass window: great for a hostess gift or stocking stuffer!



Cards are printed in full color on quality enamel stock.

Choose from:
Awakening (left) or
 Loring Park Scenes
 (above and page 2)

Awakening 5 cards/envelopes \$12.00
 Loring Scenes 5 cards/envelopes \$12.00
 Loring Scenes Postcards 10 cards \$12.00

Shipping and handling is included in price.
 Single postcard only available at Arts Center.

Mission The Friends of Loring Park was formed to develop financial and programming support for Loring Park. Its purpose is to implement the vision and master plan adopted by the Loring Park community and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The Friends of Loring Park, a tax-deductible Minnesota nonprofit organization, administers the Loring Park Restoration Fund.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>President:</i> | Nancy J. Johnson |
| Lee E. Frelich | Todd Miller |
| <i>Vice president:</i> | Randy Schultz |
| Richard Anderson | Marcia Stout |
| <i>Secretary:</i> | Diane Woelm |
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| Dottie Speidel | Photo prep, Sam Siegel |
| | Webmaster, Bob White |

Published by The Friends of Loring Park,
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Friends Board Openings: *Nominations to be accepted until October 1*

Three positions on the Friends of Loring Park board will open on January 1, 2011 and we invite you to apply or to let your friends know about the opportunity.

Nominations for the positions will be open until October 1, 2010.

The board is made up of twelve members with overlapping terms of three years. It meets every other month.

A variety of skills are needed to ensure the smooth running of the board, and there is probably a good fit for you or a friend.

A love of Loring Park is the primary criterion for being a board member, but other skills in finance/accounting, marketing, volunteer organizing as well as newsletter writing and editing are needed.

If you, or a recommended friend, is interested in serving on the board, please contact board president, Dr. Lee Frelich. E-mail: frel001@umn.edu. Phone: (office) 612-624-3671, (cell) 612-991-1359.

Check out the website to learn more and to get a better sense of our work in Loring Park.
— Nancy Jo Johnson



Don't miss out! **2010 Sing-along Dates**

Tuesdays, 7:00 to 8:30 PM
at the Community Arts Center

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| September 21 | November 16 |
| October 19 | December 14 |



Staffing the 'Open Air' gift shop: Diane Woelm, Nancy Jo Johnson, David Hile

'Open Air' gift shop attracts Aquatennial crowd

The Friends introduced the newest addition to the fundraising tool chest at the Aquatennial Family Fun event held in Loring Park in July: an outdoor introduction to the projects, donation opportunities and products of Friends of Loring Park!

Postcards featuring stunning views of the flowers in the gardens, by photographer Todd Hoover, were a close runner-up in sales to our award winning 'Awakening' stained glass window note cards.

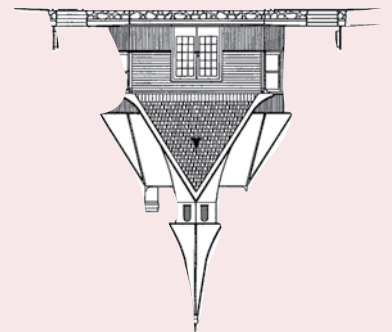
Both card sets are ideal for hostess gifts or thank you cards, or just to have because you love Loring.

Notecards packaged 5 for \$12.00

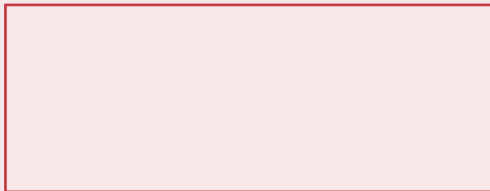
Postcards packaged 10 for \$12.00

Includes shipping/handling. Order on p. 5!

Visit Friends on the internet www.friendsofloringpark.org



Friends of Loring Park
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