

What Does Mark Do?

Merry Keefe



Mark Clark, City of Minneapolis Public Works Department, began working for the City 32 years ago and for the Greenway 11 years ago. He is a key part of the Greenway's success, and modestly says, "There's no way the Greenway would work without all the contributions of the volunteers." This mutual-admiration partnership is especially appreciated as we all make adjustments with the pandemic restrictions.

Appearance

Mark begins his day at 6 am by picking up trash from the previous afternoon and evening--lots of things our volunteers would not want to even touch. He empties all the Greenway's trash cans and takes the contents to the City trash center. Mark also picks up the many piles and bags of weeds, leaves and sticks collected by our volunteers. All the organic material goes to the City's recycling center near Dunwoody. **Cont'd page 2**

COVID-19 Shifts LGA Gardening Strategy

Mary Maier



LGA has expanded its Adopt-a-Garden program because its productive monthly Saturday garden days have been canceled due to COVID-19. Under this plan, individual volunteers like Julia and Bill Weller (left) plant and maintain assigned gardens. In addition, our landscaper has added many features to the gardens and our tree specialists will treat the ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer during

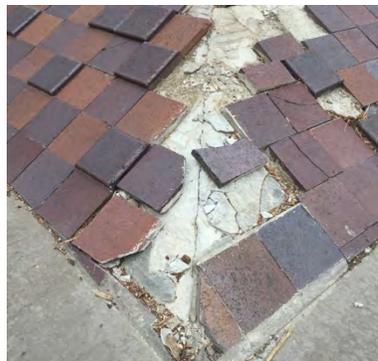
the summer.

Because COVID-19 is closing many public spaces, LGA wants to make sure that Loring Greenway is a beautiful place for all to enjoy. The LGA Garden Committee have been working very hard, along with individual volunteers and contractors, to make sure that the Loring Greenway is a calming refuge for all this summer.

We want to thank our donors and volunteers for keeping the gardens a beautiful space for all. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at loringgreenway.org

Skateboarders Damage Historic Pyramid Tiles

Linda Luksan



Sadly, the Loring Greenway is the playground of numerous skateboarders doing thousands of dollars of damage to the tiles that make up our historic pyramids and fountains. The Loring Greenway Association is working with the Minneapolis Department of Public Works to explore ways to discourage skateboarders from continuing their destructive acts.

According to City Ordinance, "No person shall ride or propel rollerskates or skateboards upon the Nicollet Mall, or any other public plaza-like area regulated by the City of Minneapolis or other governmental unit, except in connection with an exhibition, commercial venture, organized play or similar organized event authorized by permit from the city council..." **Cont'd page 2**

What Does Mark Do? Cont'd

Security

Mark provides significant help with Greenway safety efforts, beginning at 6 am by waking up and shooing off anyone sleeping on the Greenway, and throughout the day as he tells skateboarders, trick bikers, and drinkers to leave the Greenway. When necessary he calls 911.

Infrastructure

Mark is responsible for maintaining our lawns and sidewalks with each season bringing different tasks. He helps coordinate issues with Public Works, including irrigation, fountains, painting and tile repair. During the summer he checks the irrigation system each morning, fixing leaks and computer problems, and checks the street lighting, replacing spent bulbs.

Ambassador

Visitors, neighbors, volunteers and dogs love Mark. Mark reflects the positive face of Minneapolis and the Greenway. He provides visitors, residents and volunteers with helpful information, and provides neighborhood dogs with special treats.

The Loring Greenway Association is grateful to Mark for his work in maintaining a beautiful Greenway and for his support of our volunteers.

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, 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.

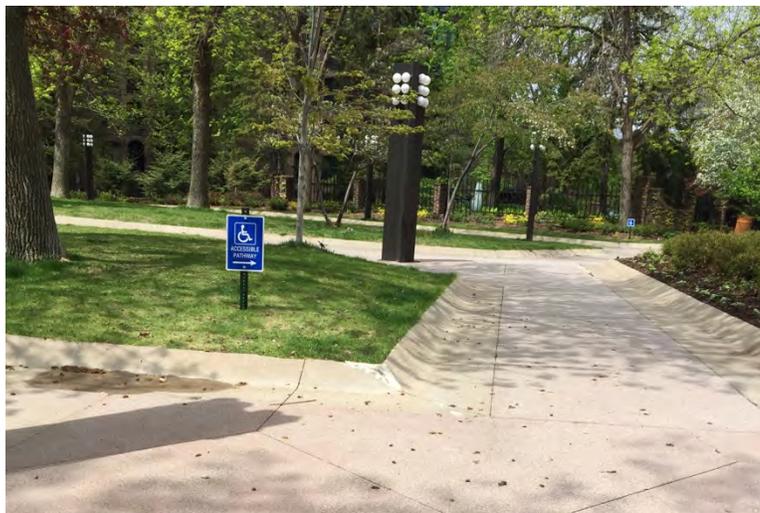
Skateboarders Damage Historic Pyramid Tiles Cont'd



If you observe a skateboarder doing jumps and tricks on the pyramids and fountains, consider asking them to stop. Many are uninformed about how much damage they are doing; if enough of us deliver that message, perhaps they'll move on.

And if you take a picture or video of the activity, feel free to share it with us at info@loringgreenway.org.

Accessibility Signs Installed



Accessibility signs were installed along Loring Greenway sidewalk to direct pedestrians using wheeled conveyances away from stairs above middle fountain. Thanks to LGA board member **John VanHeel** and to **Mark Clark** (see page 1) for implementing this project.

Board Member in News

LGA board member **Dr. Lee Frelich**, director of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology, predicts that climate change could devastate Minnesota's northern forest in an [article](#) in The Washington Post and discussed "[Earthworm Invaders](#)" on the podcast In Defense of Plants.

Signs of Spring



LGA Vice President **Claire Selkurt** and partner **Diane Legg** re-designed their assigned coleus gardens with fewer varieties of mature plants for easier maintenance this year.



The Service Berry trees planted in 2019 to honor the memory of **Homer Goldberg**, **Rick Hensley** and **Donovan Brausen** are growing. Adopt-A-Garden volunteer **Hope Hensley**, Rick's spouse, is currently tending this site. Homer's plaque will be recast later this summer to include his spouse **Bette**, a LGA volunteer who passed away in September 2019.



LGA creates an environment for pollinators, especially for the honeybees on top of the Hyatt. We choose plants for color and those that will attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds, so watch for the beautiful blooms like the colorful zinnias on the Lasalle Bridge and the wonderful begonias in the pyramids.

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A team led by **Fred Aden** put out tables and chairs May 12. The next day, Department of Public Works engineers turned on the fountain for the season.



Trilliums in the native shade garden are managed by LGA board member **Lee Frelich**.



Zinnias have replaced the herbs in the flower boxes behind the Hyatt to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by multiple hands touching the plants.

Thank You LGA Volunteers!



Keep the Loring Greenway Beautiful

Participate in LGA's 2020 donor drive. Mail your check to:

Loring Greenway Association

P.O. Box 582031

Minneapolis, MN 55458-2031

or donate online at www.loringgreenway.org

THANK YOU!