

## Making Our Greenway Beautiful



**LGA Gardening Committee Chair  
Mary Maier**

The LGA Gardening Committee works throughout the year planning, planting and maintaining Loring Greenway gardens with the help of many additional volunteers. Our goal is to make the Loring Greenway a beautiful, calming space for all. We also work closely with our contracted landscaper, professional gardener, tree care specialists and **Mark Clark**, maintenance crew leader, Minneapolis Department of Public Works.

Highlights of the Gardening Committee's 2021 plans are to install a garden by the 110 Grant back door and expand the shade garden by Loring Way to the Greenway Gables side of the walkway. Please share your ideas for next year with committee members **Fred Aden** (Loring Green West), **Richard Anderson** (Loring Way), **Nick Deacon** (1200 on the Mall), **Cont. page 3**

## COVID-19 Closures Bring Groups to Loring Greenway

LGA bistro tables and chairs are in high demand this summer by groups whose usual meeting places are closed because of COVID-19.

### Morning Coffee



For the past 15 years, 110 Grant residents have been meeting daily for morning coffee in the building's common spaces. When the 110 Grant party room was closed in July because of COVID-19, participants took their coffee to bistro tables and chairs by pergola pyramids.

While the composition changed over time, the current core group has remained relatively stable since 2013 when several residents moved to 110 within months of each other. They discuss politics, sports, history and technology. They support one another during difficult times. They celebrate holidays and birthdays. Minnesota Twins Mascot TC Bear was a guest for a participant's 90th birthday in October 2019. Although difficult to top, the same creative skills that planned that party will be needed to mark a string of fall and winter birthdays.

### Afternoon Happy Hour

Volunteer gardening and shuffleboard are the foundation of a Happy Hour group that gathers weekly on the Loring Greenway. Pre-COVID-19, the group met at McCormick & Schmick's for Taco Tuesdays or the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency's Prairie Kitchen outdoor patio.

An advantage of meeting on the Loring Greenway, according to participant Diana Ursin, is that acquaintances stop by and join the conversation. Topics include defunding the police, **Cont. page 3**

# Meet LGA Horticulturist and Design Consultant Rebecca Gross



## What sparked your interest in gardening?

When I was a kid, my mom and I would always garden together. I especially loved snapdragons. She was always really patient about explaining things to me and letting me try my own ideas in the garden.

## Where was your first garden? What kind of garden was it?

Aside from helping my mom as a kid, my first real gardening experience came when my partner and I bought our first house on a huge hill. We were sick of mowing the steep hillside so we killed the grass and started planting perennials. It evolved into a mostly native pollinator garden. Our neighbors all loved to see how it changed through the seasons and hear how abuzz with life our yard was.

## How did you become involved with LGA?

I became involved with LGA in 2018 when it engaged me as an independent horticulturist and design consultant.

## What are your 2020 LGA roles?

I help troubleshoot plant problems, train volunteers, assist with the adopt-a-garden program, coordinate the plant order, make new plant selections and design berms and saucers.

## What is your favorite plant, tree or flower? Why?

My favorite plant right now (it's always changing) is probably Gita Beans. They are pole beans that produce pods 12-18" long. The beans are sweet and tender--good to eat fresh and cooked--and the flowers are interesting.

## Describe your educational and professional achievements.

I have a BS in Horticulture and have been gardening professionally since 2014. Aside from the Loring Greenway, some of the gardens I've cared for include the St. Paul Hotel English Garden, the Display and Trial Garden at the UMN St. Paul campus, the Annual Perennial garden at Lyndale Park, and the gardens around Lake Harriet Bandshell. I am presently the community garden coordinator for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, helping to implement a new program. So far, we have built 4 new community gardens and will be installing 3-4 more this fall!

## Describe your family.

I live on the Southside with my husband, Brent, two kids Neko (5) and Arlo (1) and my omery cat, Seala.

## What are your interests outside of gardening?

We spend a lot of time outside swimming, hiking and camping. We also love to DIY and are currently in the process of fixing up a beautiful 1918 house (yay for plaster walls!). Someday I'd like to have some acreage outside the city to grow more food.

The **Loring Greenway Association** is a volunteer non-profit organization that partners with private and public entities to preserve and enhance the Loring Greenway, a premier urban garden and pedestrian connection between Loring Park and the Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Contact us at P.O. Box 582031, Minneapolis, MN 55458-2031 or [www.loringgreenway.org](http://www.loringgreenway.org).

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**Lee Frelich** (Loring Way), **Becca Gross** (Horticulturist), **Mary Alyce Krohnke** (Loring Green West), **Peggy MacRae** (Loring Green East), **Mary Maier** (Loring Green East), **Maureen Meier** (Loring Green East), **Claire Selkurt** (The Tower of 1200 on the Mall), and **Marsha Weidenhammer** (The Tower of 1200 on the Mall). Or you can e-mail us at [info@loringgreenway.org](mailto:info@loringgreenway.org). We'd love to hear from you.

Enjoy the late summer gardens and the beautiful fall that follows.

### Rabbits Find Zinnia Feast



Fencing is the only effective method to keep rabbits from munching in the native plant shade garden adjacent to Loring Way and around young trees.

LGA gardeners were surprised to learn this summer that rabbits like Zinnias, devouring them from the unprotected Lasalle bridge flower boxes.

#### **Keep the Loring Greenway Beautiful**

**Mail your check to:**

**Loring Greenway Association  
P.O. Box 582031  
Minneapolis, MN 55458-2031  
or donate online at  
[www.loringgreenway.org](http://www.loringgreenway.org)**

**THANK YOU!**

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books and documentaries, sports, politics and COVID-19. The group welcomes all views and opinions.

### Cold Weather Huddles

Both groups wonder where they will meet as the days grow shorter and colder. Given the strong bonds between these friends, they will surely find ways to continue their conversations.



**LGA volunteers clean up after vandals cause destruction on Loring Greenway.**