What is the Loring Greenway?

Activities: The Loring Greenway, a three-acre corridor connecting Nicollet Mall and Loring Park in downtown Minneapolis, is used daily by pedestrians, bikers, area residents, convention-goers and hotel guests and serves as a venue for special events such as weddings, photo shoots, neighborhood gatherings and picnic lunches.

Plants: Although countless at this point, the gardens include more than 10,000 shrubs, 10,000 perennials and 2,500 annuals, as well as 221 trees representing 26 species.

Amenities: The walkways that make up the Loring Greenway include 18 French bistro tables and 60 chairs; seven metal benches; a playground; two fountains; winter lighting on the trees near the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis; a dog area; and a Little Free Library.

Why is the Loring Greenway important?

Environment: Scientific evidence shows that experiencing nature makes people happier, healthier and more productive. Leaves on the plants and trees remove pollution from the air. Plants provide a home for pollinating birds and bees.
Community: Working together on volunteer days and participating in Loring Greenway events are opportunities for neighbors to get to know each other and make the Loring Greenway safer and more enjoyable. Providing a beautiful place for dog walkers further connects neighbors. Safety is supported by coordination with the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis and Citizens for a Loring Park Community.

Value: Recognizing the importance of the Loring Greenway to home values, real estate agents cite the Loring Greenway as an important neighborhood amenity.

How does the Loring Greenway Association work?
The Loring Greenway Association (LGA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, governed by a Board of Directors with representatives from the residences along the Loring Greenway. The Board of Directors recruits additional volunteers and donors to provide the resources needed to keep the Loring Greenway a beautiful and welcoming space.

Success depends on dedicated, hard-working neighbors and friends, who provided 4,219 volunteer hours and $68,231 in contributions in 2017, and on partnerships with the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department, and other area businesses.

Partners
Target Corporation and the Target Volunteer Council donated funds for perennials and native plants and provided 150 gardening volunteers on two days in May. The Hyatt Regency Minneapolis provided lunch and facilities for staging that event, and also sponsored the LGA annual meeting and recognition event for volunteers and donors.

City of Minneapolis Public Works employee Mark Clark mows, sweeps, clears leaves and snow, removes trash, replaces light bulbs, completes other City of Minneapolis tasks, and contributes assistance as requested by the LGA gardening team. In addition, he provides a positive presence and enhances security on the Loring Greenway. City of Minneapolis plumbers maintain the fountains and the irrigation system. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board provides tree removal and pruning services.

Landscape architect Guy Mueller prepared detailed planting and landscape designs. Rainbow Tree Care, contracted by LGA, fertilizes trees and treats the ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer. Outside contractors, contracted by LGA, provided mulch, boulders and other features.

2017 Accomplishments
Gardening. The Loring Greenway received a Downtown Improvement District Greening Award for the eighth year in a row, this time for Best Large Green Space in the City of Minneapolis. Some of the reasons for its recognition include the following:

• Implementation of new designs to attract pollinators, increased native plantings in the Loring Green West fence garden and Greenway Gables lane and dog area, and fountain pyramid and saucer gardens provided by a special contribution from Richard Anderson
• Enhancements to the native shade garden, aspen glade 110 Grant garden, Grant Street entrance, and coleus garden at the east end of the Nicollet lane that was designed and planted by Claire Selkurt
• Installation of hoop fencing to protect sensitive garden areas
• Monthly Saturday volunteer workdays
• Development of the Adopt-a-Garden Program for maintenance throughout the summer
• Volunteers dedicated to watering and weeding gardens during the week all summer

Tree maintenance. A walkthrough of the Loring Greenway took place on September 11 with head of MPRB forestry Ralph Sievert, district urban forester Dana Hendrickson, and board member Dr. Lee Freligh, University of Minnesota. Tree maintenance activities to be carried out by MPRB forestry during winter 2017-2018 as a result of the walkthrough included the following:
• Remove dead branches on lower parts of locust crowns throughout the greenway
• Trim lower branches of lindens on north side of Loring Way (210 W. Grant) to let more light into the shade garden and keep branches away from the building
• Trim branches that hang downwards onto the pergola structures
• Trim branches of the Amur maples and others that may interfere with emergency and maintenance vehicle traffic
• Trim the river birches on the branch of the greenway going to Grant Street to lighten the weight of the ones with partially split trunks and for clearance for maintenance vehicles
• Remove the large locust with the big split in the shade garden on the north side of Loring Way
• Remove three ashes with girdling roots or no growing space
• Remove branches near the banner poles north of the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

Memorial trees and plaques. A redbud planted four years ago was designated as a memorial to board member Mike Troje. A plaque for Archibald Leyasmeyer was installed near the rhododendrons along the fence between Loring Green West and Loring Green East. A plaque commemorating 25 years of volunteering by Richard Anderson was installed near the serviceberry tree on the small pyramid just south of the pyramid fountain.

Tree diversity. The LGA has increased tree diversity significantly. The total number of tree species present prior to the formation of the LGA was 15; as of 2017 there are 26 tree species.

Tree species present then and now (14 species): Green Ash, Honey Locust, European Linden, Austrian Pine, River Birch, Concolor Fir, Amur Maple, Northern Red Oak, Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Blue Spruce, Freeman Maple, Serviceberry, Flowering Crabapple

Species new to the Loring Greenway (12 species): Starr Magnolia, Callery Pear, White Cedar (Arborvitae), Kentucky Coffeetree, Ohio Buckeye, Redbud, Eastern Hemlock, American Elm (disease-resistant), Quaking Aspen, Sumac, Black Hills Spruce, and Red Mulberry
Species present then and not present now (1 species): Hackberry (died of unknown disease in 2015)

Native plants and the shade garden. The hoop fence was installed along the sidewalk sides of the shade garden during spring 2017. Several large-flowered trillium and three spikenards were donated and added to the garden. Due to the high rabbit population, some of the plant species in the shade garden were badly damaged. Temporary fencing was installed to protect individual plants. A more permanent solution to place a wire fence inside the hoop fence and keep rabbits out has been planned for spring 2018. The fence would be black wire and minimally visible so as not to detract from the design of the hoop fence. The garden should recover in the absence of rabbits. However, there is an open question about how the tuck-pointing and other building maintenance for Loring Way will impact the garden during the 2018 growing season.

Little Free Library. It was another banner year for strollers on the Loring Greenway stopping for a book at the new Little Free Library that replaced the original one, which was showing its weathered age. Thanks to generous donations from the Library Committee at Loring Green East, a wide array – mysteries, cookbooks, serious books, humorous books – was placed in the new Little Free Library and quickly snapped up. Volunteers stock it regularly and always find it interesting that there seems to be a reader for every title, no matter how esoteric.

Physical Enhancements. The following were accomplished in 2017:
- Added colorful, art bike racks along the Lasalle bridge
- Installed hoop fencing to protect gardens
- Worked with Public Works on fountain and masonry repairs

2017 Board Members
The following served at least a partial year on the board of directors in 2017:
Richard Anderson                 Karen Lund-Brust
Paula Buckner                    Mary Maier
Pat Davies                       Monica Marx
Nicholas Deacon                  Laura Mattson
Lee Freligh                      Mark Ring
Steve Hillestad                 Claire Selkurt
Merry Keefe                      Bill Snyder
Mary Alyce Krohnke              John Van Heel
Susan Lasoff                    Doug Wallace
Linda Luksan

2017 Officers
President: Merry Keefe
Vice President: Nicholas Deacon
Treasurer: Mark Ring
Secretary: Linda Luksan
2017 Gardening Committee
Fred Aden       Center Section Coordinator
Richard Anderson       West Section Leader
Nicholas Deacon       Center Section Coordinator
Lee Frelid       Native Plants and Tree Advisor and Tree Donations
Janet Gendler       Adopt-a-garden Program
Merry Keefe       Garden Coordinator
Mary Alyce Krohnke
Peggy MacRae       Adopt-a-garden Program and Garden Coordinator
Mary Maier       Gardening Committee Chair
Jane Nevin
Claire Selkurt
Marsha Weidenhammer       East Section Coordinator

2017 Financial Report
Income offset expenses in 2017, with income exceeding expenses by $1,536.80.
2017 Expenses = $66,694.69

2018 Goals
• Install new storage unit for gardening tools and equipment
• Add color to the berms
• Increase pollinator- and hummingbird-attracting plants
• Install additional protective fencing for vulnerable gardens
• Reduce rabbit damage
• Expand the volunteer base with new residents and corporations
2017 Volunteers
220+ volunteers from the nine buildings along the Loring Greenway and from corporate volunteer groups contributed more than 4,200 hours to gardening, maintaining the Loring Greenway, administration and events. Not everyone who volunteered signed in, so only a partial list follows. The Loring Greenway Association thanks EVERYONE who helped make the Loring Greenway such a beautiful and welcoming space!

Fred Aden
Richard Anderson
Nettie Andrews
John Berrigan
Dean Born
Donovan Brausen
Paula Buckner
Dennis Callahan
Hal Chader
Larry Clausen
Don Davies
Pat Davies
Nick Deacon
Katie Dickinson
Pam Fechter
Betsy Ford
Maryfaith Fox
Lee Frelich
Gillian Frothingham-Gordon
Janet Gendler
Joanitah Gilet
Elizabeth Goldberg
Betty Heefner
Hope Hensley
Donna Hill
Steve Hillestad
Janet Hughes
Peggy Hunter
Ellen Just
Anna Kasinski
Merry Keefe
Mary Alyce Krohnke
Susan Lasoff
Tom Law
Dianne Legg
Linda Luksan
Karen Lund-Brust
Peggy MacRae
Nancy Maczka
Helmut Maier
Mary Maier
Sally Martineau
Monica Marx
Laura Mattson
Tim Miley
Guy Mueller
Jane Nelson
Jane Nevin
Dennis Nielsen
Laura Nolan
Connie Nowacki
Reino Paaso
Mark Ring
Don Rudrud
Claire Selkurt
Alex Sierra
Tom Slotnick
Bill Snyder
Bill Soth
Roxanne Soth
Diana Ursin
Tom Ursin
John Van Heel
Doug Wallace
Hella Wartman
Paul Wartman
Marsha Weidenhammer
Julia Weiler
William Weiler
Sally Westby
Scott Wilkins
2017 Donors

$1,000 or more
Nancy E. Anderson
Richard Anderson
Bianca Fine/Fine Associates
Mark Gittleman
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
Loring Green East Association
Loring Green West Association
Loring Way Condominium Association

$500 to $999
1200 on the Mall Association
Thomas and Mary Beaumont
Larry and Susan Clausen
Henry Cousineau
Greenway Gables Association
Hope Hensley
Steven Hilestad
Peggy MacRae
Wally and Marilyn Small
John and Marcia Stout
Paula Vesely
Peggy Hunter and Doug Wallace

$250 to $499
Ogden and Jane Confer
Jack and Pat Davies
Michael Edwins
Marty Jones and Harold Fagley
Robert L. Falk
Lee Frelch
Richard Gillespie
Betty Heefner
Sue Shepard and Don Helgeson
Donald and Joanne Heitner
Dennis and Nora Hunchar
David and Betsy Larsen
Ted and Mary Loftness
Helmut and Maria Maier
Judith Marcouiller
Timothy and Monica Marx
Terence Fruth and Mary McEvoy
Steve Millikan

$100 to $249
Fred Aden
Winnie Anderson
Karen Bachman
Virginia Barzan
Barbara Brin and John Beal
Anita Bennett
James and Ruth Ann Benson
Patricia Bloodgood
Dean Born and Alan Bode
Larry and Virginia Bradford
Richard Brunning
John and Kristy Buck
Jan and Paula Buckner
Scott Cabalka
Don Cameron
Rob and Bonnie Carlson
Hal Chader
Sydna Cheever
Ray and Jo Connelly
Jeanne Corwin
Timothy Palmquist and Phoebe Dahlquist
Marianne Dahm
Don Davies
Elizabeth Davies
Nick and Elizabeth Ann Deacon
Anne Halloran and Curt Deering
Janet Hughes and John Diem
Dennis and Nickie Dillon
Jim and Helen Ehrlich
Jean Emanuelson
Rondi Erickson
Marion Etzwiler
Richard and Adele Evidon
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Merry Keefe
Jean Kennedy
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Jeff and Jennifer Korsmo
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John Kueck
Bernie and Karen Kunkel
Susan and Mark Lasoff
Claire Selkurt and Diane Legg
Archibald and Edith Leyasmeyer
Debra Linder
David Munn and Linda Luksan
Donald and Judith Mackenzie
George and Maria Malone
James and Sally Martineau
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LaDonna Meinecke
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Arturo Steely
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Ruth Spieg Usem
David and Greta Van Benschoten
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John and Elizabeth Verhoeffen
Ron Wahlberg
Thomas Walker
Paul and Hella Wartman
Patricia Weber
William Weiler
Richard and Elizabeth Winga
Jane U. Young

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Ginny Agresti
Eric Anderson
Nettie Andrews
Mickey Armstrong
Elliot Arsoniadis
Helen Atcas
Vincent and Susan Barton
Charles Baxler
Richard and Nancy Beach
Beverly Benson
Margaret Berget
Leslie Berkshire
Regina Birchem
Suzanne Birnbaum
Naomi Black
Matthew Blanco
Keith Boe
Karen Bowen
Robert and Betsy Bradford
David Braslau
Sharon Bredeson
Judith Breuer
Paul and Jane Brissett
Madison Brown
Joel and Martha Brown
Thomas and Patricia Bunch
Todd Burmeister
Kay Constantine
Alicia Cozine
Isaac Corzine
Diane Englund and Gerry Cucci
Corey Dahlstrand
John Degner
Larry and Gay Dennison
Henry and Stephanie Dodge
David and John Doty
Ann Douglas
Todd Dunivant
Barbara Dunkel
Steve and Vickie Dunn

Kathryn Egli
Judith Ericksen
Hope Esparolini
Tim Falencik
Ester Fesler
Andrew Feyen
Bud Levinger and Sheila Field
Janet Flagel
Dick and Carol Flynn
Betsy Ford
Darlene Forrest
Michael and Maryfaith Fox
Cindy Frattallone
Heidi Froseth
John Wodele and Susan Gaertner
Bonnie and Phillip Gainsley
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Lois Gibson
Curtis Gilmore
Janet Goehle
Jean and Bertram Greener
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Verna Heiberg
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Donna Hill
Arthur Himmelman
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Richard Wall
Kurt and Marsha Weidenhammer
Jon and Sally Westby
Scott Wilkins

John and Jean Wolf
John and Mary Zesbaugh

In Kind Gifts
Richard Anderson
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
Target Corporation

Learn more about the LGA at loringgreenway.org.
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