



## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The Loring Greenway Association (LGA) is a volunteer non-profit organization that partners with private and public entities to preserve and enhance the Loring Greenway (Greenway), a premier urban garden and pedestrian connection between Loring Park and the Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

### 2024 HEADLINES

#### LGA Wins DID Award Number 13



For a record 13 consecutive times, the last seven for Best Large Green Space, the Loring Greenway won a Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District Greening & Public Realm Award. LGA volunteers attended the DID awards ceremony on November 7. This award represents approximately 3,000 hours of gardening and administrative work by LGA volunteers that keeps the Greenway beautiful.

#### LGA is First-Time Doors Open Minneapolis Venue

LGA was one of 105 Minneapolis venues on May 18-19 that gave visitors a look at their operations not normally available to the public. Events Chair Judy Tucker wrote a self-guided walking tour for visitors to follow as they strolled through the Greenway. Saturday coincided with LGA's planting day, showing visitors LGA's dedicated volunteers at work. "We had more than 120 visitors each day for Doors Open and may have recruited a few volunteers," remarked Tucker. "The visitors were impressed by the beauty of the Greenway and the sense of community. It was just a splendid weekend on the Greenway." (See photos page 5.)

#### City Dismantles Beloved Greenway Playground

On November 12, the City of Minneapolis Department of Public Works removed and disassembled the Greenway's beloved playground citing safety concerns. Since the Greenway's inception, the playground has served as recreation site for neighborhood families and surrounding schools. LGA leadership met with CM Katie Cashman and DPW staff on December 20 to explore avenues to replace the playground. This discussion led to a LGA-hosted community meeting on January 30. LGA is committed to restoring the playground over the next two years.

#### One is the Loneliest Number



Despite two plantings, only a single sunflower grew tall in summer 2024. LGA gardeners speculate that seeds were overcome by frequent spring rain. We hope hospitable conditions will bring this popular flower back in 2025.

## **PUBLIC PARTNERS**

The **City of Minneapolis** has licensed LGA through its Downtown Minneapolis Greening Partnership Initiative to perform three activity categories on the Greenway: plants, trees and activities/programs. LGA committee reports found below describe how these activities categories were fulfilled in 2024.

The **City of Minneapolis Public Works Department (DPW)** is responsible for lawn care, snow, leaf and trash removal, light bulb replacement and similar tasks on the Loring Greenway. LGA works with DPW to resolve safety and infrastructure issues on the Greenway.

The **Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board Forestry Department (MPRB)** is responsible for tree trimming and removal on city property, including the Greenway.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **GARDENING COMMITTEE**

The gardening committee performs the first (plants) and second (trees) activity categories listed in LGA's license agreement with the City of Minneapolis. (See gardening images pages 3-4.)

**Members:** Fred Aden (Garden Designer), Summer Badawi (professional gardener contractor), Bob Conlin (section coordinator), Lee Frelich (native plants and tree advisor), Sue Jones (garden shed supervisor), Mary Alyce Krohnke (master gardener, section co-coordinator), Peggy MacRae (master gardener, plant labels), Mary Maier (chair, section co-coordinator), Maureen Meier (assistant chair, section co-coordinator), Gay Russell-Dempsey (section co-coordinator), Claire Selkurt (master gardener), Marsha Weidenhammer (section coordinator).

The garden committee and 68 Adopt-a-Garden participants logged approximately 2,600 hours:

- Designing, enhancing, and replacing gardens.
- Selecting and installing plants to attract pollinators.
- Planting, watering, weeding, and tidying gardens.
- Identifying additions for native plant garden and drought resistant plants.
- Promoting tree health and diversification.
- Managing contract work with professional gardener, landscaper and tree specialists.
- Providing a welcoming and beautiful space for all.

### **ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Activities/programs is the third activity category listed in the license agreement. (See activities images pages 5-6.)

**Member:** Judy Tucker (chair) responsible for:

- Organizing children's activities, including toy ducks to race down the fountain channel.
- Securing the Greenway's designation as a Doors Open Minneapolis venue on May 18-19.
- Planning entertainment and refreshments for National Night Out on August 6.
- Arranging the LGA Volunteer and Donor Reception at Hyatt Regency Minneapolis on September 10.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

While not a part of the licensing agreement, LGA formed this committee to advise DPW on masonry, lighting, irrigation and other repair issues.

**Members:** Richard Anderson, Don Buckley (irrigation), Greg Gout (tables and chairs, history panel), Mary Keefe, Mary Maier, Laura Mattson, Maureen Meier, John Van Heel (chair). This committee recommended and implemented infrastructure improvements by:

- Monitoring 2030 city capital renewal project for Greenway improvements.
- Adding Greenway history panel to kiosks.
- Refurbishing tables and chairs.
- Installing seasonal lighting on trees.

**NEWSLETTER:** The Loring Greenway Association News was not published in 2024.



Planting Day – May 18



Gardening Day – July 20



Gardens





Gardens con't





## EVENTS

### Doors Open Minneapolis – May 18 and 19



### National Night Out – August 6





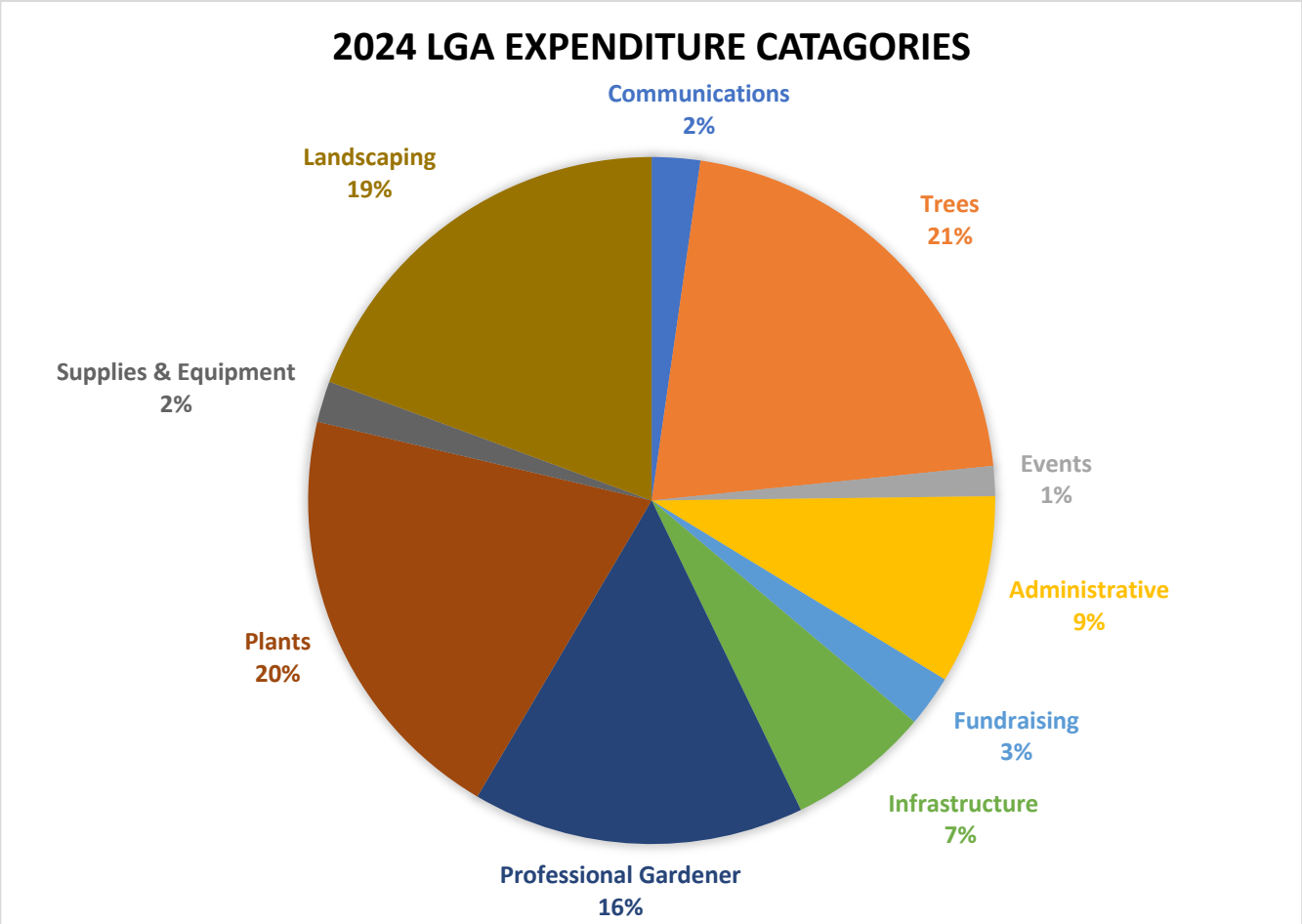
Volunteer and Donor Reception – September 10



**FINANCES**

**Expenditures**

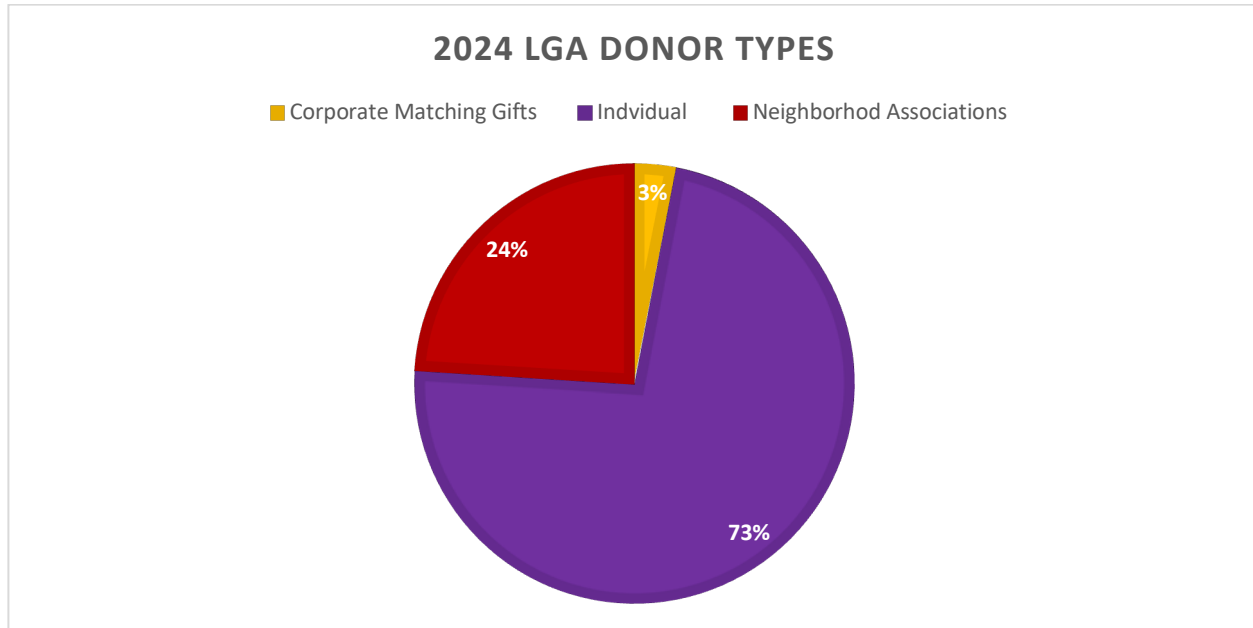
LGA’s 2024 expenditures totaled \$49,456.83 in the categories shown here.



## 2024 LORING GREENWAY ASSOCIATION DONOR LIST

### Contributions

LGA received 2024 contributions totaling \$39,979 from donor types shown here.



### Individual Donors | Donor Advised Funds

Anonymous	Tim and Rita Ebner
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Nancy Albrecht	Suzanne Edwards
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## 2024 LORING GREENWAY ASSOCIATION DONOR LIST

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## 2024 LORING GREENWAY ASSOCIATION DONOR LIST

John Wodele and Susan Gaertner  
Kathy Wood and Ralph Yehle

### **Neighborhood Associations**

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis  
Loring Green East Condominium Association, Inc.  
Loring Green West Condominium Association, Inc.

### **Corporate Matching Gifts**

Ameriprise Financial, Inc.  
Medtronic Foundation Volunteer Grant Program  
U.S. Bank Foundation

**THANK YOU!**