GREENING THE GREENWAY

GARDENS BRING BEAUTY AND WILDLIFE HABITAT TO THE CORRIDOR

The Midtown Greenway contains many unique gardens and green spaces. Ride the trail and you’ll find beautiful spaces like Vera’s Garden and Soo Line Community Gardens, which are maintained by community members. There are also semi-private gardens along the trail, gardens that are part of our new Adopt-A-Garden program, and several gardens maintained by our GreenSpace volunteers, such as the wildflower garden in the medians at the 28th Street crossing.

We’re excited about the many gardens in the Greenway, and are pleased that new ones are going in each year. They not only add beauty to the Greenway, but also increase wildlife habitat, such as a new garden for monarch butterflies.

A GARDEN FOR THE MONARCHS

Kathy Iverson is passionate about saving the monarch butterfly by protecting and preserving their habitat.

As part of her effort, Iverson has joined the Adopt-A-Garden program and plans to create a pollinator garden along the Midtown Greenway.

She and a few other volunteers planted seeds in a space near Soo Line Gardens last fall, to start the project off.

“The monarch butterfly is an important pollinator species. When we protect their habitat, we begin protecting other species as well,” Iverson said.

“This first year is essentially putting down roots. If we hang in there with these gardens, we will have an awesome prairie by year four.”

Iverson is looking forward to the possibilities of this project in the

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Greenway,

From our office on the Greenway we can watch the seasons change. Just a few weeks ago there was a major snowstorm, and we enjoyed watching winter cyclists and others enjoying nature’s beauty and the quiet solitude of the Greenway (and thanking Minneapolis Public Works for plowing the trail so quickly!). Now, as we watch the snow melt, we look forward to the busy spring and summer seasons and even more activity on and along the Greenway.

With spring arriving, our GreenSpace volunteers and Adopt-A-Garden groups are getting ready to start working on their gardens. There are also many other community members and organizations working on gardens in the corridor; together, they are all helping to create a vibrant Greenway, full of native plants and habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

We’re also looking forward to another great year of events in the Greenway, starting with the Greenway Glow on June 18th. This year’s Glow will include both a bike ride and a new 5K fun run. Of course, the evening will also feature dozens of local artists and performances, and will again be the largest single event held on the Greenway this year. More info will soon be available on our website—I hope you can join us!

This year we are also launching a new Leadership Annual Giving program, recognizing donors who contribute $500 or more each year to support our programs for the Greenway. Members of the program will receive free tickets to our Progressive Dinner event in the fall, as well as special recognition in our newsletter.

Thanks to your support, our volunteers will also be working to keep the Greenway safe through our Trail Watch program and Safety Committee; helping to keep the corridor clean through the Arbor Day tree planting event and our Adopt-A-Greenway program; and working to make improvements to the Greenway, including our visioning work for the possible re-opening of Nicollet Avenue over the Greenway.

Thanks again for your support. See you on the Greenway!

Soren R. Jensen
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is a coalition of neighborhoods and individuals who love the Midtown Greenway. We’re the organization that got the Greenway built by public agencies, and now we work to protect and enhance it. We grow stronger with each new member. Join us to help protect YOUR Greenway and make it even better!

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION BOARD MEMBERS

The Coalition board of directors consists of one seat for each of the 17 neighborhoods along the Lake Street-Midtown Corridor, and four at-large seats.

Peter Bajurny
Corcoran Neighborhood Association

Janet Court
Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association

Dave Fettig
West Calhoun Neighborhood Council

Brennan Furness
Longfellow Community Council

Roger Messner
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Deborah Kermeen
East Isles Residents Association

Margaret Kirkpatrick
East Phillips Improvement Coalition

Jason Lord
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group

Andrew Martinson
Seward Neighborhood Group

Jo Ann Musumeci
Whittier Alliance

Michael Nelson
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Reed Polakowski
Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association

George Puzak
At Large

Aaron Shafer
At Large

Margaret Thomas
At Large

Kelly Wilder
Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association

Michael Wilson
Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association

Morgan Zehner
Lake Street Council

*We are currently seeking representatives from the Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood, and Phillips West Neighborhood Organization.

FOR A LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS’ ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, VISIT WWW.MIDTOWNGREENWAY.ORG. CLICK ON “THE COALITION,” THEN “BOARD OF DIRECTORS,” OR CALL 612-879-0105
LET’S RE-OPEN NICOLLET AVENUE!

The Midtown Greenway Coalition was pleased to join the Whittier Alliance for a project to help envision the re-opening of Nicollet Avenue over the Greenway. The Cuningham Group was hired to coordinate a series of five visioning workshops, which resulted in a neighborhood-based vision for the area.

One of the workshops focused exclusively on the Greenway, resulting in a vision for beautiful plazas and amenities in the Greenway. The proposed streetcar in the Greenway was also included, showcasing a modern vehicle that would run on re-chargeable batteries.

Sketches from the project will be used to continue to promote the re-opening of Nicollet Avenue and how to improve the connection to the Greenway.

Want to get involved? The Midtown Greenway Coalition’s Improvements Committee works on transit and land-use issues that affect the corridor. Contact Soren at 613-879-0105 or Soren@midtowngreenway.org for more information.

AT TOP: A sketch of the Greenway at Nicollet, part of the recent Nicollet Avenue visioning workshop hosted by the Whittier Alliance and Midtown Greenway Coalition. Sketch courtesy of the Cuningham Group.

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION STAFF
Soren Jensen
Executive Director
612-879-0105
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Janey Gengel
Program Coordinator
612-879-0106
Janey@midtowngreenway.org
GREENING — continued from pg 1

future. “Once we have established plants with seeds that can be collected, we could build other prairie sites along the Midtown Greenway,” she said.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has committed $2 million dollars to the planting of key species, including milkweed, for the monarch on sites that are 50 miles either side of I-35W, from Minnesota to Texas. The site on the Midtown Greenway is the recipient of a tiny portion of those funds to begin the project.

“The monarch caterpillars are voracious eaters,” said Iverson. In their larval stage monarch caterpillars feed almost exclusively on milkweed, and once matured get their nutrients from the nectar of flowers.

The monarch is capable of eating an entire milkweed leaf in under five minuets. In their lifetime they will gain about 2700 times their original weight.

“I believe the project will continue to grow,” says Iverson. “I have several friends involved now and we also have some volunteers who are part of the Soo Line Community Garden. Anyone who wants to join us in this effort would be most welcomed!”

continued on next page

**MISSION**

We empower communities to develop, improve, protect, and enjoy the Midtown Greenway as a green urban pathway to improve people’s lives.

**MISIÓN**

Nosotros habilitamos a las comunidades a desarrollar, mejorar, proteger y disfrutar del sendero urbano Midtown Greenway para mejorar la vida de la gente.
The Midtown Greenway Coalition is pleased to announce the launch of a new Leadership Annual Giving program. Members who contribute $500 per year ($42/month) or more will be recognized as part of the program, which will include free tickets to the Progressive Dinner, as well as recognition in our newsletter.

Donors who give at Leadership levels have a significant impact on the continued excellence of the Greenway, by helping to provide key funding for programs such as our Trail Watch program and Safety Committee. Want to learn more about becoming a member of our Leadership Annual Giving program? Contact Soren at 612-879-0105 or Soren@midtowngreenway.org

When spring is in full swing, you should see the prairie plants sprouting at the eastern base of Soo Line Community Garden. Be sure to check them out!

Want to get involved in “greening” the Greenway? Contact Janey at 612-879-0106 or Janey@midtowngreenway.org

▼ BELOW: Wildflower gardens in the medians at 28th Street, maintained by volunteers from the GreenSpace Committee.

► BELOW RIGHT: Garden for monarchs being planted next to the Soo Line Community Garden.
THANK YOU
TO OUR MEMBERS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!
(Covering new donations and sustainer for the period from October 26th 2015 to February 16th 2016; please contact us if we have missed you) Special thanks to our sustaining members—denoted with a (*)

GRANTS
Allina Health
Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota
McKnight Foundation

BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION MEMBERS
Greenway Champions ($2,500+)
Ackerberg
Allina Health
Elan Uptown Apartments
New Belgium Brewing
First Service Residential
Mozaic Art Park
Process Type Foundry

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CIVIA/QBP
Smith Partners

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RxArtisans
Seward Co-op
Soo Visual Arts Center
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The UPS Store
Vine Arts Center

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**ADOPT-A-GREENWAY**

Albert's Organics  
Allegion  
American Swedish Institute  
The Bakken  
Birchwood Cafe  
Bryant Lake Bowl  
CARAG  
Cedar-Iles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA)  
Children's Hospitals and Clinics of MN  
Collegeville Track Club  
Commuter Connection  
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School  
Dero Bike Racks  
Elan Uptown Apartments  
First Service Residential  
First Unitarian Society  
Green Team  
Family and Friends of Michael Shilinski  
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HCMC - Whittier Clinic  
Ian Kees Consulting, PLLC  
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Joyce Preschool  
Lake Country School  
Minneapolis Jaycees  
Minneapolis Design  
Minnesota State Fair  
Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day  
North Prairie Tileworks  
Patagonia, St. Paul  
Phillips Garden  
Public Allies Twin Cities  
Ryan Companies US, Inc.  
Seward Co-op  
Smiley's Clinic  
Smith Foundry Company  
Smyth Companies  
Spare Key  
SpringHouse Ministry Center  
Surly Brewing Company  
Timberland Calhoun Square  
Trader Joe's St' Louis Park  
Young Professionals of Minneapolis  
ZAP Twin Cities

**TRAIL WATCH LEADERS**

(October 26–February 16)

Neal Axton  
Ted Cochran  
Gary Davis  
Dave Evans  
Ray Hastings  
Tavia Parker

**A sincere THANK YOU to all Trail Watch riders for keeping riders safe on the trail!**

We are looking for new Trail Watch Leaders, co-leaders, and riders! If you are interested, please contact Janey@midtowngreenway.org.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition will once again be organizing the largest annual event on the Greenway—the Greenway Glow! Join us on the night of June 18th for a community arts festival featuring more than two-dozen local artists and performers. There will also be a new 5K fun run, and a 10-mile bike ride. Watch for more information on our website and Facebook page soon.

**GREENWAY GLOW SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 18**

Get Ready To GLOW!
Name __________________________________
Address  ________________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________
Phone, E-mail _____________________________

☐ $250 – Greenway Angel
☐ $100 – Greenway Patron
☐ $50 – Greenway Advocate
☐ $25 – Greenway Sponsor
☐ Business $__________
☐ Any amount comfortable for you $__________
☐ Yes, I want to volunteer
My main interest is: _________________________

Please make your check payable to:
“Midtown Greenway Coalition”
and mail to: Midtown Greenway Coalition
2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level, Suite 2
Minneapolis, MN  55407
or donate at www.midtowngreenway.org

Unless indicated, all meetings are held at the Midtown
Greenway Coalition’s office (2834 10th Avenue South,
Greenway Level, Suite 2, Minneapolis, MN  55407).

Greenway Improvements Committee
Second Thursdays 6pm–8pm

ArtSpace Committee
Third Wednesdays—5:30pm

Safety Task Force
Second Thursdays—5:30pm–7pm

Clip and post on fridge

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