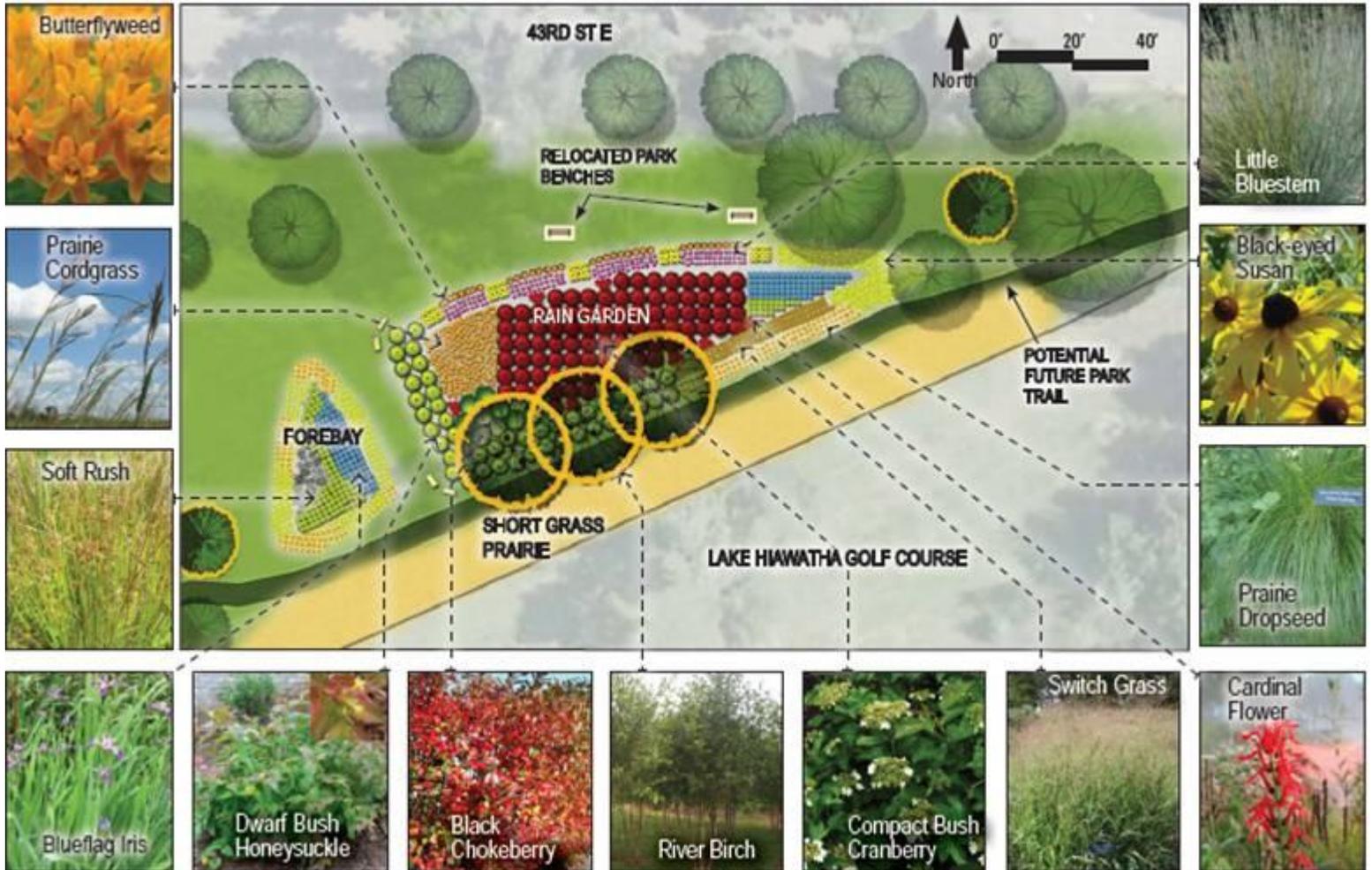




[February 2012]



## Lake Hiawatha Raingarden is Coming this Spring

Work on a new raingarden will begin this spring after a long effort by the Blue Water Partnership (City, Park Board and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District). The raingarden is one of the recommended actions that the group suggested to improve the water quality of Lake Hiawatha, improve area stormwater management, and prevent flooding. A dedicated citizens advisory group worked first with engineers on the big plan, and then with a landscape architect on the raingarden design. Raingardens improve the water quality of lakes and rivers by filtering some pollutants before they reach a water body. They also help ease flooding by being a repository for extra water. In addition to the raingarden, there is currently work being done to increase the size of water pipes under nearby streets in order to more efficiently carry water away from homes during rain events. These steps should significantly reduce the risk of flooding - both in streets and area basements - as well as providing a new garden for birds and people to visit on the north end of Lake Hiawatha.

## Vikings and more...

Last Thursday the City Council heard a presentation about the financing plan for a **Vikings stadium** being promoted by the Mayor and Council President Barb Johnson, both of whom have worked hard to have the stadium be built in Minneapolis. My statement was clear. I will not support this plan to redirect hospitality sales taxes unless Minneapolis residents have the opportunity to vote on it.

The 1997 Charter amendment, passed with more than 69% of voters supporting it, calls for a referendum to allow residents to vote before the City can contribute more than \$10 million dollars to a sports stadium. In other words, the citizens of Minneapolis are entitled to a vote. I think the Vikings truly are an asset to our State and there are even some good features of the financing plan, but I won't support it without a referendum.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward, the plan to invest \$16 million in an expanded **Keewaydin school** could knock out the playground and pool in **Keewaydin Park**. Following two community meetings where plans for Keewaydin School were reviewed and explanations given for expanding the building to the south, the Park Board led a design workshop.

On Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, there was a lively and very interactive session at the park with dozens of neighborhood participants. Ideas were generated for how to best meet neighborhood needs on the park owned land (basically the eastern half of the block; the park building itself actually straddles the line but would not have to be moved for the school.) Those ideas will be consolidated into a draft plan for review by the community in a meeting not yet scheduled (watch here for the date.)

One overriding concern raised by many attendees was this: how long will it take for the Park Board to be able to replace the pool and playground equipment, given that this comes as an unexpected need in their capital plans? The point was made that even two years is a very long time in the life of a young child. In a subsequent exchange with the 12<sup>th</sup> ward office, Mark Bollinger (MPS Facilities Director) wrote that MPS' architect is working on "... an effort to preserve both [pool and playgrounds] so that the MPRB may plan their replacements within their budget and time frames." Mr. Bollinger made clear that it was his hope to have a new schematic design verified by space, amenities and budget by later next week to share with our CEO, Superintendent, and the MPS Board as an update." So our School Board members may not know of the effort, but I hope they would agree that working to find a way to build a good school with a better option for the park is worth some effort.

And the long-running, always troubling, performance of **traffic signals in Hiawatha Corridor** – progress! A green light was given by the Transportation and Public Works Committee this morning to proceed with the \$1.1 million signal light improvement project; the final vote will be in front of the Council next Friday. The schedule reported by project staff shows installation of new signals and controller boxes beginning this spring, with "Operate and Optimize" listed as Summer/Fall. NOTE: All dates are 2012!



## Valentines Dinner & Family Dance to Benefit Lake Nokomis Community Schools

On February 11, the Lake Nokomis Community Schools (LNCS) PTA is hosting an even to benefit LNCS (Keewaydin and Wenonah). The event features a spaghetti dinner from Fat Lorenzo's from 5-7:00 pm, a family friendly DJ from 6:30-8:30 pm, and silent auction from 5:00-7:30 pm. Buy tickets at the door for \$10 per adult and \$6 per child or purchase them in advance for a discount at the school office. The location is Crosstown Covenant Church, 5540 30th Ave S.

## **Airport Update**

The issues surrounding increased airport noise for some neighborhoods and other airport issues such as new proposed navigation techniques, are very complex and fast moving. Some constituents are interested in details and others are not. This venue (the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward News) cannot do justice to the complexity of this topic.

If you want to follow this issue on a more detailed level, please join the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward's Airport e-mail list. You can join by e-mailing Loren Olson with your request: [Loren.Olson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Loren.Olson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us). We will continue to attempt broad overviews in the newsletter and via e-democracy group in the most impacted areas.

In recent developments, the FAA gave a report to the Noise Oversight Committee and then again to the NOC Public Input meeting which acknowledges that what residents have been saying is correct- and is reflected in the data. The planes are lower, more frequent, and are more frequently flying directly over certain areas like Standish and Ericsson. This report was in response to a request from the City. We think its important to get these facts to make sure that no one can deny them. The report also gave us lot of insight into what we can do to improve these conditions. The reason for these conditions is not simply a change in runway use- the way which planes are operating and the increase in a certain type of plane are substantial factors. We believe that there are changes possible that would shift patterns closer to where they used to be. However, the representative from the FAA is already claiming that certain things that we want to do cannot be done. We are not simply going to accept that answer. We are going to challenge those claims and change things at the federal level if needed.

## **Development Update: 46<sup>th</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup>; Oaks Station Place & Longfellow Station**

Michael Lander of the Lander Group has informed the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward office that construction of housing at 46<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> is scheduled to begin in March. Lander is part of a development team, along with At Home Apartments, which will build and manage 48 units of rental housing on the footprint built several years ago. Master Development is also involved with the construction but will not own or manage the building.

Construction is well underway for Oaks Station Place at the south and west edges of the 46th Street LRT Station. The 104 rental units and more than 8,000 square feet of commercial space approved last fall are designed with the eastern end as a plaza that integrates with the station itself.

At 38<sup>th</sup> and Hiawatha, George Sherman hopes to begin construction on Longfellow Station (180 housing units and some commercial space) in May. Sherman is completing some final steps with HUD and expects to have a final endorsement and mortgage in place in March.

## **Apply Now for Teen Summer Employment Opportunities**

Although it's winter, now is a great time to be thinking about summer jobs. Teenagers should start applying now for the Minneapolis STEP-UP Program so they'll be ready to earn money once school ends. Business owners and managers should also get motivated to so they can start hiring and training tomorrow's workforce.

Thousands of Minneapolis youth have landed summer jobs since 2004 through the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP Program. All Minneapolis youth who are between the ages of 14 and 21 (as of June 1, 2012) and not currently enrolled in college are eligible to apply. The program trains and places youth in paid internships at local businesses. Youth selected for STEP-UP must attend work readiness training in April to be considered for a summer position. Earn \$7.25 to more than \$10.00 per hour and work part-time for up to nine weeks during the summer. Applications will be accepted from now until February 3, 2012. STEP-UP applications are available at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped) under "featured topics." For more information, call 612-673-5041.

## **Help our City Take Action on Climate Change**

Given current climate trends, the Midwest is likely to face increased heat waves, reduced air quality and more periods of both floods and drought. To respond to the challenges of climate change and energy security, and as part of its commitment to being an eco-focused city, the City of Minneapolis has adopted targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

You can participate as the City of Minneapolis updates its Climate Action Plan, a roadmap to help the City reduce greenhouse gas pollution in the city and adapt our operations to the future. A public meeting will explain climate science, the climate history of Minnesota, the health impacts of climate change and the process Minneapolis will conduct to update the plan.

### **Climate Action Plan public meeting**

5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 1, Pohlad Hall, Minneapolis Central Library

Attendance free but space is limited. Please RSVP at <http://mplscimatereaction.eventbrite.com>

The updated Climate Action Plan will measure the impact of current City efforts and develop new initiatives that focus on transportation, buildings and waste. For more information on the Climate Action Plan update and ways Minneapolis residents can participate, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate).

### **2011 Bicycling Account**

The Public Works Department released the first edition of the Minneapolis Bicycle Account, highlighting bicycling accomplishments made over the past year. The report covers key topics including bicyclist traffic counts, safety improvements, new projects, innovative facilities, bike sharing, education and encouragement efforts, and new bicycle-related policies and ordinances. The Bicycling Account is set to be released on a biennial basis, alternating years with a Walking Account. The full report can be viewed on the [City's Bicycling website](#).

### **Redistrict Minneapolis- Try it Yourself!**

The Minneapolis Charter Commission (serving as the Redistricting Commission) is beginning to redraw political boundaries - ward and park board - to account for changes in the population throughout the city over the last ten years. They have expanded their "unofficial" membership to allow for better, broad-based community representation thru an additional nine, non-voting members who are part of the Redistricting Group. Where these lines are drawn can have a big impact on how your community is represented in city hall.

Common Cause has launched an online tool that allows people to draw city council wards. The redistricting tool is available to anyone that wants to try it themselves at: <http://localdistrictbuilder.drawminnesota.org/>

Common Cause will not be responsible for transmitting public comments, maps, or opinions to the Charter Commission/ Redistricting Group but interested residents can use the software from their website to prepare maps. However, you'll need to save those maps as pdf (Adobe Acrobat) files or else print copies and submit those directly to the Charter Commission/ Redistricting Group. You can do this by U.S. mail (to the City Clerk's Office, marked Attention: Charter Commission), by delivering it at a public meeting of the Charter Commission/Redistricting Group, or by email to the group's address [Redistricting2012@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Redistricting2012@minneapolismn.gov).

There will also be opportunity for public input. The Redistricting Commission wants you to share with them your observations about your community.

## **Events & Meetings**

### **Metropolitan Airport Commission's Planning Development and Environment Committee Monday, February 6, 11:00 am, Commission Chambers at Terminal 1.**

The meeting is held at Terminal 1 (Lindbergh) inside security in the Commission Chambers located on the Mezzanine Level in the Mall above Chili's Too Restaurant. Members of the public must complete a form and present a government issued photo ID at the Information Booth on the terminal's Tram Level to gain admittance. For more information, call 612-726-8100. The agenda is available here: [http://www.metroairports.org/mac/appdocs/meetings/pde/Agenda/PDE\\_A\\_1145.pdf](http://www.metroairports.org/mac/appdocs/meetings/pde/Agenda/PDE_A_1145.pdf)

### **Hiawatha Heartwarmer**

**Lake Hiawatha Park, 2701 E. 44<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Saturday, February 11, 12:00-3:00 pm**

This event features ice skating, ice golf, games and prizes, raffles, kids DJ, marshmallow roasting, a bonfire, face painting, arts & crafts. This event is made possible through contributions by local, independently owned businesses in the Standish-Ericsson, Longfellow, and Nokomis community.

### **Final Day at Roosevelt Library before Closing for Construction**

**Saturday, February 11, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm**

Roosevelt Library will be closing for renovation and is scheduled to reopen summer, 2013. Brief remarks will be made by Library Director, Lois Thompson, at 10:30 followed by storytime led by Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. There will be information on display about the renovation. While the library is closed, patrons are encouraged to use nearby libraries in Minneapolis: Hennepin County Library – East Lake, 2727 E. Lake St.; Hennepin County Library – Hosmer, 347 E. 36<sup>th</sup> St.; and Hennepin County Library – Nokomis, 5100 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.

### **Minnehaha Park Family Nature Quest**

**Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 10 to 11:30a.m.**

It's time for a winter quest! Bring the family out to Minnehaha Park where you will be able to hike, explore, and follow the clues placed throughout the park to unlock its secrets and find a hidden treasure. It's nature based scavenger hunt in winter. After the quest is completed, stick around to spend some time in the park while enjoying some warm and delicious treats! Meet at the Minnehaha Park music pavilion. The event is sponsored by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Registration is \$5 per Minneapolis resident and \$7 per non-resident. Call 612-313-7725 for more details or [register here](#).

### **Metropolitan Airport Commission (Full Commission)**

**Tuesday, February 21, 1:00 pm, Commission Chambers at Terminal 1.**

The meeting is held at Terminal 1 (Lindbergh) inside security in the Commission Chambers located on the Mezzanine Level in the Mall above Chili's Too Restaurant.

Members of the public must complete a form and present a government issued photo ID at the Information Booth on the terminal's Tram Level to gain admittance. For more information, call 612-726-8100.

## **Boards & Commissions Openings**

**There are currently many openings on the City's Boards, Commissions & Advisory Committees.** Applications are accepted in the spring and fall. Please visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for application information.

### **Internship Opportunities:**

There are two internship opportunities in Department of Health and Family Support. One is for a [Grad School Intern: Homegrown Minneapolis](#) and [Student Intern: Minneapolis Youth Violence Intervention Program](#). **Positions are open for application through 10:00 am Friday, February 10, 2012.**

**To subscribe or unsubscribe to the 12th Ward News, click [HERE](#) and make your selections. Or, contact Loren Olson, with your request at [Loren.Olson@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Loren.Olson@minneapolismn.gov) or 612-673-2378.**