



Park Notes

Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County
1660 Laurel Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104
Vol. 31, Number 1 www.FriendsoftheParks.org Autumn, 2016



Friends' President, Mark Nolan, presents outgoing Founding Member, Jeanne Weigum, with her special award, commemorating over three decades of dedicated service to Friends of the Parks and Trails.



At the 2016 Annual Meeting, Marquis Mendoza accepts the Volunteer Service Award on behalf of the students of Gordon Parks High School.

Jeanne is one of the founding directors of the Friends and the initial meeting took place in her living room. At that time the plan was not to create an organization but to prevent condos from being built in Crosby Regional Park. Today that seems like one of the most far-fetched ideas ever and likely one so dumb that no one would ever consider it.

But consider it they did, and without citizen organizing and media advocacy we would likely have lost that lovely park forever. No condos were built and developers were on notice that the parks had a new set of friends.

With that victory under our belts we decided to create an organization that would advocate for parks and open space. While there were groups that advocated for specific playgrounds or ball fields, there was no one who saw protecting parks, trails and open space as their mission. And so the Friends were born.

Since that early meeting Jeanne has worked on the newsletter, tree sale, been treasurer and president. She came up with this novel idea recently that she wanted to retire. According to Jeanne, she will not ride off into the sunset, but can be counted on to offer counsel, wise or otherwise, and support. A Tribute Tree will be planted in her honor and she will serve as Director Emeritus on the Board of Directors.

Marquis Mendoza and Song Yang, former students of Gordon Parks High School, were instrumental in advocating for the newest park in St. Paul. Known as both Three Ring Gardens and The Park at Griggs, the name, like the park, is still in a bit of transition.

Marquis and Song worked with teachers, administrators, and fellow students to choose a project where they could make a difference in their community. They worked in collaboration with other community groups, including the Union Park District Council and the Trust for Public Land. The new park runs along the east side of Griggs Street between University and St. Anthony Avenues.

Friends on the Front Lines

Some of the topics we've been working on. Go to our website for more information and to see how you can help. [Check for updates and like us on Facebook, too.](#)

- Add parkland zoning designation to St. Paul zoning code
- Exploring options for Totem Town if/when it closes
- Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area rule revisions
- Removing Swede Hollow Park as transit option
- Rice Creek Commons, Ford Site, soccer site development
- Universally Accessible Playground at Victoria Park
- Active Living Ramsey Communities Bike/Ped Masterplan
- Met Council Equity in Parks Tool Kit development

Park Notes is published by
Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County
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