A NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION

Volume 13, Issue 1 ∨ January, February, March 2008

EL PRIMER GRUPO DE **NUEVAS CICLISTAS SE** GRADÚA DEL PROGRAMA

WOMEN BIKE ON

Por Scott Smedberg, voluntario de Bike On y Midtown Greenway Coalition

Women Bike On es un programa impartido en varios idiomas, que brinda a las mujeres la oportunidad de aprender a andar en bicicleta en el sendero Midtown Greenway, usar bicicletas, aprender sobre el uso de energía, obtener opciones de transporte y fortalecimiento de la comunidad. Rosie Cruz y Virginia Salgado, las líderes del programa enseñaron este nuevo curso de ocho semanas de duración. El 3 de noviembre de 2007, el primer grupo de ciclistas femeninas, todas inmigrantes hispanas, se graduaron en la escuela Andersen Elementary. ¡Será simple de reconocerlas por sus camisetas amarillas cuando las vean en el sendero Greenway! Los fondos para esta clase provinieron de la ciudad de Minneapolis, así como también de las siguientes organizaciones asociadas: Educación Comunitaria en la escuela Andersen, y Midtown Greenway Coalition, con fondos brindados por Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, una organización licenciada independiente de Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Además, muchas otras organizaciones, comercios e individuos brindaron su apoyo. Bike On promueve el uso de bicicletas para la comunidad, la familia y

representado a la izquierda a la derecha (pictured left to right): Viriginia Salgado, Adela Torres, Rosa Isela Ramirez, Araceli Gil, Rosei Cruz, Martha Reyes

los jóvenes en Minneapolis, y patrocina Global Bike Days y The Bike-To-School League (www.bikeon.org).

En abril de 2008, comenzarán dos grupos de **Women Bike On**: sábado por la mañana y lunes por la noche. Si eres una mujer y no sabes como andar en bicicleta, o necesitas un cursillo de repaso de como andar en bicicleta, puedes llamar a Midtown Greenway Coalition (612-879-0106), Andersen Community Education or Bike On para inscribirte. Los cursos son gratis, y se ofrece cuidado de los niños.

Traducción: Franklin Curbelo, Acentos

FIRST GROUP OF NEW CYCLISTS GRADUATE FROM WOMEN BIKE ON

By Scott Smedberg, Volunteer for Bike On and the Midtown Greenway Coalition

Women Bike On is a multilingual program that provides an opportunity for women to learn to ride bikes on the Midtown Greenway, use bicycles, learn about energy use, gain transportation options and build community. Program leaders Rosie Cruz and Virginia Salgado taught this new eight week course. On November 3, 2007 the first group of fifteen women, all Hispanic immigrants, graduated at Andersen Elementary. Look for them in their yellow shirts on the Greenway!

(continued on page 5)

Bike Center Update Thank You Adopters New Midtown Exchange Ramp **Board Members Needed** A Green Future Development Interest Picks Up The Greenway Would Like to Thank . . .

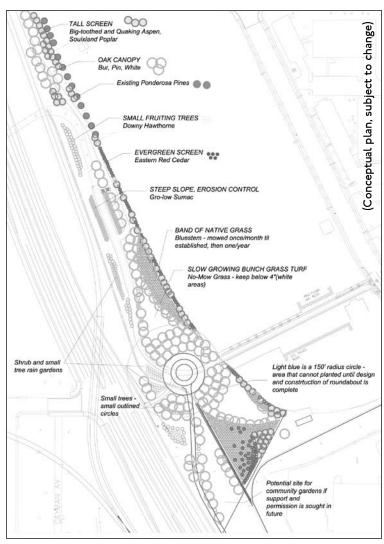
LOVEOURPATHWAYS.COM

WHITTIER LYNDALE

GREAT NEWS FOR BIKE CENTER!

By Tim Springer, Executive Director

After receiving over-budget bids to build-out a Bike Center on the Greenway for bike parking, repairs, rentals, sales, and programming, the City of Minneapolis scaled back the facility and put out a new request for bids. In response to this second bid request the lowest bid in November was \$560,000 including showers, as compared to \$835,100 in February. On December 11, 2007 the City Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee authorized staff to accept the low bid. Assuming final approvals are provided by the full City Council after we go to press, the facility could open as soon as April 2008! Concurrently, the Coalition will build out its own office space adjacent to the Bike Center, all in the Greenway level of the DDS building across from Midtown Exchange. The Coalition is seeking pro bono help from: people good with hammers, a licensed electrician, an architect, a dropped ceiling installer, and bike groupies to help set up our Bike Culture Center. If that's you, contact Tim Springer at 612-879-0105 or tim@midtowngreenway.org.



A GREEN FUTURE FOR THE AREA EAST OF HIAWATHA

By Gina Bonsignore, Landscape Architect LCC

Picture groves of oaks, aspens, small fruiting trees and evergreens that form bold patterns easily appreciated from the LRT and new bridge, at the same time providing shade and greenery for trail users. To prepare for a 2008 Arbor Day event with Hennepin County Regional Railroad and others, community members have been commenting on drafts and revisions of planting plans for the area along Hiawatha, east of the new bridge. In keeping with earlier

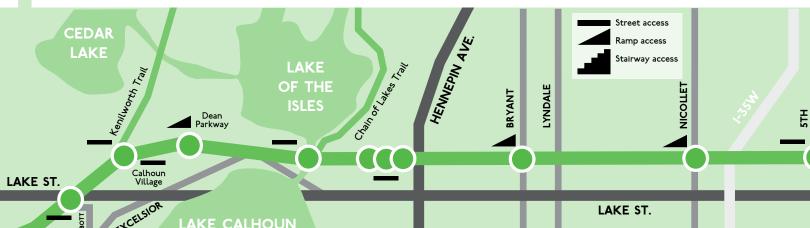
concept plans, the design features the beauty and environmental benefits of native plants. A central "roundhouse" grove and spur lines of trees frame green spaces and line the pathways, echoing historical rail uses. The plan will be used in grant application's for funding from the property-owner MNDOT, for an Arbor Day planting in 2008 that will focus on the north end. Further refinements to the design will be made pending decisions about a proposed roundabout.

The Annual Arbor Day planting event is scheduled for **Saturday**, **April 26th**. Be sure to mark your calendars and give the Coalition a call to sign up at 612-879-0103.



"I blade to work every day the weather's nice enough from Chicago to Hiawatha. The Greenway's a Great way to get to work; great beginning, and great end to my work day. I love getting the fresh air, and saving money by blading to work."

Jeff Gundvaldson





Greenway facing side of the proposed Acme Tag site development on the north side of the Greenway between Fremont and Girard Avenue. Drawing provided courtesy of Greco Development and BKV Architects.

DEVELOPMENT INTEREST PICKS UP ALONG THE GREENWAY

By Eric Hart, Coalition board member representing greater Longfellow, and co-chair of the Coalition's Land Use and Transportation Committee

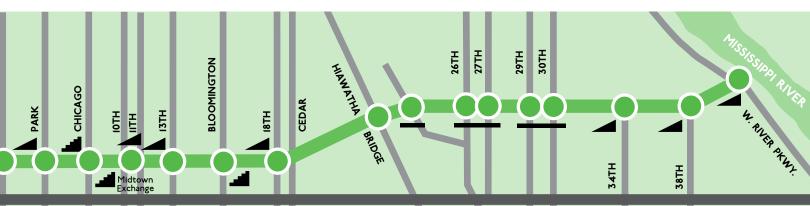
After a slow down of nearly a year due to a slump in the housing market, interest is picking up in land along the Greenway by developers. At the end of 2007, there were at least five projects in various stages of design and approvals, mostly in the Uptown area. A four story office building with ground floor retail is proposed at Lyndale Avenue (the former Aarcee Rental site). Two other projects are being proposed on the North side of the Greenway between Fremont and Girard Avenues (known as the former Acme Tag site) and the two blocks between Colfax and Emerson Avenues (known as the Bennett Lumber site). Further east between Pleasant and Grand Avenues, plans are in the works to redevelop the old Midwestern Machinery building and site into 92 residential units. Finally, a small townhome development is being considered for the east side of Pillsbury Avenue. Each of these projects has the potential to enhance or detract from Greenway safety, accessibility, and aesthetics. The Coalition's Land Use and Transportation Committee will hear presentations on some of these developments early in the year (see calendar on back page for meeting details). The public is invited to participate and help advocate for Greenway-friendly buildings and site layouts.

NEW RAMP CONNECTS GREENWAY WITH MIDTOWN EXCHANGE, AT LAST!

By Tim Springer, Executive Director, Midtown Greenway Coalition, and Todd Rasmuson, President, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association

On November 8, 2007, the same day the Greenway bridge over Hiawatha Avenue opened, a new Greenway trail entrance ramp also opened between 10th and 11th Avenues. This new ramp provides a much-needed link between the Greenway and Midtown Exchange, Powderhorn Park, and the Midtown Phillips community. This new ramp is unique and a model for more to come. The design incorporates additional land outside the 100-foot-wide Greenway corridor to provide a more gradual slope and long sight lines in and out of the corridor. It was made possible by five years of advocacy work, installation by Hennepin County, and maintenance commitments by the City of Minneapolis. The Midtown Greenway Coalition and the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association hope to involve the community in conceptualizing and advocating for three enhancements, including: (1) full accessibility and recreational features for people with physical and perhaps developmental disabilities; (2) sustainable landscaping; and (3) public art. This will transform an "entry way" into a beautiful park. The Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association has committed a \$152,000 challenge grant to others to join with us in creating an accessible, welcoming place of green.





THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS! (Please call if we have missed you!)

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MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION BOARD MEMBERS

The Coalition board of diectors consists of one seat for each of the I7 neighborhoods along the Lake Street-Midtown Greenway Corridor, and four at-large seats.

Greg Benz WEST CALHOUN NEIGHBORHOOD

John DeWitt PROSPECT PARK

Eric Hart LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Fleur Higginbotham POWDERHORN PARK

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Karl Stoerzinger CORCORAN NEIGHBORHOOD ORG.

Dawn Wangen **PHILIPS WES**

Board Members are still needed from CARAG and WEST CALHOUN neighborhoods

For a list of board members' roles and responsibilities, visit www.midtowngreenway.org. Follow the links to Board of Directors, or call 612-879-0103

MISSION

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

VISION

We envision a green urban pathway that:

- Provides the anchor for a regional, sustainable transportation network: and
- Encourages healthy diverse communities to prosper, participate, and connect to the region.

Our Midtown Greenway will feature:

- All-season, fast, safe, and pleasant walking, biking and rolling; and
- Vibrant sustainable greenspaces and plazas with opportunities for public art; and
- Greenway edges that offer access, safety, new public parks, and economic opportunities; and

Together we will create a Greenway that improves our lives, our neighborhoods, our region, and the planet.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GREENWAY ADOPTERS

In the past year, the Coalition's Adopt-A-Greenway (AAG) program has really taken off. Currently there are forty-eight adopters! AAG is open to all businesses, schools, churches, and other organizations who are interested in working to clean and maintain the trail and, in the process, increase the enjoyment of all those who use the trail. AAG divides the Greenway into four block segments that can be adopted by up to four organizations at a time over a two-year period. Each year the four adopters, working together or separately, must complete two cleanups along their four-block section. Many adopters are interested in expanding their tasks to include maintaining a shrub bed or rain garden, participating in Arbor Day, or donating goods or services.

If your group is interested in participating, let us know early in 2008. Space is still available but will likely fill up fast. Please contact Theresa Nelson at 612-870-0103 or at theresa@ midtowngreenway.org with questions or for more information. Be a part of this list! Be an adopter!

FIRST GROUP OF NEW CYCLISTS GRADUATE FROM WOMEN BIKE ON

(continued from p.I)

Funding for this class was provided by the City of Minneapolis as well as by program partners: Community Education at Andersen School, and the Midtown Greenway Coalition with funds from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Numerous other organizations, businesses and individuals provided support. **Bike On** promotes community, family and youth-centered bicycling in Minneapolis and sponsors Global Bike Days and The Bike-To-School League (www.bikeon.org).

Two **Women Bike On** groups will begin in April 2008: Saturday mornings and Monday evenings. If you are a women and do not know how to bike, or need a refresher course to get back on the saddle, please contact the Midtown Greenway Coalition (612-879-0106), Andersen Community Education or Bike On to enroll. Courses are free and child care is provided.

OUR GREENWAY ADOPTERS

Abbott Northwestern Hospital

Allina Commons

Bikram Yoga

biota - A Landscaping Design and Build Firm

Birchwood Café

Bituminous Roadways

Blue Moon Coffee Café

Breck Middle School

Bryant-Lake Bowl

Carbon Creative

Chicago Lofts Home-

owners

Association

Children's of Minnesota

Clicquot Club Café

Coldwell Banker

Burnet

Cristo Rey Jesuit High

School

Dero Bike Rack Company

East Phillps EPIC

First Unitarian Society

Green Team

Green Central Park

Hiawatha Bicycling Club

Midtown Farmers' Market

Miller Hanson Partners

Minnesota Inline Skate

Club

North Prairie Tileworks, Inc. Oakland United Methodist Church

Old Arizona

Peace Coffee

Penn Cycle and Fitness

Phillips Garden

Phillips West Neighborhood Organization

Pilgrim Lutheran Church of St Paul

Pizza Luce Uptown

Salem and Lyndale Churches

> Seifert and Hailstone Group

Seward Co-op

Grocery & Deli Sheraton Midtown Mpls

Smith Foundry

smith Foundry

Spirit of the Lakes-UCC Tanek. Inc.

The Jessica Edwards Group

The Mugge Group

Transition Plus REACH Team

Twin Cities Bicycling Club

U of M Students' Co-op Wedge Community Co-op

West Calhoun

Neighborhood Council

Whittier Alliance

Whole Foods Market





711 W. Lake Street, Suite 103 Minneapolis, MN 55408

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 612-879-0103

info@midtowngreenway.org www.midtowngreenway.org



(DETAILS ON P. 2)



Minneapolis, MN 55408

GREENWAY MEMBERSHIP FORM COALITION Name Address ___ City, State, Zip _____ Phone, E-mail ___ O \$250 - Greenway Angel O \$100 - Greenway Patron O \$50 - Greenway Advocate O \$25 - Greenway Sponsor ○ \$12 - Greenway Friend (low income) Business: Other: ___ O Yes. I want to volunteer My main interest is: ___ Please make your check payable to: "Midtown Greenway Coalition" and mail to: Midtown Greenway Coalition 711 W. Lake Street, Suite 103

Clip and post on fridge

GREENWAY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MEETINGS

First Mondays, 6-7:30 p.m. January 7, February 4, and March 3

GREENSPACE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Third Mondays 6-7:30 p.m. (except in January and February) January 28, February 19, and March 17

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Third Thursdays 5:30-7:00 p.m. (except in February) January 17, Wed. February 13, and March 20

LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Second Mondays, 7-9:00 p.m. January 14, February II, and March 10

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Fourth Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 p.m. January 24, February 28, and March 27

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, are at the coalition office (711 W. Lake Street, Suite 103)