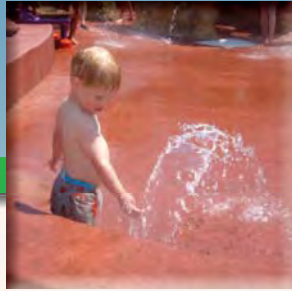


# Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

## 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



**Helping to Make Saint Paul  
The Most Livable City in America**







# 2011 Annual Report

## Table of Contents

Message from the Mayor .....	2
Message from the Director .....	3
Budget Summaries .....	4-5
Mission / Vision .....	6
Organization Chart .....	6
Parks & Recreation Commission .....	7
Heritage & Legacy Amendment .....	8
Sprockets .....	9-10
Partnerships .....	10-11
<i>Como Friends</i> .....	10
<i>Saint Paul Parks Conservancy</i> .....	11
<i>Urban Wilderness</i> .....	
<i>Canoe Adventures (UWCA)</i> .....	11
Great River Passage .....	12
Administration, Finance, & Planning .....	12
Como Park Zoo & Conservatory .....	13-16
Design & Construction .....	17-18
Operations .....	19-20
Special Services .....	21-23
<i>Golf</i> .....	21
<i>Midway Stadium</i> .....	21
<i>Ski &amp; Snowboard Program</i> .....	22
<i>Wells Fargo WinterSkate</i> .....	22
<i>Park Security</i> .....	23
<i>Italian Festival</i> .....	23
<i>Padelford</i> .....	23
Recreation Services .....	24-27
<i>Citywide Recreation Services</i> .....	24
<i>North End Teen Center</i> .....	24
<i>Aquatics</i> .....	25
<i>Adaptive Recreation</i> .....	26
<i>Senior Programs</i> .....	26
<i>Municipal Athletics</i> .....	27
Events .....	28



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The needs, technology and daily practices of our community are quickly evolving along with the cultural face of Saint Paul. As a city, we are fully embracing innovation and growing even more efficient as we move forward together. The demand for park services has continued to grow along with the needs and expectations of our community. Our Parks and Recreation Department has worked aggressively and creatively to meet this growing demand.



In the last year, Parks and Recreation has taken great strides in transforming the face of Saint Paul's Mississippi riverfront. The 300-page Great River Passage master plan was completed in 2011 and began the formal approval process. A brand and identity were created for the initiative, and signage has already appeared along the corridor with the Great River Passage logo. The plan calls to make the river corridor more natural, more urban, and more connected. It will take more than 30 years to carry out this vision, and the first steps are now firmly in place.

This last year also saw the launch of "Sprockets," an afterschool initiative to engage Saint Paul Youth with quality learning opportunities. By investing in every neighborhood throughout Saint Paul, we are ensuring our youth have the tools they need to succeed in school and in life, while we work to close the achievement gap.

As we celebrate these achievements, we look forward to what the remainder of 2012 has to bring. Whether it's meeting an increased resident demand by investing in new facilities such as the Xcel Energy High Bridge Dog Park, the reopening of Como Pool, and the reconstruction of Jimmy Lee Fields at Oxford Community Center, or developing new, innovative and quality programs, the Parks and Recreation Department continues to be a leader in making Saint Paul the most livable city in America. It is my honor to present our 2011 Annual Report for the Department of Parks and Recreation. This summary of activities, programs, services and facilities reinforces that Saint Paul Parks and Recreation is among the best in the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher B. Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher B. Coleman  
Mayor



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation system continues to grow, and is stronger and more vibrant than ever. We've taken some big steps in the past few years to help the parks and recreation system become more sustainable, and we still have some work to do, but we will stay true to our mission and will continue to work with the community to improve the quality of life for the millions of citizens we serve every year.



In 2011, we once again exceeded expectations in attendance and participation throughout our system, despite beginning with a very harsh winter. We hosted several new and exciting events, including the highly successful Festa Italiana on Harriet Island. We also began offering several new education programs at Recreation Centers as part of the citywide after-school 'Sprockets' initiative. We've learned quickly that in order to be successful and increase attendance and awareness of our services, we have to be willing to host new and innovative programming and events in our parks and recreation system. We've already seen positive results from this and are looking forward to several new programs and events starting in 2012.

Great River Passage, formerly Great River Park, is finally becoming a reality. The Great River Passage Plan was completed in 2011 and was officially unveiled to more 1,000 community members in the summer of 2011. This new 300-page master plan will guide future decision-making along Saint Paul's riverfront for the next 30-50 years. The plan provides a vision which will transform the Saint Paul riverfront through restored habitats and bringing new life to long-abandoned sites. The plan took more than a year of community meetings, but with resident input, coupled with expert consultant analysis, we now have a proposed plan vision, which will create a "More Natural, More Urban, and More Connected" Mississippi riverfront. We will begin to roll out the Great River Passage brand early in 2012 to help build plan awareness, and once the full plan approval is achieved in late 2012, we will begin our pursuit of the necessary funding to implement the plan.

As we look toward the future, we expect to endure challenges and obstacles related to the current economic conditions, but with the support of the community, and by embracing change and being innovative in our decision-making, we are hopeful that we can continue to build upon this past year's successes, and work to improve the quality of life for our residents and guests.

I'm very excited to be able to share the 2011 Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Annual Report with you, and I hope you enjoy reading through all of our accomplishments and department highlights from this past year.

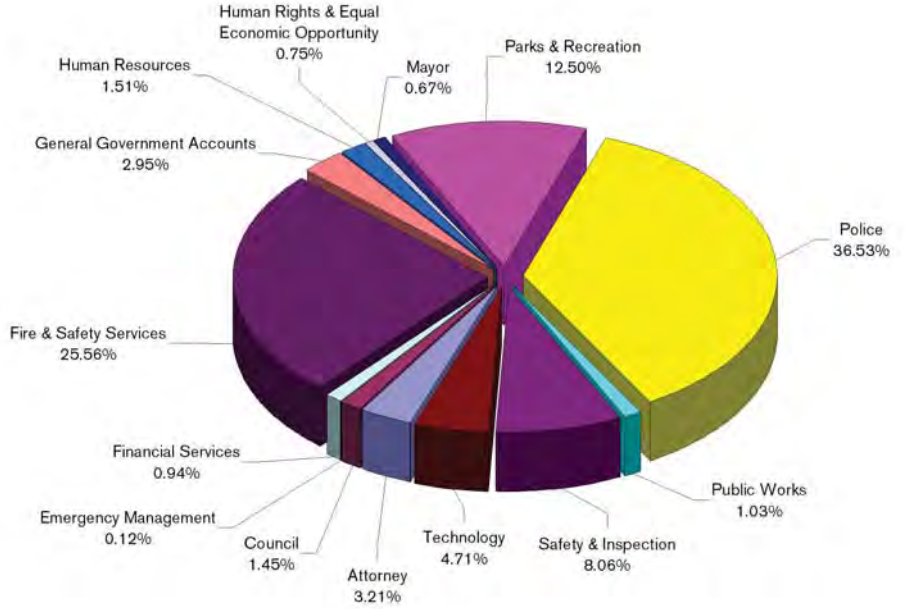
Sincerely,

Mike Hahm, CPRP  
Director

# Budget Summaries

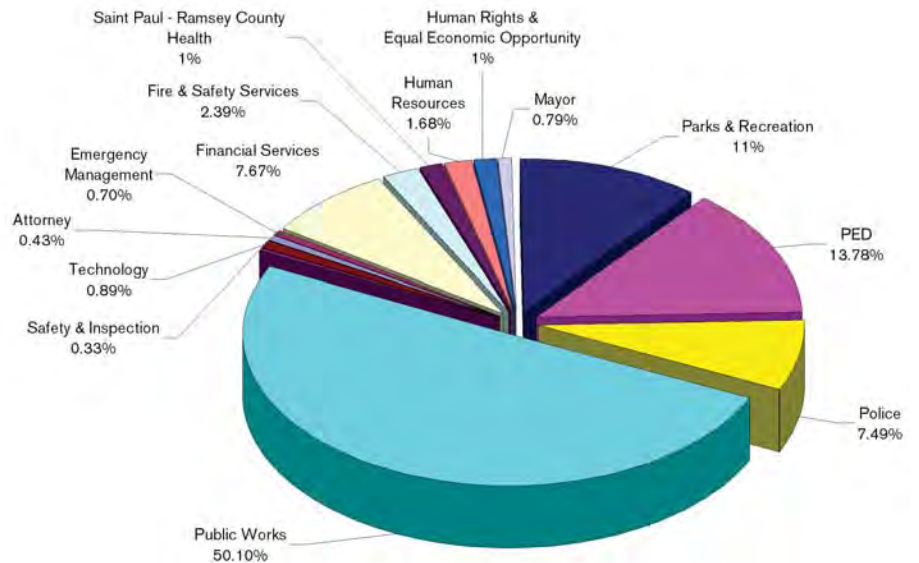
## City of Saint Paul 2011 Adopted General Fund Budget – \$213,884,931

Attorney	\$6,863,484
Council	\$3,101,567
Emergency Management	\$260,052
Financial Services	\$2,004,923
Fire and Safety Services	\$54,673,164
General Government Accounts	\$6,302,433
Human Resources	\$3,239,921
Human Rights & Equal Economic Opportunity	\$1,611,955
Mayor	\$1,433,869
Parks & Recreation	\$26,741,030
Police	\$78,126,037
Public Works	\$2,204,511
Safety & Inspection	\$17,244,536
Technology	\$10,077,449



## City of Saint Paul 2011 Adopted Special Fund Budget – \$259,095,156

Attorney	\$1,118,000
Emergency Management	\$1,812,474
Financial Services	\$19,875,585
Fire & Safety Services	\$6,190,878
Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health	\$3,640,739
Human Resources	\$4,348,389
Human Rights & Equal Economic Opportunity	\$3,471,336
Mayor	\$2,042,669
Parks & Recreation	\$28,507,313
PED	\$35,705,600
Police	\$19,415,031
Public Works	\$129,803,762
Safety & Inspection	\$858,305
Technology	\$2,305,075

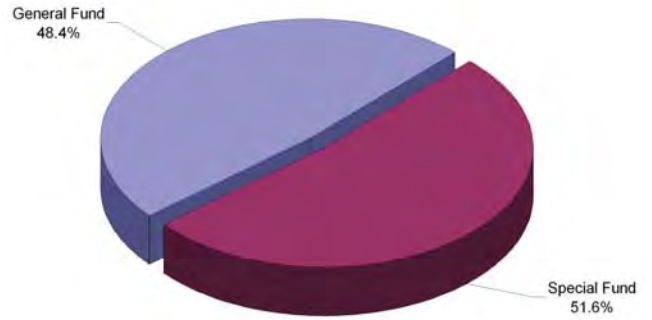




**2011 Adopted Budget - \$55,248,343**

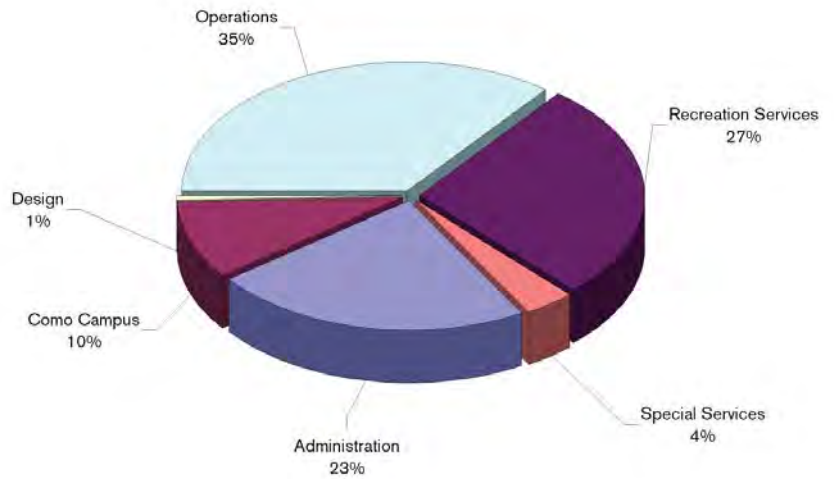
General Fund Adopted: \$26,741,030

Special Fund Adopted: \$28,507,313



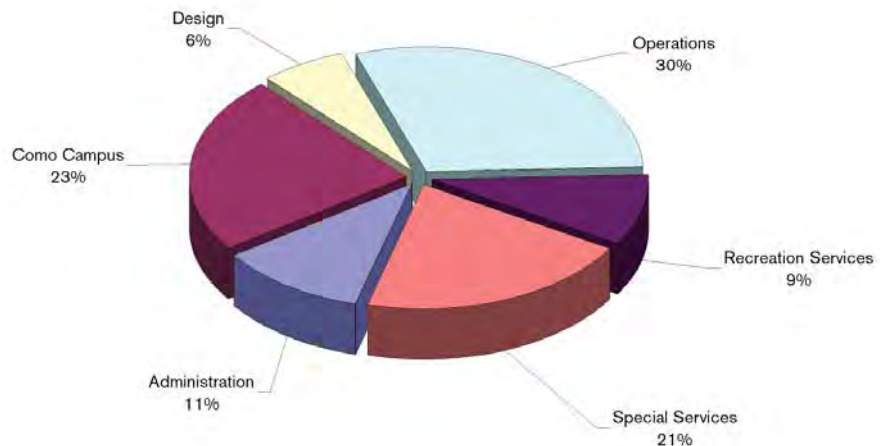
**Saint Paul Parks & Recreation • 2011 General Fund – \$26,741,030**

Administration	\$6,167,862
Como Campus	\$2,564,074
Design	\$179,223
Operations	\$9,493,676
Recreation Services	\$7,383,739
Special Services	\$952,456



**Saint Paul Parks & Recreation • 2011 Special Fund – \$28,507,313**

Administration	\$3,138,465
Como Campus	\$6,631,132
Design	\$1,811,256
Operations	\$8,432,484
Recreation Services	\$2,644,487
Special Services	\$5,849,489



# Saint Paul Parks & Recreation

## “Our Promise To You”

The staff of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation promises to cheerfully and respectfully serve you. We will provide access to quality programs at clean and safe facilities with timely and effective service. We will listen to your suggestions and concerns and respond to the best of our abilities.

## Vision Statement

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will make Saint Paul The Most Livable City in America by:

- Responding creatively to change
- Innovating with every decision
- Connecting the entire city

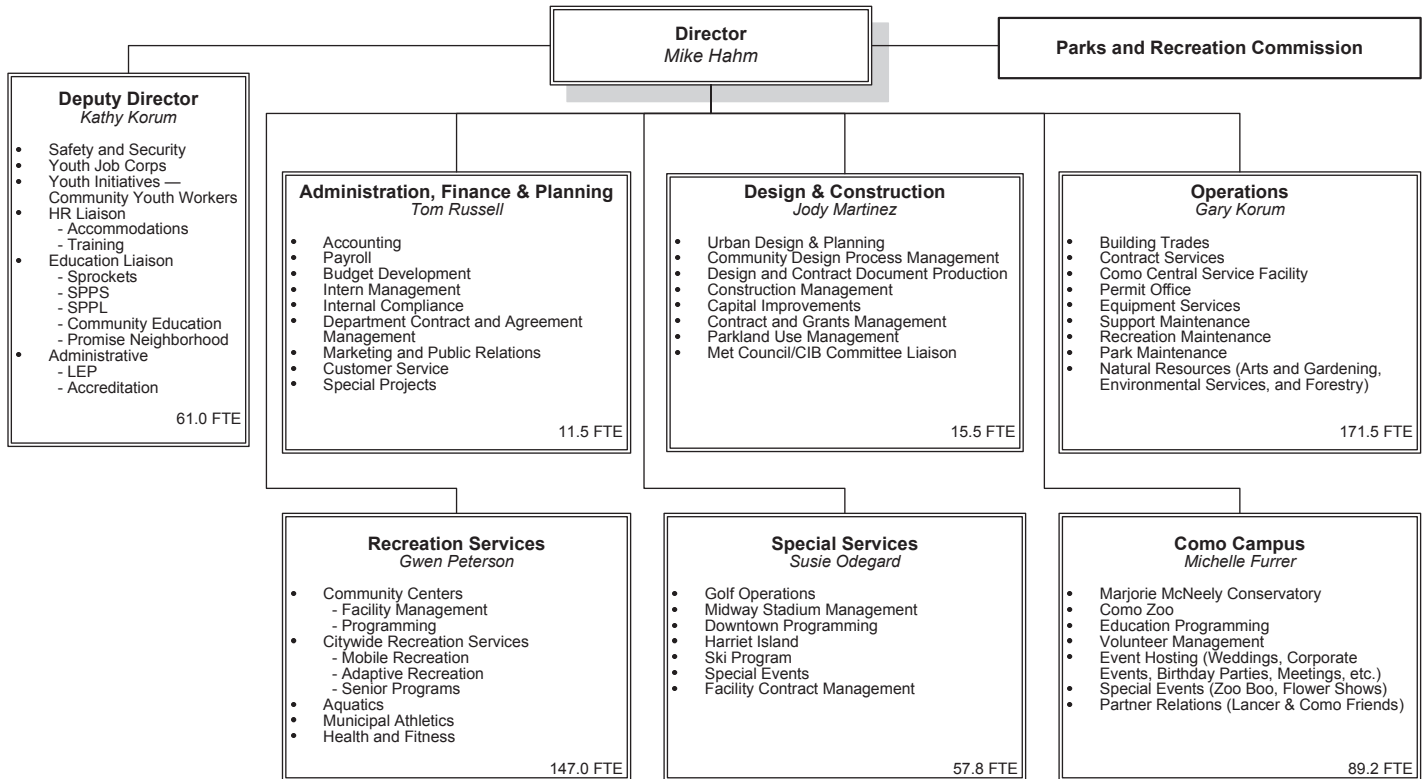
## Mission

To help make Saint Paul The Most Livable City in America, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will, facilitate the creation of active lifestyles, vibrant places and a vital environment.

## Statement of Benefits of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

- Fosters human development and supporting education
- Strengthens community image and a sense of place
- Promotes economic development in Saint Paul
- Protects, sustains and revitalizes environmental resources
- Increases cultural unity and building community relationships
- Strengthens safety and security
- Provides the essential support service for park and recreational experiences

# Organization Chart



(Total 553.5 FTE)





# Parks & Recreation Commission



## Purpose

The purpose of the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission is to advise City officials on matters of citywide and long range importance to the Parks and Recreation System. The Commission consists of nine Saint Paul residents appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. Members serve three-year terms. Meetings are held each month at various Saint Paul Parks and Recreation facilities and are open to the public.

## Members

Jonathan Carter, Chair  
Andrew Trcka, Vice Chair  
Susan Bishop  
Erick Goodlow  
Dave Haley  
Dan Marckel  
John Mountain  
Betsy Mowry  
Emily Shively



## 2011 Adopted Resolutions

- Plans
  - 2012-2015 Department Strategic Plan
  - Parks and Recreation System Plan
  - Mounds Park Master Plan
- Agreements
  - Franklin Magnet School/Valley Recreation Building exchange with the Saint Paul School District
  - Gordon Square Diversion
  - Trillium Park Parcel Agreement with Tilsner Carton Company
  - Holly Tot Lot Parcel Diversion
  - Port Authority Land Exchange
  - Victoria Park Parcel Diversion with Nova Classical Academy
  - Edgcombe Road Parcel Diversion with Arvig Enterprises
- Leases
  - Renewed Como Friends Lease Agreement

# Heritage & Legacy Amendment

## Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund

### Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

The Minnesota State Legislature approved Minnesota Laws of 2011, Special Session, chapter 6, article 4, Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund appropriations for fiscal years 2012-13: "Grants of \$200,000 each year to the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory for programmatic development".

Como will develop the following projects that will interweave the arts, culture and history into the guests that participate, along with increasing the number of participants and students that are exposed to the arts and culture. The Arts and Cultural Heritage FY 2012 & 2013 grant initiatives represent six projects:

- Music Under Glass & Lecture Series
- Interpretive Signage
- EdZOOcation Programs – Nature's Engineers & Lil' Explorers
- Special Exhibits
- Children's Garden & Formal Garden Planning
- Theatrical Show Presentation

### Artist-Learning Grant

Parks and Recreation was a recipient of an Arts Learning grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. Many of our out-of-school activities are funded, in part, by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment. These grants funded partnerships with the East Side Arts Council and COMPAS to provide teaching artists in all Rec Check, Summer Blast, and KidVenture programming, as well as workshops and an Arts Coordinator position at the Canvas Teen Art Center. Over 1,000 youth worked with professional artists in our programs through this grant.

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund

### Highwood Nature Preserve, \$24,000

Outdoor Heritage funding was received through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program. This project will enhance and manage approximately 13 acres of native oak woodland and prairie within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), in the City of Saint Paul through invasive species removal and control, prescribed burning and reforestation efforts. Over \$8,000 of in-kind match will be generated by the City of Saint Paul, Conservation Corps Minnesota, and community volunteers.



### Metro Big Rivers Habitat, \$154,000

In coordination with Great River Greening (GRG), through the Metro Big Rivers Habitat partnership, GRG will enhance ten acres of riparian habitat at Crosby Farm Regional Park. Bioengineering techniques will be utilized to reduce erosion along the Mississippi River bluff lands in an effort to improve water clarity and fish habitat in Crosby Lake.

## Clean Water Fund

### Clean Water Funds, \$110,450

The Minnesota state legislature directed the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) to appropriate a portion of the Clean Water Fund to be contracted for services with Conservation Corps Minnesota. BWSR contracted with the Corps to provide funded labor to watershed districts to undertake projects consistent with the goals of the Clean Water Funds. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, partnered with the Capitol Region Watershed District, the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, and the Lower Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to receive approximately \$110,450 in total labor services from the Corps. Project work included: shore land and rain garden improvements at Lake Como, Lake Phalen, and Pickerel Lake.

## Parks & Trails Fund (via the Metropolitan Council)

### Education Coordinator

Working to grow and support a vibrant environmental education program within Saint Paul's regional parks, the education coordinator has worked with partnering organizations to increase their presence and program offerings in Saint Paul's regional parks. In addition to working with partnering organizations, the education coordinator has developed and implemented ongoing environmental education programs unique to Saint Paul regional parks including: StoryWalk, Nature Geocache, Hike It, and Snowshoe Saint Paul. Program dates, times and locations are listed at [www.stpaul.gov/naturalresources](http://www.stpaul.gov/naturalresources).

### Volunteer Coordinator

Working to maximize and leverage volunteer resources to increase public awareness and support for Parks and Recreation, the volunteer coordinator has created and maintained a volunteer database. In 2011, the volunteer coordinator recruited more than 2,800 community volunteers for natural resource restoration events, education programs, and the Come Clean! Citywide Spring Cleanup. The volunteer coordinator also held a volunteer appreciation cookout to recognize lead volunteers and promote volunteer retention and recruited corporate group volunteers for large restoration events. For information on volunteer opportunities visit [www.stpaul.gov/naturalresources](http://www.stpaul.gov/naturalresources).



# Sprockets

## Sprockets Out-of-School Time Network

Parks and Recreation played a strong leadership role in the work of Sprockets by participating as a pilot organization for the Sprockets database. For the first time, Parks and Recreation can track unduplicated participation and demographic data of youth in its Rec Check and No School Days programs.

## East Side KidVenture

Celebrating its fourth year, East Side KidVenture provides programs for no-school days and summer activities. The program had consistently full summer camps this year with 150 youth in grade K-8 participating with an average of 58 youth per camp day. KidVenture participants say they learn many new things, from cooking and art to Indian dance, to the planets in the solar system. Over 95 percent of parents surveyed felt that the KidVenture workshops kept their children engaged and active throughout the summer. They said their children learned “socialization skills with a diverse group of kids and teachers,” “creative expression,” and “culture and cooking skills”. They said the program better prepared their children for school by keeping them “thinking and engaging in activities they would not do at home,” as well as improving their confidence. Parents also value the neighborhood-based approach. One parent said, “[Our children] go to a variety of schools, so this is one chance for the kids of the neighborhood to be together and meet new friends of different cultures”. Teachers in the program observe that KidVenture provides hands-on learning for youth in a variety of practical and culturally-significant topics. KidVenture is a partnership between Parks and Recreation, Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education, the East Side Arts Council, and other community partners.

## The Saint Paul Youth Commission

The Saint Paul Youth Commission provides a place for young people in Saint Paul to have a voice at City Hall and develop innovative solutions. The participants work with adults and other youth to tackle serious issues that Saint Paul adolescents face today. This year, seventeen high school students from neighborhoods across Saint Paul served as Youth Commissioners to organize community action projects. Guided by the Saint Paul Youth Policy Platform, they developed and organized two action projects.



One issue the Youth Commission identified was affordable and accessible public transportation, especially for teens to get to after-school activities in Saint Paul. They were concerned about the difficulty students have with bus tokens and getting rides and believed transportation would make participation in activities after school, academic or interest-based, more accessible. The Youth Commission established a partnership with Metro Transit committed to educating youth and parents about public transit and to work on building a confident culture of bussing in Saint Paul during the 2011-2012 school year.

Another issue the Youth Commission was concerned about was the “Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline”: the idea that race and income can predict the likelihood of a young person being incarcerated. After organizing a panel of speakers connected to the juvenile justice system in Ramsey County, the Youth Commission recognized the vast amount of resources available to those convicted of a crime. Taking a proactive approach, the Youth Commission tried to reduce the number of convictions and worked to build trust and respect between youth and the Saint Paul Police Department. The Youth Commission created a training presentation for youth and police officers to experience together, with the goal of better understanding one another.

In addition to their action projects, the Youth Commission was active both at the Capitol talking to State Legislators at Youth Day on the Hill, and at the Children’s Defense Fund’s March for Children and Youth. In Saint Paul, the Youth Commission presented their action projects to the City’s Department Directors in order to gain community allies. Finally, the Youth Commission worked with Sprockets to help build their brand. They advised Sprockets on their name, tagline and logo.





### The Canvas Teen Art Center at Hancock

The Canvas is a co-creation of young people (initially those on the Saint Paul Youth Commission and now expanded to others), Saint Paul Parks and Recreation and Community Programs in the Arts and Sciences (COM-PAS). It provides Saint Paul teens the opportunity to plan, promote and engage in quality arts workshops and events throughout the year during out-of-school time. It also has independent art workspace for teens, a safe place to relax and host events and discussions around other issues important to young people. Teens on the Canvas Youth Leadership Council (CYLC) meet weekly to create the Canvas' programming. They plan events such as monthly "mic nights," theater performances, dance contests and gallery exhibitions of teen artwork.

Highlights of 2011 included:

- Hosting monthly open mics
- Establishing a strong and active youth leadership council
- Starting a weekly photography club
- Being a service site for Peace Jam
- Having Canvas youth perform at the Hamline Midway Coalition's Spring Festival, the WISE Art Imbizo, and the MN State Fair
- Participating as a site in the Saint Paul Art Crawl
- Hosting over 300 people at the Winter Freeze Breakdance Battle
- Executing Thursday Night Live!, a weekly summer program that has a workshop and event connecting art with social activism

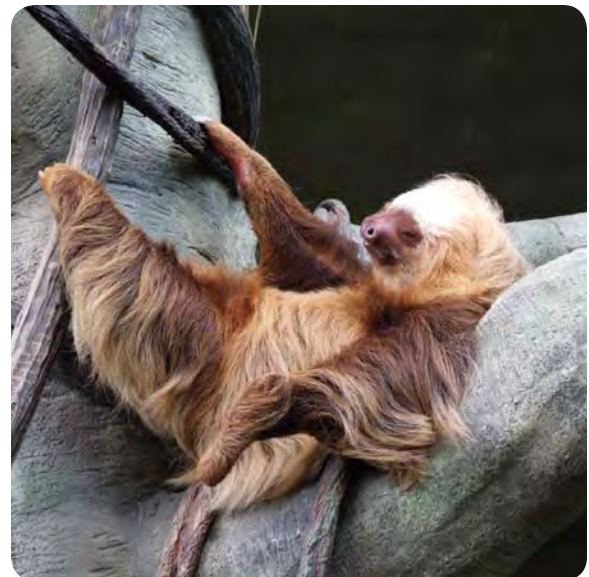
## Partnerships

### Como Friends

In 2011, Como Friends and a team of community volunteers brought the four-year Campaign for Como to a successful close. The campaign secured more than \$8.5 million in private contributions toward Polar Bear Odyssey, and the upcoming Japanese Gardens Experience, a new wing to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory currently under construction. More than \$30 million in private funding from Como Friends over the last decade has allowed Como to carry forward its century-long commitment to conservation. These investments provide for environmental education programs that now reach more than 600,000 children and adults as well as "greener" horticultural care for the Conservatory's botanical collections and a growing profile for Como's zookeepers as recognized leaders in progressive animal care. Through a growing membership program, garden sponsorships, foundation grants, gift shop sales and special events, Como Friends provided for a variety of causes. Among them include behind-the-scenes efforts to save the Mississippi Gopher frog, improvements to the bison and sloth exhibits, and professional development that has allowed Como Zookeepers to share their expertise with polar bear enrichment and orangutan conservation with conservation partners in the field.



*como friends*  
TOGETHER WE GROW





*Project funders, Conservancy board members and City officials mark the groundbreaking of the East Gateway in October, 2011.*

## Saint Paul Parks Conservancy

### **Saint Paul Parks Conservancy Completes First Project for Lilydale Regional Park**

December 2011 marked the completion of the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy's inaugural project. Over \$500,000 was raised for enhancements at Lilydale Regional Park. Conservancy-funded components include a grand gateway entry from Harriet Island, native wildflower plantings, a stone-lined creek along Water Street and removal of invasive vegetation to create dramatic views of the Mississippi River for those entering the park by road or regional trail.

Generous and early support from The Huss Foundation, The Scrooby Foundation, Betty Wold Johnson and many more ensured the Conservancy's first project had a healthy start.

### **Game On for Oxford Field**

The fields at Oxford Community Center (Jimmy Lee) have a long-storied history and have been home field to several current and future Hall of Fame athletes. The likes of Dave Winfield, Paul Molitor and most recently, current Twins player Joe Mauer played their beloved game of baseball on these fields throughout their youth. Currently, the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy is raising the final \$361,000 needed to complete lighting towers, backstops, water fountains and turf markings at the fields.

The new synthetic field at Jimmy Lee Recreation Center will ensure Rondo/Midway area youth have a quality experience in a variety of different sports, all at the same site, regardless of turf management and field conditions. The demonstrated success of the synthetic field installed at the McMurray Athletic Complex a few years ago is an excellent example of how investing in quality over quantity results in increased participation by neighborhood youth. The new field turf is the same type of field the pros use, motivating youth to play.

The Saint Paul Parks Conservancy is a 501 c 03 nonprofit organized in 2008 to enhance and expand parks and recreation opportunities in Saint Paul. For more information please visit [www.saintpaulparksconservancy.org](http://www.saintpaulparksconservancy.org).



## Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures (UWCA)

The Glacier Program was created in 2010 through the vision of Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman in partnership with Wilderness Inquiry, the National Parks Service and Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS), to connect urban youth with a variety of outdoor educational experiences. The program is intended to provide countless benefits, with the overall mission to have a unique results-driven pyramid model that was designed to be able to be duplicated in cities around the nation. The program creates opportunities for high school students to travel to Glacier National Park (or other National Parks), to build life skills such as teamwork, self confidence, and positive relationships with peers and adults.

- More Saint Paul Students Experience Glacier - 20 SPPS Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students (up from 14 students in 2010), along with 2 AVID staff, and two Wilderness Inquiry staff participated on a 9-day trip to Glacier National Park.
- Pyramid Growth - In 2011, we served more than 8,500 youth and families on UWCA programs, including day trips on the Mississippi River, overnight camping in metro-area parks, and extended trips to Glacier National Park and the Apostle Islands National Lake Shore.
- Big Impact on Youth Who Participated - Evaluations from the trip showed that students gained confidence and problem-solving skills. It pushed students outside their comfort zone, and every student who participated said that they learned they are more capable than they thought they were.

### **Fundraising Events**

- Garrison Keillor Event: netted \$56,000, exceeding our goal of \$50,000. These funds were used in 2011 to provide the Glacier trip, a Mississippi River day trip for all AVID 7th thru 11th graders, and a trip to the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.
- Great River Race for Student Success: In September, Wilderness Inquiry hosted the inaugural Great River Race for student success to benefit the UWCA program.
  - The winning team, "HealthPaddlers" from HealthPartners, received a \$5,000 UWCA scholarship for Harding High School.
  - This event raised more than \$50,000 for UWCA programming.





# Great River Passage

Following a very involved community process, the Great River Passage master plan officially launched in 2011. A new identity was created for the plan with the help of Minneapolis-based Little & Company. The name “Great River Passage” replaced the former “Great River Park”, establishing Saint Paul’s 17-mile river valley as a connected system of parks, trails and experiences along the riverfront.

In June, the Parks and Recreation Department hosted a grand unveiling of the Great River Passage brand, as well as major components of the plan itself, including: the addition of a splash pad at Harriet Island, the redevelopment of the Watergate Marina with the addition of an environmental education center, and the development of the Island Station site. The event, hosted at Harriet Island, featured Mayor Chris Coleman and leaders in the Great River Passage initiative. Hundreds joined in for Padelford boat cruises, canoe rides, a climbing wall and bounce castle for children, and more, in celebration of the Great River Passage’s official unveiling.

The new master plan calls for an integrated system of parks and trails including projects that will;

- Restore habitats
- Add riverfront parks and activity centers
- Bring new life for industrial sites
- Add better trail connections
- Improve and add river access and
- Create river-based recreation for all

Examples of developing additional activity centers along the river:

- Create a new splash pad at Harriet Island
- Redevelop Watergate Marina as a riverfront activity and environmental education center
- Redevelop Island Station – a vacant former power plant
- Implement a downtown riverfront boardwalk which will include restaurants and shops

Over time, Great River Passage will produce economic and community growth opportunities while anticipating and serving the recreation needs of generations to come through a series of development projects that provide recreation, connect communities, and attract tourism.

Projects are already underway, and although this isn’t a tomorrow plan, this will be something that will shape tomorrow’s tomorrow, and the tomorrow after that...

For more information please visit [www.GreatRiverPassage.org](http://www.GreatRiverPassage.org)

## Administration, Finance, & Planning

- Responded to more than 14,000 customer service inquiries in 2011.
- Continued to manage recently implemented ActiveNet registration system, which hosts 4,000 activities, 85,000 registrations and \$3 million annually.
- Secured more than \$500,000 in earned media and 200 press interviews by proactively promoting various Department initiatives, services, and events.
- Coordinated more than 70 public speaking events, 75 publications and 23 Social Networking pages.
- Processed 21,441 employee paychecks in 2011, and managed payroll functions for over 700 employees during the offseason, and more than 1,250 during the peak summer season.
- Processed more than 13,000 invoices and more than \$5 million in deposits in 2011.





# Como Park Zoo & Conservatory



## Como Zoo Releases North America's Most Critically Endangered Amphibian Back into the Wild

As part of Como Zoo's behind-the-scenes species preservation efforts, 1,353 Wyoming Toad tadpoles were placed in oxygenated water, shipped overnight and released near the Mortenson Lake National Wildlife Refuge outside Laramie, Wyoming. This 1.5 ounce toad is the most critically endangered amphibian in North America and one of the rarest in the world.

Como Zoo has joined forces with eight other zoos as a partner in a captive breeding program that now reintroduces Wyoming tadpoles and toads to the wild every year.

## Grizzly and Two Brown Bears from Minot North Dakota Zoo on Exhibit at Como Zoo

Three bears from Roosevelt Park Zoo in Minot North Dakota are now on exhibit at Como Zoo. The bears, a male grizzly named Goldie and sister brown bears Sandy and Judy, are at Como Zoo because the flooded Souris River in North Dakota forced them from their home at Roosevelt Park Zoo. The rambunctious trio has adjusted to the sights and smells of the Polar Bear Odyssey of which they occupy one half. The Minot bears are a crowd-pleaser as they are especially active, curious and playful. It is not yet known when the Roosevelt Park Zoo will be back in operation, so for the time being the bears, along with 2 penguins and 13 frogs also from Roosevelt Park Zoo, have settled nicely into their new temporary home.

## Como Zoo Welcomed New Addition to its Flock

Como Zoo welcomed a baby flamingo to its flock. This is the first flamingo born at the zoo since 2008, and only the second to be born in the zoo's history.

Como zookeepers attribute this rare success to the wetter than normal spring. This hatchling is one of five eggs laid. The eggs were put in an incubator and a false egg was put in its place for the parents to sit on. Once it appeared this egg was in hatch stage, which generally takes 2-3 days, zoo keepers put it back into the nest. The other four eggs laid this season were not fertile.

## Other ZooNooz

Como introduced four new amphibian exhibits featuring threatened frog species. RibbitZibit, in the Leonard H. Wilkening Children's Gallery, teaches and inspires guests about one of the greatest and most urgent conservation undertakings ever: the preservation of frogs and amphibians. Funding was secured through a Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant.

Fifty Mississippi Gopher Frogs were received in November from the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, NE in cooperation with USFW services. With just 100 - 200 animals thought to be left in the wild, the Mississippi Gopher frog is one of America's most critically endangered amphibians. These highly endangered frogs are housed in a bio-secure room and kept separate from other amphibian species to avoid the chance for disease transmission between species. With only one viable population left in the wild, it is extremely important for zoos such as Como to work with this species on breeding programs.

The Gorilla Forest project continued to progress. Final workshops were held in June and bids and awards happened in August, with construction beginning in September. The project construction is expected to last 20 months with an opening date in early summer 2013.

At the Gorilla Species Survival Plan (SSP) mid-year meetings in Chicago it was agreed to place an additional two male and three female gorillas at Como Zoo at completion of Gorilla Forest, and breeding recommendations for two of the three females.



Como Zoo welcomed numerous animals either through birth at Como or from other accredited AZA institutions in 2011:

- A two-year-old bison gave birth during public hours as many surprised guests and staff looked on. Como Zoo turned over the naming rights of its baby bison to its Facebook fans. Bogo (short for “buy one, get one”) was chosen as a humorous comment on the baby bison’s surprise arrival; it was unknown that the bison’s mother, “Aunt Bea”, was pregnant when she came to the zoo in November 2010. Bogo was standing and walking within an hour of birth. He weighed 125 lbs and stood three feet tall at birth. Bogo is the first calf born to two year old mom, Aunt Bea. Como’s current herd consists of Aunt Bea, Bogo and one other adult female.
- A rehabilitated Harbor Seal arrived via FedEx from the Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center.
- The birth of four baby Emerald tree boas. The parents (as the name implies) are green, but the babies are born bright red and gradually change over to green in their first year of life. This is a first for Como and is an uncommon event in US zoos. These snakes came to the zoo in 1998 and represent a new “blood line” in the US.
- There were several new additions to the reptile collection; a Cuban rock iguana, a casque-headed iguana, and two ball pythons. They are used by the education staff for programs and camps.
- Three Francois’ Langurs are now on exhibit in the Primate Building. These black-mohawked monkeys can be found in Asia and are primarily folivores.
- Four male Straw-colored Fruit Bats arrived from the Akron Zoo in Akron, OH. They are used by the education staff for programs and camps.
- Four Bananaquits (birds) were received and introduced to the Tropical Encounters exhibit.
- An Emperor Tamarin gave birth to a baby. This is the seventh baby born to mother, Aries, and the twentieth to father White Eyes.
- 10 year old male tiger “Danya”.
- A male Dall’s sheep “Thunder”.



## Marjorie McNeely Conservatory

### A Rare Bloom of a Corpse Flower

An endangered, rare Sumatran plant, that has been patiently waiting to bloom for 18 years, developed a flower bud and bloomed. The *Amorphophallus titanum*, also known as the Corpse Flower from the smell it emits during peak bloom, shot up over 6’ tall with a growth rate of one to three inches a day.

The Corpse Flower plant was on public display for visitors to see and smell. To follow along the growth and watch the progress, a live webcam was installed over the flower. A YouTube time lapse video was also produced and viewed over 8,600 times.



### “Roots, Shoots, and Fruits – The Incredible Edible Garden”

Como served up some scrumptious garden fun in its first ever edible garden. “Roots, Shoots, and Fruits–The Incredible Edible Garden” featured an array of vegetables, small fruits, and tasty herbs cultivated in an imaginative garden display. There were hanging baskets filled with peppers, tomatoes and cilantro to make salsa, containers of strawberries, nasturtium and lettuce for fresh salads, and garden plots that produced blueberries, beans, corn, broccoli, watermelon and many other edible treats throughout the summer. It was an exhibit for visitors of all ages designed to teach about planting and preparing foods that can be grown at home. Some of the produce was also used to feed the zoo’s animals.





## Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival Sees Record Crowds

The Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival was a success with close to 7,000 attendees. The festival encompasses Japanese tradition through music, dance, crafts, martial arts and lanterns. Entertainment included taiko drumming groups, koto (Japanese sitar), shakuhachis (bamboo flutes), traditional and contemporary dance and singing, Martial arts, Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging), and a host of other cultural exhibits and demonstrations lined several paths through the grounds. Savory Japanese food and dozens of culturally-related items also were on sale.

The theme of 2011 Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival is 'Kizuna - Standing with Japan.' Kizuna translates to "unity" in Japanese. This theme was chosen as a way of expressing the grief and honoring those lost in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disasters, as well as supporting those still affected by the aftermath.



Proceeds from the 2011 Lantern Lighting Festival helped provide the final dollars for the Japanese Gardens Experience. This new wing of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory will provide permanent gallery space for the Como's nationally-regarded Bonsai collection and improve access to the Como Ordway Memorial Japanese Garden.

## Awards

### ■ Orchid Show Success

Como hosted the Winter Carnival Orchid Show. The popular show featured hundreds of orchids from the conservatory's collections, commercial growers and orchid lovers. In addition to the large orchid display, the event featured vendors selling orchids and orchid supplies.

2011 Winter Carnival Orchid Awards included:

- 10 first place ribbons
- 14 second place ribbons
- 10 third place ribbons
- 1 Best of Class trophy for Laelia moyobambe 'Greg McNeely' HCC/AOS CCE/AOS
- 1 first place ribbon for the MMC exhibit
- 1 Best of Class trophy for the MMC exhibit
- 1 American Orchid Society CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence) award for Angraecum eburneum
- 1 AOS CCM (Certificate of Cultural Merit) award for Paphiopedalum swanianum 'Don McNeely'
- 1 AOS show trophy for best exhibit
- 1 AOS Gold Certificate for exhibit scoring 92 points.

Marjorie McNeely Conservatory also participated in the Minnesota State Fair Orchid Show with exciting results:

- 22 First place ribbons
- First place for specimen plant & First place for Best Exhibit
- 8 Second place ribbons
- 5 Third place ribbons

- Polar Bears International (PBI) presented Como Zoo with the "Champion for Polar Bears" award as part of PBI's national "Be Cool" tour, which raises awareness about the need to retain Arctic sea ice and to encourage CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. Como was recognized in part for its Polar Bear Odyssey, as well as its participation in the Climate Literacy Zoo Education Network.
- The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory won a 2011 City Pages "Best of" Award for "Best Winter Escape"
- The Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) awarded the Polar Bear Odyssey exhibit the Award of Excellence. The MRPA program recognizes agencies or organizations in Minnesota for outstanding achievements in parks, recreation and leisure services that have had projects which resulted in substantial change or improvement.
- Martha Stewart Magazine featured the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory as the best wedding spot in Minnesota.

## Education Department

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory, under the direction of the Chicago Zoological Society, joined a network of nine zoos, Polar Bears International, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Pennsylvania State University to conduct research needed to understand zoo visitor's current understanding, attitudes, and beliefs regarding climate change. Throughout the summer, Como visitors were asked to complete surveys with questions and statements related to climate change. Visitor responses were compiled with responses from zoo visitors across the country to provide the first-ever snapshot of zoo goers' ideas surrounding climate change. From there, plans are being made to request additional funding from the National Science Foundation to implement climate change education experiences for visitors at participating zoos.



## In The News

National television networks made a few appearances at Como in 2011:

- Stacy and Clinton had the help of Como Staff and featured Sparky the sea lion, for a day long filming of TLC's "What Not to Wear" as they surprised a Twin Cities woman with a makeover trip to New York.
- The Nat Geo WILD series "Expedition Wild" had television crews at Como. They set up a boom-arm camera over Polar Bear Odyssey and filmed Polar Bear enrichment and training.
- HGTV's House Hunters visited with a couple taking a break from looking for a new home in the Twin Cities area.



## Como Shuttle

Como's Facebook fans had the opportunity to pick the design of the fourth bus. Of the options presented, the giraffe design won, followed by the pink flamingo and a green leafy plant. The fleet also features a leopard, zebra and sunflower wrapped bus.

### 2011 Como Shuttle stats:

- 35,768 riders in 2011, compared to 30,485 in 2010.
- Average capture rate was 4.0 percent (6.94 percent weekends, 2.42 percent weekdays)
- Average number of riders 406 (weekends 711, weekdays 183)
- On the high date, August 21, there were 2,457 riders.

There is a correlation of capture rate to attendance. As the estimated attendance goes up, so does the capture rate. Many weekdays are under the 12,000 person days and those capture rates are one or two percent, at best, which drives down the average. As day attendance increases so does the capture rate.

## Other Notable Media

- Sparky participated in a weekly segment on WCCO-TV predicting High School Football games.
- The KARE-11 Morning Show featured Como along with some animal and plant ambassadors every second Saturday of the month.

## Other Campus News

ZooBoo was attended by over 23,000, a 20 percent increase in attendance over 2010. Over 500 volunteers assisted in making this a successful event.

Creature Feature, the summer stage show, attracted approximately 70,000 visitors.





# Design & Construction



## Como Pool

Como Regional Park Pool, completed in October 2011, involved the design and construction of a state-of-the-art aquatic facility that replaced the original 1965-era swimming pool. The facility is expected to officially open on June 9, 2012.

Upon arriving at the new aquatic facility, visitors will notice a tree-lined wavy parking lot that echoes the curving facade of the new 5,000-square-foot bathhouse. The natural limestone and dark bronze colored metal detailing of the building compliment the style and detailing of other buildings and his-

toric characteristics found throughout the park. Situated at the center of the building is a stately white columned pavilion that welcomes guests to the entry gate of the facility.

As a visitor passes through the entry pavilion they are greeted with three distinct pools nestled against a backdrop of large mature Burr Oak and pine trees. The three pools include a more traditional lap pool and diving well, a zero-depth entry splash pool filled with interactive water play features, and a 400-foot long lazy river. Highlights of these pools are a zip line ride and 12-foot high rock climb-

ing wall at the lap pool, family (four person wide) water slide at the splash pool, and a 'Crazy River' segment on the lazy river.

Extensive landscaping and hand-placed limestone boulder outcroppings surround each pool and are located in deck space around the facility, providing natural surroundings for pool visitors. Also located around the facility are several white trellis shade structures with picnic tables located underneath. These shade structures provide ample shade on hot sunny days and can also be rented for special events such as birthday parties.

## Joyce Kilmer Memorial Fireplace

The Joyce Kilmer Memorial Fireplace is a well-recognized feature at Como Regional Park near Como Pool and McMurray Fields. The fireplace was built in 1935 and named for the World War I soldier and poet, Joyce Kilmer. Restoration of the fireplace has returned it to an appropriate operational state. The restoration included rebuilding hearths, mantles, and portions of the structure facades. A meticulous selection of stone was made to ensure accuracy of the restoration. Some of the stone was actually acquired from a location only a few hundred feet away, and may actually be the source of much of the original stone. The fireplace flue caps were entirely reconstructed through careful measurements of existing components and study of historic photographs. The area between the fireplace and outer fire ring was excavated to the original elevation and replaced with a durable concrete surface, which will provide access for all individuals. This area will not only serve as the main entrance to the woodland classroom but also provides a gathering space for school groups to be briefed before heading out into the Como Woodland Outdoor classroom. The fireplace was re-dedicated on May 19, 2011.





### Phalen Arch Bridge Restoration

The Phalen Historic Arch bridge was originally designed and built in 1910 by renowned Minnesota engineer C.A.P. Turner and is eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Although pedestrian traffic continued to use the deck of the bridge to access both sides of the Phalen Channel, the underside of the bridge had been crumbling and the left channel was closed to watercraft traffic between Lake Phalen and Round Lake. Restoration of the bridge included a meticulous process of disassembling only portions of the bridge so new work could be placed prior to removing additional portions of the bridge. Although this process was very time-consuming, this restoration process managed to preserve the historical nature of the bridge and retain its eligibility for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge is scheduled to open on June 2, 2012.

### Crosby-Elway

A new parking lot was installed on the east side of Crosby Farm Regional Park. The project removed a remnant of Crosby Lake Road and replaced it with a parking lot, trail and bio-swale. The new 12-car parking lot uses pervious pavers and a rain garden to reduce storm water run-off into Crosby Lake and the Mississippi River. In addition, it improves safety for park users that were parking in front of the gate across the Crosby Lake Road entrance. The project also included a small wayside plaza for Sam Morgan Trail users and a Grand Round kiosk. This is the first project completed within the Great River Passage and included a new sign with the official logo.



---



# Operations

## Active Lifestyles

- Recreation maintenance staff completed safety audits for all play areas.
- Staff provided maintenance for 360,000+ square feet of interior building space, 248 acres of grounds, 140 ball fields, 65 soccer/football fields, 12 hockey rinks and 14 general skating rinks.
- Softball field renovation was completed at Scheffer, including installation of player bench safety fencing.
- Maintenance was provided for over 4,000 acres of park land, 100+ miles of paved off-road trails, 38 play areas, 15 picnic/rental facilities, three maintenance facilities and dozens of athletic courts.
- Two thousand ninety three permits issued for shelters and pavilions for a variety of events ranging from large public events to small private gatherings (total attendance not including large events was 212,808).
- Re-graded 15 softball fields and aerated/seeded 38 fields in an effort to increase playability and improve safety for participants.



## Vibrant Places

- Maintained 468 hanging baskets and 91 garden sites across the city.
- Organized an Arbor Month planting event in Crosby Farm Regional Park during which 104 volunteers planted 3,000 oak seedlings and 38 specimen trees.
- Environmental Services planted approximately 6,416 native trees and shrubs, 40,000 acorns and 4,200 native grasses and flowers.
- Provided storm clean-up response for 23 incidents throughout the 2011 season in Saint Paul and assisted Minneapolis in their storm recovery process.
- Support Maintenance coordinated the replacement of bituminous and seal coating at several facilities within the system.
- Recreation Maintenance partnered with the Saint Paul Saints and Ryan Companies to renovate the baseball field at Palace along with painting benches, mulching garden areas and adding additional plantings to the flower beds.
- Building Trades completed 5,023 work requests for cross-department needs.

## A Vital Environment

- Environmental Staff received the Sustainable Saint Paul award for a city staff group.
- Installed a rain garden at the Como Central Service Facility.
- Coordinated more than 400 volunteers who provided 4,000+ hours of service to maintain 70 garden sites throughout the city.
- Completed the removal of 1,200+ trees associated with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), to include structured removal and Residential Street Vitality Program (RSVP) projects.
- Identified and facilitated removal of 845 diseased and dangerous trees on private property and removed 2,745 public trees.
- Contract Services provided snow removal, grass cutting, brush cutting and removal of unwanted vegetation from the Sewer Utility's holding ponds, lift stations, and levee sites.
- Contract Services responded to 4,044 summary abatement work orders for Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) Parks staff; they completed 3,076 and 963 were done by the property owners.
- Parks Maintenance and Equipment Services provided flood fighting and protection services for the three public docks at Harriet Island, i.e. the Public Dock, Show Boat Dock and the Concessions Dock as well as the parkland along the river.
- Added recycling containers at all regional and selected high-use parks in an effort to increase recycling efforts and reduce waste.



- Picked up approximately 400 yards of buckthorn and 1,000 yards of regular tree debris/brush.
- Removed approximately 1,660 tons of trash utilizing the load-n-packs and front-load trash trucks and hauled 300+ yards of demolition debris.
- In coordination with partnering organizations, environmental services administered ten different grants or donations approximating \$458,075, including \$110,450 of in-kind professional labor to maintain natural areas in Saint Paul.
- Coordinated the establishment of three community vegetable gardens for a total of 42.
- Planted 3,316 trees in 2011; 898 were directly related to EAB removals.
- Equipment Services maintained 630 units of specialized equipment and 1,123 units of small equipment, and also administered and coordinated 169 pieces of rolling stock vehicles.

### Respond Creatively to Change

- Building Trades converted four recreation center HVAC systems to automated programs, allowing for off-site monitoring and trouble-shooting of systems.
- Fulfilled requirements to become a member of the Gopher State One Call program to better protect buried utilities across the department.
- The Permit Office created on-line permitting options for fossil and ice-climbing permits in an effort to increase access for citizens.
- Building Trades co-managed over \$749,000 in capital maintenance upgrades to department facilities.

### Innovate with Every Decision

- Completed the installation of a generator system for Mass Care Operations in coordination with emergency management at Oxford Community Center.
- Equipment Services reorganized the lower parking area to streamline access and departure of City vehicles, gain parking space and to reorganize and provide an additional security gate.
- Implemented year three of an agreement with the University of Minnesota to plant 165 research-grown trees in city parks and boulevards.
- Granted a Minnesota GreenCorps staff member to help implement Food and Nutrition Commission recommendations in accordance with parks and City policy.
- Equipment Services implemented the use of an electronic delivery van.

### Connect the Entire City

- Purchased fifth circulator bus to provide free shuttle service from the State Fair parking lot to the Como Campus.
- Provided service to several regional events including: Saint Paul Winter Carnival, Hmong International Freedom Celebration, Irish Festival, Italian Fest, Flint Hills Children's Festival, and Dragon Fest.
- Completed year three of the Tree Advisory Panel (TAP).
- The environmental education program served over 1,100 participants in a variety of programs.
- The Arts & Garden program successfully completed year five of the Horticulture Academy.
- Provided employment and education for 25 Youth Job Corps (YJC) members in the Eco-Ranger program and directed another 60 youth in the Youth Outdoors program in partnership with the Minnesota Conservation Corps.





# Special Services

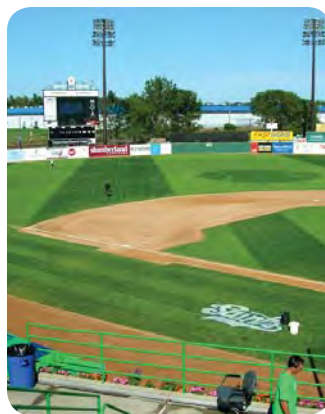
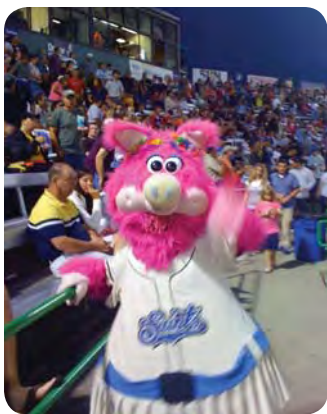
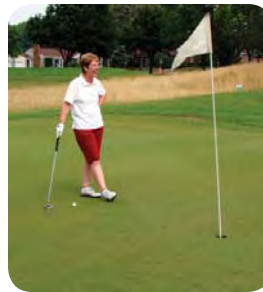
## GOLF

In 2011 a Golf Performance Plan was implemented within the Saint Paul Golf courses. The Golf Performance Plan provided tools for the Parks and Recreation Department to analyze data and measure performance at all the Saint Paul golf courses on a monthly basis. The Plan was necessary to address expenditures, influence revenue streams, and review potential areas of lost revenue.

Saint Paul's four municipal courses: Highland National, Highland 9, Como and Phalen saw rounds decrease again in 2011, due largely to harsh weather conditions during the season.

- Courses did not open until April 8th due to a harsh winter
- 105,676 golf rounds

Social media tools were utilized to promote golf specials to new markets. Other marketing initiatives included Family Golf, Crowd Cut Specials, Birthday Club and Steals from Star Tribune, as well as the third annual Highland 9 for \$9 program at Highland 9.



## MIDWAY STADIUM

Midway Stadium's main tenant, the Saint Paul Saints, completed its nineteenth season and its sixth year as a member of the American Association of Independent Baseball. The Saints hosted 57 games and attracted more than 240,000 spectators. There were 165 events at the Stadium in 2011, and the facility was in use 66 percent of available dates from April 9 until October 22.

The Stadium's premier non-Saints baseball event was the State Class AAA High School Baseball Tournament which attracted nearly 6,000 spectators. Midway also hosted portions of four different high school sectional tournaments, which accounted for 21 games within a two-week period. In addition to 130 baseball games played throughout the summer, other events included two major concerts, 19 football games, and four autocross parking lot events. The parking lot also was a disposal location for snow from throughout the city, which resulted in an eighty foot "mountain" that did not totally disappear until May 1.

## SKI & SNOWBOARD PROGRAM

Another ski season in the books, and it was one for the records. The 2011-2012 season was the first without cross-country skiing, and an unheard of visible golf course by the first week of February. Mother Nature wasn't very kind, but that didn't stop a record number of 752 registrations for the Saturday, Tuesday, and Wednesday sign-ups for downhill ski and snowboarding.

Despite the climatic challenges, the program saw a slight increase in overall participants. There was a total of 1,025 enrollments for the overall program. The increase in participation during the season is attributed to a number of improvements such as moving the snowboards over to the windows to improve spacing, flow of traffic, and places to sit and store boots, as well as high quality concessions sales, and a successful Family Friday program. There was also a noted decrease in major accidents.

Potential improvements for the 2012-2013 winter season include:

- Keeping online registration open until the first week of lessons.
- Increase time between lessons from an hour and a half to an hour and forty-five minutes in order to receive equipment on time for the following class.
- Implementing a donation box for the cross-country ski trail.
- Open up the back hill for public use, rather than only for private lessons, in order to generate more revenue.



## WINTERSKATE

In partnership with Visit Saint Paul and Wells Fargo, Wells Fargo WinterSkate rink, which is downtown Saint Paul's free, outdoor, artificially-chilled ice skating rink, was again in operation in 2011. Skaters were invited to experience the unique urban setting of downtown Saint Paul. Located in the heart of the city, Wells Fargo Winterskate created a fun, winter experience for visitors of all ages. The historic Landmark Center creates a beautiful backdrop for the outdoor rink, showcasing Saint Paul's charming European architecture and old-world ambiance. Total attendance for the season was 28,133.





## PARK SAFETY & SECURITY

Park Security is committed to serving park patrons by ensuring the peaceful use of parks for all and protecting park property and facilities through education and courteous enforcement of Park Rules and regulations. Park Security Officers are a friendly presence at our many recreation centers and facilities, and are equipped with 800 MHz radios which allow them to communicate directly with Saint Paul Police and dispatch if police, fire, or medics are needed.

- Park Security responded to 882 calls for service including calls for:

- Finding lost children
- Offering directional information
- Responding to alarms at park facilities
- Securing and opening gates, doors and restrooms
- Securing off-leash dogs
- Directing traffic control
- Addressing hostile encounters
- Issuing citations when necessary



- Park Security provided significant coverage for both Como Park Zoo Boo and Phalen Holiday Lights with 750 hours of security coverage.
- The safety office certified 644 staff members in CPR/First Aid.



## ITALIAN FESTIVAL

Festa Italiana proudly celebrated all things Italian with over 20,000 in attendance its inaugural year. Visitors were immersed in the wonderful music and dancing, visited the cultural building, tasted the fantastic food, strolled the Via dell'Amore and took a romantic ride on the Mississippi in an authentic Italian gondola. Festival admission was free.

Festival activities included:

- Delicious offerings from a variety of food vendors
- Authentic music and entertainment
- Cultural exhibit
- Traditional wares for sale
- Folk art demonstrations
- Bocce Ball
- Participation in an Italian motor bike ride for charity through Saint Paul's historic Italian levee neighborhood
- Gondola Romantica rides on the Mississippi River near the Festa site.

## PADELFORD

Padelford Packet Boat Co. suffered a deep loss with the passing of William D. Bowell (90). Bowell was a riverboat captain who for decades brought joy to millions of passengers aboard his Padelford vessel. He founded Padelford in 1969 and greatly enjoyed giving tours along the Mississippi River. He owned over two dozen vessels throughout his life of various shapes, sizes and functions. His memoirs were published in 2005 entitled, "Ol' Man River: Memoirs of a Riverboat Captain". The next year, a life-threatening blood clot led to the amputation of his left leg. Anticipating arrival of his artificial limb, he said: "I've always wanted a peg leg." Bowell eventually passed from cancer on April 19, 2011 and is greatly missed by friends and family.



# Recreation Services

## CITYWIDE RECREATION SERVICES

### Mobile Recreation

- Provided outdoor recreation activities during the afternoon and evening for youth, ages 6–17, at 22 passive parks and public housing sites throughout the summer. Total attendance was 5,277.
- Community outreach initiatives continued with programming at a Senior Housing site, two Hmong Senior programs, two Loaves and Fishes sites, and the Ramsey County Family Service Center.

### Summer Meals

- The Summer Food Service Program, co-sponsored by Saint Paul Public Schools Nutrition Department, provided 74,926 meals to Saint Paul youth at 29 recreation centers, Roaming Rec sites, and summer camps.

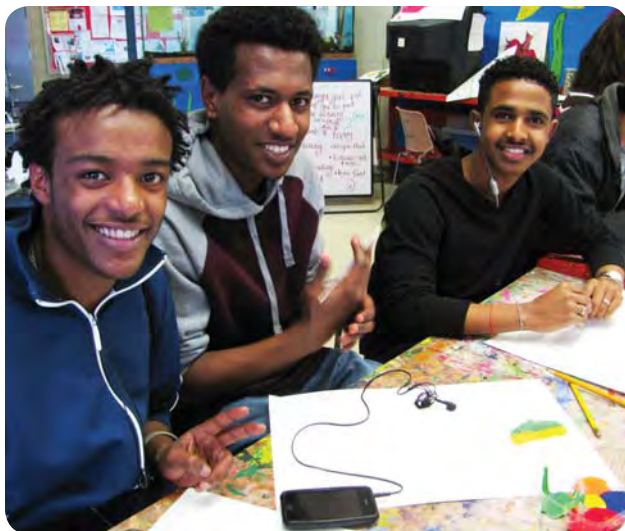
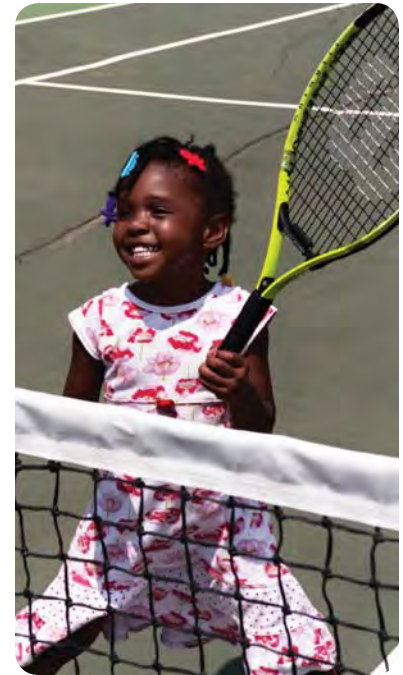
### Urban Tennis

- 2,313 youth (ages 5–18) participated in daily tennis lessons and life skills training at 32 sites in Saint Paul.
- An additional 1,425 youth participated in various outreach programs.



### Take a Kid Fishing Grant

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation received a 2011 Fishing and Boating grant from the National Recreation and Parks Association. The grant was used to provide fishing and boating experiences to youth and families. Five fishing/ice fishing events were held that drew 454 youth and adults. There were also free sessions of canoeing and fishing as part of a week-long summer camp and no-school days. A total of 1,339 parents and youth were served.



## NORTH END TEEN CENTER

The Teen Zone, opened in Saint Paul's North End in June 2011, transformed an under-utilized space on the lower level of the Rice Recreation Center facility. This space has become a comfortable place for teens to hang out and socialize, thanks to the work of a number of community partners including: Saint Paul Public Libraries, Saint Paul Ramsey County Public Health, the Saint Paul Public School District, the District 6 Planning Council and Councilmember Lee Helgen.

Supported by elected officials and funded through STAR grant dollars, the Teen Zone is the only facility in Saint Paul's recreation system that exists exclusively for use by teens. Also unique to the project is that the design task force consisted exclusively of young people, who made all of the decisions about paint colors, flooring, finishes and furniture. Boasting more than 300 members, The Teen Zone is a great space that filled a gap left by the removal of two recreation centers on the North End – Front and Sylvan.



## AQUATICS

In 2011, the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Aquatics section operated the year round indoor Great River Water Park, outdoor Highland Park Aquatic Center and Phalen Regional Park Beach. In 2011, the Highland Park Aquatic Center opened with the final phase of improvements to the site complete. New for 2011 were a large two-story slide, locker rooms, concessions, admissions, offices for staff, and an expanded parking lot.

With continued growth and renovations at these facilities, 2011 was a good year overall for aquatic programs. Looking ahead into the future for the 2012 summer season we will be opening the much anticipated and brand new Como Regional Park Pool. With a lazy river and an aquatic zip line among other features, Como will be a great complimentary aquatic facility to our existing locations.

- Over 200,000 visitors
- 560 seasonal (three month) aquatic memberships sold
- 61,928 membership usage for three-month membership package
- 91 all-access facility memberships sold
- 16,617 membership usage for all-access membership package
- 467 ten swim cards sold
- 3,162 redeemed punches

### Sites by the Numbers:

#### Great River Water Park

- 24,772 regular paid admissions (lap swim, open swim, and water aerobics)
- 1698 swim lesson participants
- 40 Friends of Oxford Pool swim lesson scholarships awarded
- 72 Police Athletic League Grant participants
- 14,480 swim lesson participant visits

#### Highland Park Aquatic Center

- 39,666 regular paid admissions (lap swim, open swim, and water aerobics)
- 1,037 swim lesson participants
- 8,296 swim lesson participant visits



## ADAPTIVE RECREATION

The Adaptive Recreation Program marked its 35th year of being part of the Department's Recreation Services Section. The Adaptive Recreation Program developed out of a summer day camp program as well as a city-wide survey taken in 1975, which determined that there was a need for year-round recreational programming for individuals who were mentally and/or physically disabled. Programming began January 1, 1976. Although programming began with fairly basic offerings (e.g. open gym, open swim), it was soon realized that the Adaptive Recreation participants wanted and needed a comprehensive program with activities that not only filled their leisure time, but also promoted skill development. (Please note: the term mentally disabled is used as it pertains to individuals with cognitive/intellectual disabilities and those with mental health impairments.)

In thirty-five years the program has grown immensely! There are typically two activities each evening, as well as popular weekend programming. The Saint Paul Adaptive Recreation Program is the largest of its kind in Minnesota. Other accomplishments for 2011 include:

- More than 41,000 total hours of participation in Adaptive Recreation activities.
- More than 900 hours of service given by volunteers in a variety of activities including: swim lessons, adapted bowling, crafts, fitness and dance activities, special events, etc.
- New activities included: Mystery Crafts, Mosaics, I Can Act, Sundaes on Tuesday, and Floats by the Lake.
- The Adaptive Recreation Softball Teams placed first, second and third in the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Adaptive Softball Program.

## SENIOR PROGRAMS

Parks and Recreation's Program for Adults 50+ offered a variety of activities, trips, tours and special events for older adults, seniors, and retirees in 2011.

- Partnerships with several organizations have enhanced the variety of programs offered. Partners in 2011 included: HealthEast, Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education Senior Program, Saint Paul Police Department, Let's Go Fishing, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Saint Paul Festival and the Heritage Foundation/Winter Carnival.
- The Golden Melody Makers Senior Chorus joined voices with the Humboldt High School choir for two performances – one for the school's spring concert and one at an assisted living facility.
- A summer picnic, sponsored by the 50+ Program and HealthEast Passport, with additional assistance from Humana, drew more than 850 participants to Harriet Island.
- The Coupon Clipping Group participated in a service project by cutting, sorting, tallying and sending over \$200,000 worth of coupons to an 'adopted' Army base in Brussels, Belgium.
- The 50+ Program offered more than 75 different classes, trips, tours and activities, including a number of outdoor and 'atypical' senior activities.
- Approximately 13,000 people visited 'City Passport – a Place for People 50 and Better'. City Passport is a drop-in center cosponsored by Saint Paul Parks and Recreation and HealthEast.





# MUNICIPAL ATHLETICS

## Programming

### YOUTH

- RBI Baseball and Softball Program
  - 1,500+ participants
  - 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 15U, 18U age groups - recreational
- Basketball
  - 1,600+ participants
  - 10U, 12U, 14U, 18U age groups - recreational
- Volleyball
  - 630+ participants
  - 10U, 12U, 14U, 18U age groups - recreational
- Football
  - 800+ participants - Tackle - recreational
  - 10U, 12U, 14U age groups - recreational
- Fall Soccer
  - 1,000+ participants - recreational
  - 10U, 12U, 14U age groups
- Indoor Soccer
  - 200+ participants
  - 10U, 12U age groups

**Total youth participants - 5,730**

### ADULT

- Broomball/ Boot Hockey
  - 1,800 participants
- Touch Football
  - 170 participants
- Softball
  - 7,500 participants
- Basketball
  - 200 participants
- Baseball
  - 200 participants

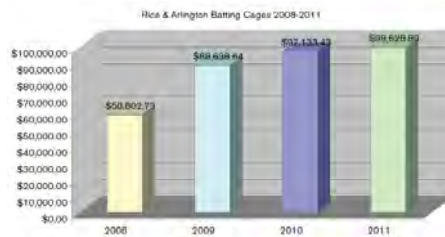
**Total adult participants - 9,870**

## Projects

- New safety fencing installed at Dunning Stadium (Toni Stone Field).
- Installed yellow poly fence cap tubing at Rice & Arlington softball complex and McMurray and Arlington/Arkwright baseball fields.
- Installed new turf hitting stations and fencing in the Rice & Arlington Batting Cages.

## Batting Cages

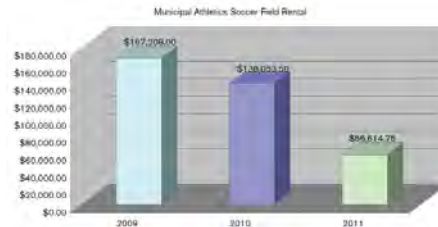
- 66,500+ participants



## Featured Rental Facilities

- **McMurray**
  - Soccer
  - Lacrosse
  - Football
  - Rugby
  - Gaelic Football
  - Ultimate Frisbee
  - Hurling
  - Baseball
  - Softball
  - Kickball
- **Arlington/Arkwright**
  - Baseball
  - Soccer
- **Dunning**
  - Baseball
  - Softball
- **Rice/Arlington**
  - Softball
  - Baseball
  - Soccer
  - Field Hockey
  - Kickball
  - Football

**Baseball/Softball Field Rentals - \$91,621.36**



## Officiating Program

Municipal Athletics provides the administration for employment, training, assigning and evaluation of 300 sports officials in our youth and adult athletic programs.

- Football
- Baseball
- Softball
- Broomball
- Boot Hockey
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Volleyball

## Support Group

Friends of Saint Paul Baseball is the non profit support group that generates private dollars to help support, maintain, and improve our athletic field infrastructure related to baseball and softball. Friends generated \$137,500 in 2011.

## Grant Programs

### Minnesota Twins Community Fund Grant

- \$75,000 annually for programming distributed to our recreation center baseball/softball program including entry fees, equipment, apparel, etc.
- \$10,000 annually for renovation of Saint Paul baseball and softball fields.
- \$3,000 annually for Jason Kubel's Kub's Kids T-Ball program.

### STAR Grant

- \$156,000 was awarded to the Friends of Saint Paul Baseball non profit support group to build a new concession stand and garage at Dunning Baseball Stadium (Toni Stone Field).

## Partnerships

- MLB/Minnesota Twins
- NFL/Minnesota Vikings
- Jr. NBA/Jr. WNBA
- USSSA Softball - United States Specialty Sports Association
- NAFA Softball - North American Fast Pitch Association
- MBA Baseball - Minnesota Baseball Association
- MYAS - Minnesota Youth Athletic Services
- MSF - Minnesota Sports Federation
- American Legion Baseball
- VFW Baseball
- Multiple Community Business Partnerships
- Tri County Softball
- Concordia - St. Paul University
- St. Thomas University
- USA Broomball
- University of Minnesota
- Saint Paul Blackhawks
- Saint Paul Saints Baseball
- Saint Paul Pioneers Football

# Events of 2011

## Cultural Festivals

- Hmong International Freedom Celebration
- Italian Fest
- Dragon Boat Festival
- Cinco de Mayo
- Rondo Days
- Ethiopian Celebration of the Cross

## Downtown Events

- Red Bull Open Ice Pond Hockey Tournament
- Flint Hills Children's Festival
- Saint Paul Winter Carnival
- Zombie Pub Crawl
- Frozen Four Block Party
- Bike/Walk to work day
- Music in Mears
- Red Bull Mississippi Grind
- Nature Valley Grand Prix Bike Event
- Wells Fargo WinterSkate

## Winter Carnival

### Holiday Lights at Phalen



### Harriet Island Events

- ADA Bike Race
- Nature Valley Bike Time Trials
- Time to Fly
- Irish Fair
- July 4th Fireworks
- Optum Health Triathlon
- Builders Club



## Athletics

- Minnesota Class A State Amateur Baseball Tournament
- Rice St. Festival Softball Tournament
- Capital City Softball Tournament
- Paul Molitor Classic Youth Baseball Tournament
- Dave Winfield/Kirby Puckett 12U RBI Tournament
- MSF Winter Carnival Broomball Tournament
- Rookies/Harding Area Youth Softball Tournament
- 12U & 10U USSSA Youth Rec. State Softball Tournament
- Multiple Youth and Adult Playoffs/Tournaments
- 2nd Annual Halloween Bash Softball Tournament
- 18U & 15U RBI World Series Baseball Tournament
- 18U RBI World Series Fast Pitch Tournament
- Capital City Youth Football Camp
- Night Moves Baseball/Softball Camp



COMO PARK  
ZOO & CONSERVATORY

## Como Zoo & Conservatory Events

- Zoo Cool Party
- Orchid Show
- Winter Flower Show
- Enchanted Evening
- Kids' Zoobilee
- MN Parent Camp Fair
- Spring Flower Show
- Toad'ally Awesome Amphibians
- Wedding Showcase Open House
- Party for the Planet
- Summer Flower Show
- Mother's Day Bonsai Show
- Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival
- Grandparents Safari Weekend
- Free to be Green
- Zoo Boo
- Ikebana Show
- Orangutan Awareness Weekend
- Noon Year's Eve





# Landmark Tree Program



The Tree Advisory Panel selected six new trees that represent the unique and outstanding tree species that grow within the community forest and provide myriad benefits including local food production.

- Hawthorne Avenue Apple Tree
- Hamline Avenue Northern Catalpa
- Crosby Farm Regional Park Kentucky Coffeetree Grove
- Eleanor Avenue Hackberry
- Holly Avenue Bur Oak
- Jefferson Avenue Tulip Poplar

## Details:

- **Apple tree**
  - Provides multiple benefits, shade for the house and deck as well as fruit, serving as a great model for local food production at the residential scale
- **Catalpa**
  - Trunk is over 5 feet in diameter
  - Flowers, leaves, seed pods, and form provides year-round interest in the landscape
- **Coffeetree grove**
  - Unique in Saint Paul for the number and size of Coffeetrees at a single location
- **Bur Oak**
  - Neighborhood landmark – photo of the tree found in the Minnesota Historical Society photo database taken around 1890
  - Tree was very likely established and growing prior to the development of the surrounding neighborhood in the 1880's and 1890's
- **Hackberry**
  - This tree is six inches shy of the state record for trunk diameter
  - Expansive canopy provides shade for the homeowner and the neighbors house
- **Tulip Poplar**
  - At the extent of the trees growing range so somewhat unique in Saint Paul

Nominations are accepted each year through August 1. Everyone is encouraged to nominate their favorite tree by visiting the Landmark Tree page on the Forestry website.



The Most Livable  
City in America

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation