

Annual Report

2014

## ~A Message from our President ~

2014 brought exciting opportunities and devastating losses to Lake Nokomis. The Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Planning process was a once-in-a-generation opportunity to look holistically at the park system and provide input to future park development. At the same time, we endured an unusually wet summer and the associated flooding. The parks lost a large number of trees and green spaces throughout the year; changing the look and habitat around the area.

The master planning process was an exciting community engagement activity that looked for a wide range of user inputs to help craft a strategic vision of the park's future. In the planning process, the Friends of Lake Nokomis was represented in the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) by member Robert Srichai and thank him for his time and hard work on this project. We also actively engaged park users by talking to about 360 people out in the park to let them know about the community feedback process and encourage their participation. The recommendations of the CAC will be taken before the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board for adoption in January of 2015 and if adopted, will help guide investment and development strategies in our park for many years to come. Here are some changes and additional amenities we are excited to see that we would like to bring to your attention:

- Improve safety at Cedar Avenue trail crossings
- Changes to paths to reduce car/bike/ped conflicts throughout the park
- New trail sections to improve connections between neighborhoods and the park
- Increase naturalized landscaping to 50% of the park's acreage (currently 10%)
- Add a skatepark adjacent to the rec center and sand volleyball courts near Nokomis Main Beach
- Replace Hiawatha Beach with naturalized shoreline and boardwalk
- Seasonal walking/snowshoeing trail along Western shore of Hiawatha
- Revitalization of the workout stations

The Friends of Lake Nokomis continued invasive species related events: garlic mustard removal in the spring, zebra mussel monitoring throughout the summer, and buckthorn removal in the fall. We are fortunate not to have detected any zebra mussels in the lake yet and are very grateful for the MPRB's diligent staffing of inspection points on our city's lakes to help prevent the spread of the mussels. The area we have covered in our spring garlic mustard removal continues to grow. We have been working out way around the south side of the lake under the oak tree canopy. We've got years of work to go before we have sustained success, but the results of our existing efforts are clear. The area from Cedar Avenue and East Nokomis Parkway counterclockwise around the lake to the Lake Nokomis Community Center has been cleared multiple years in a row now. We have also been expanding our operation of the buckthorn bust. We have successfully reduced the amount of buckthorn in the wooded area

between the lake and Edgewater Boulevard that we have also started removing the invasive shrub at the north end of the Cedar Avenue Bridge.

Both garlic mustard and buckthorn removal projects require sustained yearly efforts for 5-7 years to have a chance to show sustained results. The zebra mussel monitoring is also a sustained project throughout the boating season. The Friends of Lake Nokomis are always looking for more volunteers and will be looking for ways to increase active membership in 2015.

I have been mapping out our key organizational operations and developing detailed operations manuals. I will continue developing these manuals throughout 2015 as a means of strengthening the longevity of the organization. These manuals should help streamline and standardize the planning and execution of routine activities critical to our mission success. I envision an organization with strong character definition, relevance, and mission focus; a True North, that thrives under multiple generations of leaders and members.

I thank all who have supported us this past year and look forward to continuing the rewarding work we undertake in our friendship of the lake.

~ Matt Musich, President

**Friends of Lake Nokomis** Annual meeting was held on December 2, 2014 6:30-7:30 PM at the Nokomis Community Center.

### **Board Members**

Matt Musich, President

Steffanie Musich, Vice President

Matt Hinrichs, Treasurer

Corinne O'Neil, Secretary

Carolyn Gronfield

Doc Cypinski

Chad Calvin

Chad Fitterer

Sarah Hinrichs

Our goal, as a nonprofit and as members of this community, is to improve and preserve the lake and its surrounding park. This year our new volunteer board president, Matt Musich, focused on documenting the organization's activities and relationships to allow for a more systematic approach towards stewardship and advocacy for the park.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) began the Master Planning Process for the park in 2015. Friends of Lake Nokomis Member, Robert Srichai, served as our representative on the Community Advisory Committee and kept the board apprised of the committee's work. The MPRB's master planning process is currently in a public comment phase, and when approved will provide a master plan for planners and the park's board of commissioners to reference for the next twenty five years of maintenance, renovations and improvements.

Our role with the MPRB is that of Stewards, and our stewardship agreement with the MPRB will be renewed in 2015 to allow us to continue to coordinate activities in partnership with the MPRB to help protect and improve the park and the water quality of the lake.

## Membership/Reach

36 Dues Paying Members, 9 of whom are members of the Board (Up from 33 in 2013)

185 Email Subscribers (Up from 150 in 2013)

762 Facebook Followers (Up from 515 in 2013)

### Statement of Financial Position                      YTD Dec 02, 2014

<b>Checking Activity</b>	
Beginning balance, Nov 2013	\$ 3,052.25
Fat Lorenzos 2013 catering annual mtg	\$ (84.73)
Dues	\$ 100.00
Invoice Q4 newsletter	\$ (100.00)
MN Historic Society	\$ (20.00)
US Bank Foundation matching gift	\$ 680.00
Razoo Foundation	\$ 76.88
Membership dues	\$ 35.00
Membership dues	\$ 130.00
Invoice Q1 newsletter	\$ (100.00)
Newsletter printing	\$ (42.82)
Lunds	\$ (6.67)
Bergans	\$ (4.19)
Caribou Coffee	\$ (12.92)
US Bank Foundation matching gift	\$ 50.00
Invoice Q2 newsletter	\$ (150.00)
Invoice Q3 newsletter	\$ (100.00)
LiLac seminar	\$ (25.00)
Cub Foods	\$ (14.00)
Caribou Coffee	\$ (12.92)
Kowalski's	\$ (15.47)
Caribou Coffee	\$ (15.99)
	<hr/>
	<b>\$ 3,419.42</b>
<b>Payables</b>	<hr/>
	<hr/>
	-
	<hr/>
<b>Account total</b>	<hr/> <b>3,419.42</b> <hr/>

## **2014 Event Recap**

Earth Day Clean Up – April 26th

33 Bags of trash were collected and 25 bags of recycling were collected as part of this event.

A new supply pick up and bag drop off was initiated at the south end of the lake across from Fat Lorenzo's for community participants that wanted to be able to walk to and from the event without having to make the trek to the Community Center.

Garlic Mustard Pull – May 31<sup>st</sup>



This year we targeted the hillside North of Woodlawn Blvd, between Cedar Avenue and S 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the hillside beneath the Nokomis Community Center. These hillsides are reduced mow areas, which have been aggressively mowed several times a year for the past three years, causing some areas to erode, leaving disturbed soil for garlic mustard to reestablish.

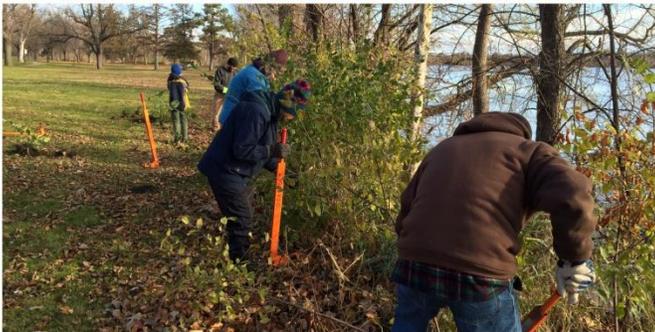
FLN VP Steffanie Musich, also our district 5 Park Board

Commissioner, has been working with Park staff to identify ways to ensure the mow schedule is followed and that practices are implemented that reduce the potential for old growth trees to be damaged.

Thank you to our members for providing coffee and doughnuts to our volunteers!

## Buckthorn Busts – October 18<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>

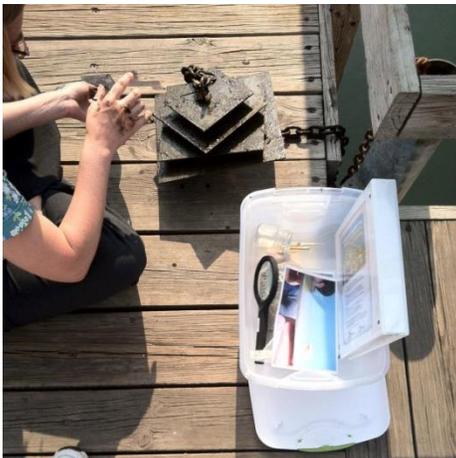
For the October 18<sup>th</sup> bust, volunteers cleared a section of woods near the Amelia Pond pedestrian bridge. This is the same area as the past three years, expanded to reach all the way to Edgewater Boulevard. Our volunteers worked to target the new growth of the invasive buckthorn shrub for two hours in this targeted area. The group cleaned out buckthorn saplings from the entire wooded area between the lake and Edgewater Boulevard along the creek entering the lagoon.



For the November 8<sup>th</sup> bust, volunteers cleared a 200 foot section of shoreline north east of the Cedar Avenue bridge. This is a new area that we anticipate expanding north and to the north west side of the bridge next year. Our volunteers cleared some well-established growth of the invasive shrub opening up lake views for walkers along the well-used pedestrian paths.

We are thankful to our members for supplying hot spiced cider and snacks to the volunteers.

## Zebra Mussel Monitoring —Monthly



For the past three summers we have been monitoring the zebra mussel sampling devices in Lake Nokomis. The devices have been attached to the North Fishing dock near the weir and the dock at the public launch. There has been no evidence of zebra mussels in the lake. The proactive action taken by the MPRB to control access to the lake, and require an inspection of watercraft to prevent invasive species from entering the lake continues to be a successful strategy.

## **Anticipated 2014 Events**

Lake Nokomis/Lake Hiawatha Earth Day Clean Up – Saturday April 25th

Minnehaha Creek Corridor Clean Up – Sunday in July

Garlic Mustard Pull – Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 9th

Buckthorn Bust – Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday November 7th

Zebra Mussel Monitoring – Last week of each month while ice is out

Gardening in the Naturescape – Tuesdays throughout the Growing Season

## **Other Activities**

### **Metro Blooms: Blooming Alleys for Clean Water**

The outreach and practices/knowledge gathering phase of this project is complete. Grants have been submitted to fund the second phase of the project, implementation. More information about the project is available on the Metro Blooms website: [www.metroblooms.org/nokomis](http://www.metroblooms.org/nokomis)

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

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. We have had members contribute articles throughout the year and have been getting great feedback from our members and the public on how informative and well put together the newsletters are.

### 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 that 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.

In partnership with the City of Minneapolis and Metro Blooms we have been working to reduce the non-point source pollutant load for Lake Nokomis through the implementation of raingardens and permeable pavers installed in alleys within the Nokomis sub-watershed. This project is in the early phases and storm water retention practices will begin being implemented in 2014.

We are one of several stewardship groups serving on a Technical Advisory Committee for the Ecological System Plan being created by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, we had representatives at each of the meetings of this committee in 2014 and will continue to attend meetings in 2015 as the planning process progresses.