

Ward 11 Monthly Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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Edward C. Solomon Park Design Openhouse

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board invite area residents to review and comment on the concept design for the future of Edward C. Solomon Park. An open house, the second of two community meetings, has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 8 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Pearl Park Recreation Center (414 E. Diamond Lake Rd.).

The MPRB was very pleased with the amount of feedback it received in the first meeting; over 60 residents participated in shaping the future of the park. Park staff used the comments from the first meeting to develop the concept design that will be available for review and comment on June 8. Solomon Park offers unique opportunities, which the concept plan seeks to optimize. Environmental interpretation, boardwalks and walking paths are proposed for its urban forest and wetland areas. A home for 9-hole disc golf course, an archery range, a picnic and imaginary play area and open field games are also part of the proposal. A consistent thread running through the improvements is a commitment to improvements that are low impact, require minimal maintenance and respect the natural resources of the area. Funding has yet to be secured for the development of Solomon Park, but a concept plan will be a key component of procuring appropriate funding.

The new forty-acre park, bounded by Cedar Avenue on the east, 58th Street on the north, 13th Avenue on the west (actually an alley, not a thoroughfare) and 60th Street on the south, was acquired through a trade with the Metropolitan Airports Commission. Located in the Fifth Park District, the newest addition to Minneapolis's internationally renowned park system encompasses open fields, wetlands, and hilly wooded areas. It was named Edward C. Solomon Park to honor the late Park Board commissioner, who represented the Fifth Park District from 1996 until his death in December, 2002.

Citizen participation is a key element to ensuring the development of the park will be compatible with the community. Park staff welcome you to attend the open house and provide comment on the concept design.

For further information, contact Jennifer Ringold at 612-230-6400 or jrin-gold@minneapolisparcs.org.

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Important Phone Numbers

- Ward 11 Office
673-2211
- Graffiti Hotline
673-2090
- Housing Inspection
673-5858
- Garbage/Recycling
673-2917

Employee enthusiasm and elbow grease results in citywide graffiti cleanup

City employees stepped forward on April 21 with graffiti remover, paint, scrapers and gloves. Their mission was to tackle the winter's graffiti accumulation on light poles and other public property across Minneapolis. Mission accomplished: 262 City employees invested an extraordinary effort of 1,806 worker hours, each taking a four-hour shift or an entire day away from their usual duties to get dirty, sore and proud.

Angela Brenny, acting Clean City Coordinator in Solid Waste and Recycling, organized the cleanup and says, "People are excited-I'm hearing from people who would definitely do this again, and so would I. I'm already getting suggestions for next year." After her personal experience removing graffiti, she says, "I really dislike graffiti a lot more than I did in the past-it's hard to remove!"

The effort has also generated attention for the City's paint-over program; many more Minneapolis neighborhood organizations, business organizations, residents, block clubs and church groups are tapping into the City's graffiti removal supplies, says Brenny.

Graffiti left untouched encourages litter, loitering, violence and more graffiti, and it sends the wrong message-that we do not care about the appearance of our community.

Tally sheets from 95 of the 262 City "volunteers" show abatement of 1,948 graffiti hits on traffic control boxes, litter containers, street signs, telephone poles and more. Whether City employees spray-dissolved the graffiti, scraped it off or painted over it, they can be proud of their dirty fingernails, sore necks and the message that was sent out to Minneapolis: this is our city and we will take care of it.

For more graffiti prevention and removal tips, see the graffiti website at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/graffiti/>



City employees put aside pens for paint brushes on April 21 and painted over graffiti across the city

Rides for Seniors

Are you a Senior Citizen in need of a ride to medical or dental appointment? If you live east of 35W and south of 42nd St., Nokomis Healthy Seniors can help. The Nokomis Health Seniors program now has volunteer drivers who are ready and eager to help seniors get to and from the necessary appointments they may have. To schedule a ride or for more information about Nokomis Healthy Seniors, call the help line at 612.729-5499. Office hours are 8am to 4pm, but voice mail is available after hours.

Household Hazardous Waste Neighborhood Collections

Several neighborhoods are collaborating with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County Environmental Services to collect Household Hazardous Waste in the city. The neighborhood collections provide a convenient opportunity for Minneapolis residents to safely dispose of such things as pesticides, paint, fluorescent lamps, and other household chemical products. Below are the locations, dates and times of the collections sites nearest Ward 11.

- Minneapolis Park & Rec. Operations Center, 3800 Bryant Ave S, June 25, 9am-3pm
- Windom Open School, 5821 Wentworth Ave S, July 23, 9am-1pm
- Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Ave S, July 30, 9am-1pm
- Bossen Field Park, North Parking Lot, 56th St. E & 28th Ave S., August 20, 9am-1pm

Hennepin County has more information about the program on their website at www.hennepin.co.mn.us. Search using the term “MPLS HHW” and it should take you to a page with more detailed information..

Historic Walking Tour

The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission invites you to enjoy one of its guided walking tours of historic sites in Minneapolis. The one and two hour tours are led by expert guides, and explore some of the most architecturally and historically significant places in the city. The tours will explore areas that range from quaint Victorian neighborhoods and handsome mansion districts, to the bustling commercial and industrial districts of the city, to modernist housing.

All tours are free and reservations are not required. However, tickets are required for all tours. The free commemorative tickets will be available on a first come basis approximately 20 minutes before the start of each tour. Tour sizes are limited, so please plan to arrive early to insure a spot on the tour.

Tours will continue in inclement weather, so please dress accordingly. Comfortable shoes and sunscreen are highly recommended. Several tours cover long distances and some traverse hilly terrain, so some degree of stamina is necessary. Parts of some tours are not ADA accessible. Please consider these factors before you take a tour.

Please check this website often as additional tours may be added throughout the season. For additional information or for questions about accessibility, please call the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission Information Line at (612) 673-2996 or (612) 673-2157 TTY.

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc/walking-tours.asp.

Electronic Newsletter

Council Member Benson publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at City Hall. If you would like to receive this update, please e-mail me at scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words “E-mail Update” in the subject line.

Monthly Community Meetings

<p>EHFNA Meets First Wednesday 7:00 PM, Lyndale Farmstead Park 3900 Bryant Ave S</p>	<p>Field Regina Northrop Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presbyterian</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist</p>
<p>Kingfield Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park 4055 Nicollet Ave S</p>	<p>Lynnhurst Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Lynnhurst Community Center 1345 Minnehaha Pkwy</p>	<p>NENA Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office 3000 E. 50th St</p>
<p>SENA Meets Second Monday 7:00 PM Our Redeemer Lutheran Church 4000 28th Ave S</p>	<p>Tangletown Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center 4800 Grand Ave S</p>	<p>Windom Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center 5821 Wentworth Ave S</p>

Coffee With Scott

Join Scott for a cup of coffee and talk about City issues. He will be at the following coffee shops from 8-9 AM

<p>Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave S July 20</p>	<p>Nokomis Cafe 5155 Bloomington Ave August 3</p>
<p>Java Jacks 818 W. 46th St July 6</p>	<p>Sister Sludge 4557 Bloomington Ave June 15</p>

Open Appointments

[Civil Rights Commission \(06-03-05\)](#)

For information <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>