

Environment: Building Partnerships Through Community Greening...

"We are working to see how youth can be involved in North Minneapolis community forestry efforts as well as community gardening." –NRRC Community Organizer

There are many efforts along Plymouth Avenue to ecologically enhance the space between the community's two natural resource anchors, the **Mississippi River** and **Theodore Wirth Park**. The DNR, for example, has suggested creating a natural buffer of forest between the community and the freeway, to help mitigate air and noise pollution. Here are a few others:

Plymouth Ave. and Tree Trust

Through a successful partnership with Tree Trust, NRRC worked with residents to plant and care for **75 trees** in private yards in the fall of 2003. Thus far, residents have greatly enjoyed the shade, energy conservation, noise abatement and aesthetic improvement provided by their new trees.

Tree Trust has also obtained a \$100,000 "**Brownfields to Greenfields**" grant from the US Forest Service to reforest areas around Plymouth Avenue and to plant trees along the street in an effort to revitalize the community. This program will employ at-risk youth in the neighborhood and also utilize volunteer efforts. The "Brownfields to Greenfields" grant will also be used to clean up sites of former gas stations that have petroleum seepage and convert them to developable land.



"NRRC is there to empower residents and partners to socially, environmentally, and economically Enhance their neighborhood." –Janette, Tree Trust

Peace Gardens and Pocket Parks



<http://www.northerngardener.org>

Because the Northside area is home to low-income and minority residents and has a higher crime rate than some other parts of Minneapolis, it sometimes bears the stigma of being unsafe. In an effort to counter this stigma, community members have created **peace gardens** at several local public schools as well as within individual neighborhoods (partnering with block clubs), at a local senior center and the 4th Police Precinct. These neighborhood gardens have given residents the opportunity to interact with one another in a unique meeting place, establishing relationships and uniting around a common goal. The gardens have also been a successful educational tool with children, fostering a sense of responsibility and excitement to watch things grow. In all, there are 35 community gardens in the neighborhood around Plymouth Ave.

As empty plots of land are difficult to come by for community gardens (since the Minneapolis City Council made a ruling that it is their priority to develop on vacant lots), there is an effort to use those at Plymouth and Lyndale and Plymouth and Humboldt to create "**pocket parks**," that give pedestrians a nice place to pause and residents a place to enjoy and take pictures.

*"You plant a tree, but you don't plant it for yourself. It is a generous act. It is a payoff for the future."
– Northside Garden Club Member and Willard-Hay resident*

Legacy Village Townhomes & Apartments

1500 Plymouth Avenue North • Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411
(612) 521-3439 • Fax (612) 521-3954

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Honorable Council Member Lisa Goodman:

Legacy Village supports Northside Residents Redevelopment Council's acquisition of 1401 Humboldt parcel, otherwise known as the Humboldt pocket park. The Humboldt Pocket Park parcel is integral to the well being of this community. As you have seen the Plymouth Avenue Vision strategy encourages physical, mental, and environmental health of the Near North Area.

Legacy Management serves over 300 families of which 80 are children. Northside Residents Redevelopment Council has partnered with Tree Trust and the federal forestry innovation initiative to provide jobs and plants and construction materials for the Humboldt Pocket Park. It is a fulfillment of a significant part of the vision of having beautiful, functional green space, providing the neighborhood a peaceful place for families, bikers, and residents.

Dr. Tyrone Hayes was in the neighborhood recently speaking of the environmental issues facing communities like Near North and Willard hay. The Humboldt Pocket Park will have a direct positive impact on air quality and water quality. With all of the recent air quality alerts and North Minneapolis having the highest rates of asthma for children in Minnesota, the pocket park is not a cosmetic project, but part of a broader movement to consider the health, mental and physical, of the residents who live here.

Council member Goodman I know that your commitment to the residents is apparent in your voting and your initiatives in the city. Our residents and Near North residents outside of Legacy Village are working together to improve the quality of life for ourselves and our children, Please support us in doing just that.

Legacy Village Management is honored to work with Northside Residents Redevelopment Council as it has proven to be a true advocate of the residents of Legacy Village, Near North and beyond.

Sincerely,



Clyde Jones
Property Manager – Legacy Village

Cc:
Elfric Porte
Real Estate Company
Community Development
City Council
Tree Trust



"IT TAKES A VILLAGE
TO RAISE A CHILD"

"ANCHUKUA KIJJI
CHOTE MTOTO"

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