NORTHERN SPARK AND GREENWAY GLOW TO "LIGHT UP THE GREENWAY" ON JUNE 9TH

Join the Midtown Greenway Coalition on the evening of June 9th for a dazzling night of fun and festivities on the Greenway!

From 6:00 p.m. to Midnight, close to 20 artists will be presenting free art, movies, dance, and musical performances along the Greenway as part of the Northern Spark all-night art festival.

Shortly after 9:00 p.m., cyclists will be participating in the Midtown Greenway Coalition’s “Greenway Glow,” an illuminated night bike ride on the Greenway.

Northern Spark is an all-night festival of public art and performance that will take place at venues throughout Minneapolis – including the Midtown Greenway. As an official partner site for the event, the Midtown Greenway will feature art, dance, music, theater, movies, and more!

Northern Spark on the Greenway is FREE and open to everyone. Performances start at 6:00 p.m. and will end around Midnight. See the Northern Spark website (northernspark.org) for a complete list of artists, locations, and performance times.

The Greenway Glow (formerly the Greenway Challenge) is a nighttime bike ride that will raise money for the Midtown Greenway Coalition’s programs and services, including the Trail Watch safety patrol. The ride (about 7 miles total, with optional loops for more distance) will feature rest stops at Northern Spark venues near the Greenway – and a big post-ride party!

Cyclists in the Greenway Glow will compete to see who can put the most creative lights on their bikes. Prizes will be also awarded for the best costume, and for raising the most money to support the Midtown Greenway Coalition.

The Greenway Glow will also feature an “alley-cat” type of activity that will include stops at Northern Spark art installations and performances along the Greenway.

To participate in the Greenway Glow, cyclists will pay a registration fee ($25 early bird; $30 week of the event) and collect $75 or more in pledges/donations. For more information and to register for the Greenway Glow, visit our website at www.midtowngreenway.org.

Register by May 25th to be guaranteed an event t-shirt.

Help us “Light Up the Greenway” with Northern Spark and the Greenway Glow on June 9th!

The Greenway Glow Worm invites YOU to join the Greenway Glow on June 9th.

A Jim Campbell, Scattered Light. By Northern Spark.
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Greenway,

As most of you know, in January the Public Utilities Commission ruled that the proposed high-voltage power lines should be buried under 28th street, rather than placed in the Midtown Greenway. This was a huge victory for the Greenway and our Coalition, as well as for the neighborhoods along the proposed route. It’s also a reminder of the power that comes from neighbors working together. Thank you to the many neighbors, neighborhood leaders, elected officials, donors, members, and volunteers who helped achieve this amazing victory.

Of course, even as we celebrate, our work to protect the Greenway continues. We are currently renewing our efforts on the issue of shadowing on the Greenway. While our Coalition is thrilled that so many developers want to build along the Greenway’s edges, we want to make sure that buildings help enhance the Greenway – not harm it. Watch our website, Facebook page, and Twitter page for updates on our efforts to work with developers to reduce shadows and construct buildings that are “Greenway friendly.”

We also have some exciting new events this year. For the first time ever, the Greenway will be a venue for Northern Spark, the all-night art festival that will be held on the evening of June 9th. We’ve got close to 20 artists and performances lined up for this free event.

We’re also organizing the “Greenway Glow” on June 9th – an illuminated night bike ride to raise funds for Coalition programs like the Trail Watch safety patrol. Greenway Glow participants will be competing to see who can come up with the most creative use of lights on their bikes, as well as raise the most funds for Greenway programs and services. The event will also include an “alley-cat” type of scavenger hunt, with stops at Northern Spark venues.

We know many people have been following the news about our beloved Sabo Bridge, which suffered from malfunctioning cable supports in February. Thankfully, no one was hurt. At this time we are not sure when the bridge will re-open, but we remain hopeful it will be back in service soon.

Thanks to you, our Coalition is growing stronger every day. More people are becoming members of our Coalition each week. In April, we will launch a new membership drive, and we’ll be unveiling new member benefits. We hope you will renew your membership in our Coalition this year, and invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to join us too! As we grow stronger, we’ll be even better able to protect and enhance the Greenway that we all love.

Thank you so much for your support. See you on the Greenway!

Soren R. Jensen
Executive Director

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.

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.

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We are currently seeking volunteer board members to represent the following neighborhoods:
- Longfellow
- Central

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.

2834 10TH AVENUE SOUTH, GREENWAY LEVEL, SUITE 2, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407 • WWW.MIDTOWNGREENWAY.ORG • FAX: 612-879-0104
The New Year was indeed bright for the Midtown Greenway Coalition, as early January brought great news regarding the high-voltage power lines proposed for the corridor. The MN Public Utilities Commission voted to bury them beneath 28th Street, thus keeping them out of the Midtown Greenway!

This amazing victory was accomplished because neighborhoods and citizens all along the Greenway worked together, organized neighbors, attended hearings, made phone calls, and wrote letters. It was a huge effort!

We were pleased and grateful to see over seventy Greenway supporters pack the Public Utilities Commission hearing room to listen to and provide public testimony on the routing of the lines, which will bring power to a number of businesses in the Midtown area.

The Commission deferred the question of who will pay the extra $13.6 million it will cost to bury the lines. Xcel will file its views to the Commission, and the follow-up proceedings will give other potentially affected groups a chance to comment. Xcel hopes to break ground on the project later this spring, and the lines would be operational in 2014.

The two proposed substations, located at Hiawatha and Oakland Avenues, are a source of concern for the affected neighborhoods. The Coalition and its partners will play a role in helping design these substations to minimize their negative impact on the neighborhoods. We are pleased to report that Tim Springer, our former executive director, has volunteered to represent the Coalition in the design process. Thank you, Tim!

We wish to thank the many citizens from Phillips, Corcoran, Seward, Longfellow, and other neighborhoods that helped us achieve this victory to protect the Greenway. We also want to thank many government leaders, including Council Members Gary Schiff, Robert Lilligren, Cam Gordon and others, as well as Representative Karen Clark, Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, and other state leaders.

We also received amazing financial support from our members – thank you! With your donations, we were able to hire a top-notch attorney, Paula Maccabee, to coordinate our legal efforts.

Finally, we would like to say a very special thank-you to our board of directors and to Tim Springer, who provided crucial leadership in organizing our opposition to the lines.

Thanks everyone! Together, we’ve got the power!

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!
LET THE SUN SHINE IN!
The Midtown Greenway Coalition Fights Excessive Shadowing of the Greenway

The Midtown Greenway is one of the busiest bikeways in Minnesota, and a major attraction for people across the Twin Cities and beyond. Developers are clamoring to build along the Greenway. The Coalition enthusiastically supports such development, which is good for the corridor and good for Minneapolis.

“The amount of economic development along the Greenway has been wonderful,” says Soren Jensen, executive director of the Midtown Greenway Coalition, “and just what our founders envisioned when they originally proposed the trail. Even during the recent recession, the corridor has been a hot location for new building projects, with even more developments being planned now that the economy is heating up.”

However, with all this new development, the Coalition believes that new buildings shouldn’t kill the proverbial goose that laid the golden egg. Buildings along the Greenway should protect and enhance the Greenway, not harm it. This is especially true of buildings along the south side of the Greenway, where tall buildings have the potential to shadow the Greenway for months. Shadows prevent ice from melting in the winter, making the trail more dangerous. Even when ice and snow aren’t an issue, shadows make the corridor less inviting. Our vision is a sunny Midtown Greenway, enjoyed by all people all year long.

Numerous City-approved plans support the vision of a sunny Midtown Greenway. The Midtown Greenway Land Use and Development Plan, the Uptown Small Area Plan, and the Lyn-Lake Small Area Plan all state that new buildings along the south side of the Midtown Greenway should be stepped back to minimize harm to the Greenway by increasing solar access.

The illustrations (left) show the difference between a thoughtfully designed building and a harmful one. Both show the same time of day and year, and have the same floor-area ratio. However, the “after” building is designed to allow the sun to reach the Greenway most days of the year, while the “before” building casts long shadows for months.

Recently, a developer proposed a 6-story building on the south side of the Greenway at 29th & Lyndale. Members of the Midtown Greenway Coalition’s Improvements Committee met with the developer three times, and expressed concern that the building would cast excessive shadows on the Greenway.

Unfortunately, the developer was not willing to change the architectural plans, so

continued on next page
the Coalition could not support the project design. Ultimately, the Coalition testified in front of the City Council Zoning & Planning Committee, asking that a more Greenway-friendly building be approved.

According to Jensen, it was important to oppose the design of the 29th & Lyndale project. “First and foremost, with all the new developments proposed for the Greenway, we needed to send a message to developers,” he says. “Our message is YES! please build along the Greenway. But please design buildings that enhance and protect the Greenway.”

In the end the Coalition prevailed, with the Zoning & Planning committee agreeing that the building at 29th Lyndale should be re-designed to increase sunlight on the Greenway. The good news is that the developer finally agreed to change the design, and the project is moving forward.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition will continue to work with developers to help maintain a sunny Greenway for a vibrant Minneapolis. For more information please see our website: www.midtowngreenway.org

Safety is a top priority for the Midtown Greenway Coalition. Thanks to our popular Trail Watch safety patrol and our collaboration with the Minneapolis Police Department, crime in the Greenway remains low. However, like any part of the city, it does happen sometimes. A few recent incidents prove that we can never stop working to make the Greenway even safer. The Coalition has recently launched a crime prevention task force, which will be looking for more ways to improve safety in the Greenway.

We’re also looking for more Trail Watch volunteers. Ideally, we’d be able to have two shifts of volunteers biking the Greenway every night.

We remind all Greenway users to report suspicious activity, and to ride/walk with another person whenever possible. Together, we can make the Greenway even safer! To get involved with Trail Watch, please email: trailwatch@midtowngreenway.org

THANK YOU TO OUR TRAIL WATCH SUPERSTARS
(2012 QUARTER I)

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WANT TO VOLUNTEER WITH TRAIL WATCH?
Email: trailwatch@midtowngreenway.org
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(12/1/2011-2/29/2012 . Please call if we have missed you!)

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2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level, Suite 2
Minneapolis, MN  55407
or donate at www.midtowngreenway.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARBOR DAY PLANTING EVENT
Saturday, May 5, 9 AM

GREENWAY GLOW WORKSHOP AND HAPPY HOUR
Saturday, May 12, 4 PM – 6 PM

TRANSIT WORKSHOP
Saturday, May 19, 10 AM

YOGA ON THE GREENWAY
Saturday, June 9

GREENWAY GLOW/NORTHERN SPARK
Saturday, June 9, 6 PM – 12 AM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Fourth Thursdays, 6 PM – 8 PM
April 26, May 24, June 28

GREENWAY IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE
Second Thursdays, 6 PM – 8 PM
April 12, May 10, June 14

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Third Thursdays, 6 PM – 8 PM
April 19, May 17, June 21

GREENSPACE COMMITTEE
Second Tuesdays, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
April 10, May 8, June 12

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