



# Friends of LAKE NOKOMIS

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

## Buckthorn Removal

On October 27 the Friends of Lake Nokomis volunteer crew worked with the Conservation Corps teen crew to continue to clear the wooded area between Cedar Avenue and Amelia Pond of the invasive woody plant, buckthorn. This was the second year that this area was

worked on and as you can see in the picture, there is evidence of significant progress being made in the removal of the plant from this area.

Buckthorn was originally brought to the US from Europe for use as hedges in landscaping. Unfortunately, *continued on page 4*



Kids at Buckthorn Bust 2012

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## Friends of Lake Nokomis

5665 Woodlawn Blvd  
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### Web

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### Sponsor a Newsletter

This newsletter was sponsored by our founding members—thank you all for joining us! If you would like to sponsor a future newsletter please contact us via e-mail.

*Friends of Lake Nokomis* is the official publication of the Friends of Lake Nokomis, a nonprofit corporation, and is published four times a year.

Logo design by Doc Czypinski.

Newsletter design by Kirsten Uhlenberg

## Neighborhood of Raingardens

The goal of the Metro Blooms Neighborhood of Raingardens project is to improve Lake Nokomis, an impaired water body, by further developing and improving upon a successful citizen engagement approach piloted in the Powderhorn Lake drainage area. The citizen-based, neighborhood-focused process will engage local property owners in efforts to improve water quality [and] is in full support of the Lake Nokomis Total Maximum Daily Load report, approved by the US EPA in April 2011.

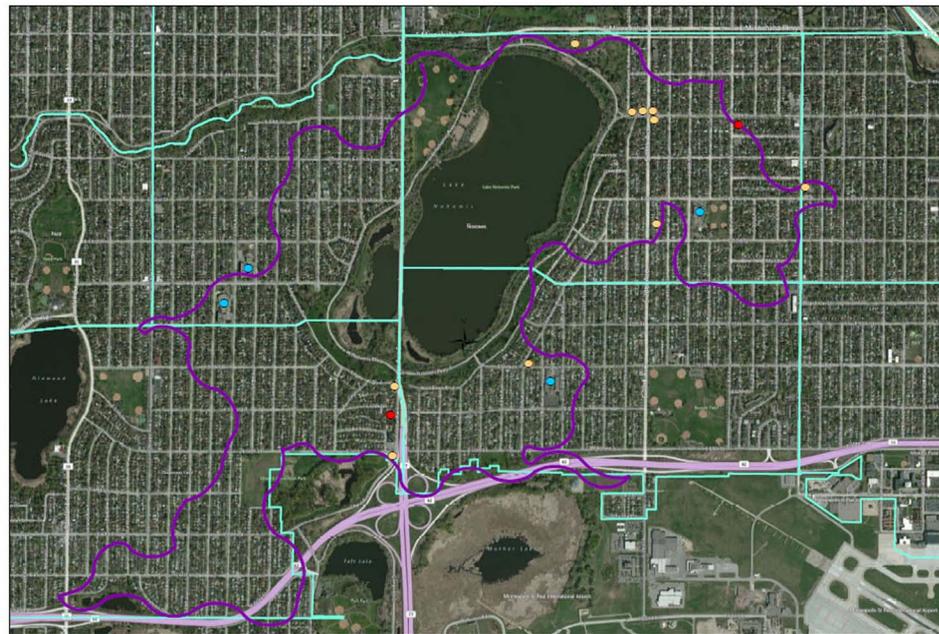
“Retrofitting Best Management Practices (BMP): Opportunities within the City of Minneapolis should be identified for retrofits including large and small scale water quality treatment practices. Projects

similar to efforts in another Minneapolis watershed (Powderhorn Lake) to install 150 rain gardens could be implemented in Lake Nokomis watershed. In addition, opportunities for water quality treatment should be investigated on all public and private property located in key areas.”

Beginning in September 2012 with funding from the City of Minneapolis, Metro Blooms began the process of collecting baseline data of knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) of property owners in the Lake Nokomis subwatershed, and conducted subwatershed analysis to identify key priority areas for possible water quality treatment practices based on drainage patterns and land uses.

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### Lake Nokomis Neighborhood of Raingardens Subwatershed Map



### Legend

- |              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| ● Businesses | — Project Boundary        |
| ● Churches   | □ Neighborhood Boundaries |
| ● Schools    |                           |

## Raingardens

*continued from page 2*

Beginning in 2013, with funding from the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund and the City of Minneapolis, Metro Blooms will continue the work with the Friends of Lake Nokomis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to develop an education and engagement campaign based on results of the KAP study.

Throughout 2013, they will educate residents regarding healthy landscape practices and demonstrate changed behavior. They will also engage property owners identified as priority properties for raingarden and other BMP installations.

In the fall of 2013, working with project partners, Metro Blooms will seek Clean Water Trust Fund support for the installation of

raingardens and other BMPs on identified properties, and continue engagement of up to a total of 150 property owners. 💧



## Sandcastle Lease Approved

The Community Advisory Committee presented their recommendations on November 28 to the Minneapolis Park Board Planning and Budget Committee for a lease agreement with Sandcastle for the Lake Nokomis Concession. The entire board was present for the

presentation of recommendations, and engaged in discussion after the public hearing period was completed. The Community Advisory Committee's recommendations were approved in committee.

On December 5, the lease was brought to the full Minneapolis

Park and Recreation Board. The vote was 8 in favor, with one abstention, to approve the adoption of the contract and the recommendations made by the CAC. Construction to get the building up to code and ready to open in the spring of 2013 will begin soon.

The CAC members are sincerely thankful for all the letters of support that have been sent to the park board commissioners in recent weeks. Thank you all for being engaged and keeping the wheels of government moving! 💧



*Lake Nokomis Concession*

# Buckthorn Removal

*continued from page 1*

the shrub proved to be adept at escaping the controlled landscape environment and proliferated in the naturalistic and natural areas of the urban landscape, out competing native species with its longer growing season and high seed germination rate as well as

lack of its native environmental stresses that would typically keep growth in check.

Buckthorn plants keep their leaves longer than other woody plants in the park, making October an ideal month to target them for removal. Spotting green leaves in the

otherwise brown landscape allows for easy identification. Volunteers used weed wrenches, two pronged hoes and shovels to remove as much of the below ground growth as they could.

With the buckthorn population significantly reduced we hope to see other more desirable trees, shrubs and shade tolerant plants growing in the targeted area. ♡



*Buckthorn Bust 2012*

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