



We envision a harmonious coexistence of the urban community and the environment created around the lake.

# Annual Report 2011

# Friends of Lake Nokomis

## Annual Report

The annual meeting was held November 18th, 2011, 7-8 P.M., at the Lake Nokomis Community Center.

*The Friends of Lake Nokomis has come a long way since the first meeting in my living room that cool evening in May of 2010. I have to say that I am proud of how much we've accomplished in so little time, with no more incentive than a love of our lake and its park.*

*Back then, I don't think any of us realized just how time consuming the creation of a non-profit community group would turn out to be. It has been immensely rewarding to see how happy park users are to see our volunteers out cleaning up the park and helping it to become a more beautiful and diverse environment for all of us—including beneficial pollinators and the urban wildlife.*

*I hope that we continue to expand our operations in the coming year to further our goal of improving the health of the lake and the enjoyment of its visitors.*

~ Steffanie Musich, President

Our goal, as a nonprofit and as members of this community, is to improve and preserve the lake and its surrounding park. This first year our volunteer board took on a limited number of projects to get a feel for organizing and executing events to ensure that we would be able to successfully manage this undertaking as well as our jobs and other commitments. Since there has not been a group advocating for the park or the lake or planning volunteer efforts in the park for several years, other parks have seen a larger share of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) resources.

Our role with the MPRB is that of Stewards. We have signed a stewardship agreement that allows us to coordinate activities in partnership with the MPRB to help protect and improve the park and the water quality of the lake.

## **Membership/Interest and 1:1 Matching Grant Progress**

- 44 Dues-paying Members, 8 of whom are members of the Board
- 88 E-mail Subscribers
- 154 Facebook Followers

### **Balance Sheet**

<b>Income</b>	<b>\$1,545.00</b>
Standard Membership Fees	\$585.00
Employer Matching Funds	\$120.00
Grants	\$500.00
Give to the Max Day	\$340.00
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$(858.78)</b>
Filing Fees	\$(400.00)
Event Supplies	\$(229.88)
Printing	\$(228.90)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$686.22</b>

We reached our goal of \$1,000 in membership fees in early January of 2012, enabling us to apply for the \$1,000 matching grant offered by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD).

## **2011 Event Recap**

### **Rake 4 the Lake –April 16th**

Forty Participants removed 290 bags of organic matter from the watershed. 290 bags translates roughly to 58 pounds of phosphorus or 58,000 pounds of algae! The event was done in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department and the Freshwater Society.

Fat Lorenzo's, Caribou Coffee and Mel-O-Glaze were amazingly generous for donating food and refreshments to our volunteers.

### **Minnehaha Creek Corridor Clean-Up – July 10th**

We recruited volunteers for this Minnehaha Creek Watershed District event. We had a table at the event for people to ask questions as well as pick up literature about FLN and ways to help the lake.

## **Garlic Mustard Pull – May 21st**

We targeted the hillside between Woodlawn Blvd, Cedar Avenue, East Lake Nokomis Parkway and Derby and managed to make it to Longfellow Avenue. There is a lot of garlic mustard in this area; it is a reduced mow area, and hasn't been mowed on a regular basis for the last few years. We took out over 200 pounds of Garlic Mustard in two hours with a group of 10 volunteers.

## **Switchgrass Planting – October 1st**

This event is part of our ongoing commitment to help maintain the areas that the Conservation Corps has cleared; they have been doing such an amazing job removing aggressive and invasive plants within the park surrounding Lake Nokomis. The MPRB received a \$1,000,000 grant in 2011 to utilize Conservation Corps teams within the Minneapolis park system, and our commitment to helping maintain the clean-up work that was done played a role in the MRPB being awarded this grant. Our eight volunteers helped the Conservation Corps team to clean up dead vegetation and plant 200 yards of shoreline with Little Blue Stem and Switchgrass, native grasses with deep fibrous root systems that do a great job of preventing erosion.

We are thankful to our members and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for supplying doughnuts, coffee and hot spiced cider to the volunteers.

## **Buckthorn Bust – November 5th**

We cleared a section of woods near the Amelia Pond pedestrian bridge. This area was cleared of grape vines, mature Buckthorn and Green Ash saplings in the summer by the Conservation Corps crew and their teen volunteers. Our 17 volunteers worked with the Conservation Corps crew and their teen volunteers to target the new growth of the invasive buckthorn shrub for two hours. The group cleaned out buckthorn saplings from nearly the entire wooded area between the lake and West Lake Nokomis Parkway along the creek entering the lagoon.

We are thankful to our members and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for supplying doughnuts, coffee and hot spiced cider to the volunteers.

## **Gardening in the Naturescape – Tuesdays during Growing Season**

We recruit volunteers to garden in the Naturescape, a Volunteer-maintained natural space by 50th Street Beach. Gardening tasks include weeding, watering, planting and buckthorn removal.

## **Anticipated 2012 Events**

- Lake Nokomis/Lake Hiawatha Earth Day Clean-Up – Saturday, April 21st
- Minnehaha Creek Corridor Clean-Up – Sunday, July 8th
- Garlic Mustard Pull – Will be decided based on plant development in spring, likely late April or early May
- Buckthorn Bust – Saturday, November 3rd
- Weekend Beach Clean-Up – Sunday mornings, June through August
- Gardening in the Naturescape – Growing Season

## **Other Activities**

### **Planning Committee for a restaurant in the concessions building by the Main Beach**

Friends of Lake Nokomis President, Steffanie Musich, has been appointed to the planning committee by our district commissioner, Carol Kummer, to be one of the citizen committee participants. The committee begins meeting February 23, 2012.

### **Metro Blooms Neighborhood of Raingardens Project Planning**

We hope to have the fiscal resources to do a small scale implementation of the “Neighborhood of Raingardens” model in the Nokomis watershed in 2013. We would utilize an assessment of the area to target residential areas where the impact of raingardens would have the greatest effect on the water quality of storm water entering the lake. This project will require extensive grant-writing and a better understanding of which areas are most critical to address storm water run off within the Minneapolis portion of the watershed. Our president, Steffanie Musich, has begun conversations with the Watershed District about getting started on planning for this undertaking.

### **Recruiting Groups for Weekend Beach Clean-Up**

A request for volunteer groups to do beach clean up will be made in the next issue of the FLN newsletter.

## **Newsletter Publication/Distribution, 4 times a year**

Members of Keewaydin Middle School's Journalism class have been recruited to help generate newsletter content and members of the board will be contributing content on an ad hoc basis. There is an ongoing need to engage the community in what we are doing, and the newsletter is a great tool for FLN to utilize.

## **TMDL Recommendation Advocacy with MPRB and MCWD**

In 2011, the EPA approved the Lake Nokomis Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study recommendation to reduce non-point source pollutants (pollutants that can't be attributed to one fixed source) entering the lake by 35%. The key stakeholders identified in the study who are required by the recommendation to reduce their share of the pollutants entering the lake are as follows: City of Minneapolis, City of Richfield, MPRB/Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (Internal Load), Hennepin County, MN/ DOT and the Metropolitan Airports Commission. Representatives from these groups have been meeting to develop a plan for reaching the recommended reductions since March of 2011. Once they decide on a plan of action, our board will decide if advocacy for more action is needed. 💧

