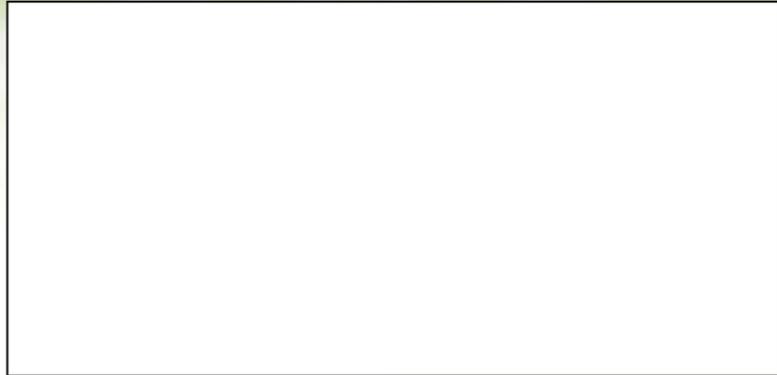


THE FRIENDS OF THE PARKS AND TRAILS
OF ST. PAUL AND RAMSEY COUNTY
1660 LAUREL AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55104

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Volunteer Park Patrol



Looking for an opportunity to get outside this summer and stay active? This summer Saint Paul Parks and Recreation is piloting a Volunteer Park Patrol program in Como Regional Park to help create safe and welcoming environments for park visitors. The program is looking for six to eight individuals to volunteer for the pilot season. The first group of volunteers will help to develop the program.

The main responsibilities of the volunteer Park Patrol will be serving as ambassadors to Como Regional Park, greeting and assisting park visitors with general questions, providing basic First

Aid/CPR when necessary and providing information to police and Park Security to help prevent criminal activity.

Volunteers will serve in teams of two. Park Patrol volunteers commit to at least eight hours per month, starting at the end of May. Volunteers will be able to choose from three-hour shifts during the week and two-hour shifts during the weekends.

If you're interested in volunteering for Park Patrol in Como Regional Park, please contact Ryanna Jackson, Volunteer Coordinator, at 651-632-2411 or Ryanna.Jackson@ci.stpaul.mn.us



Park Notes

Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County
1660 Laurel Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104
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Parks Lose a Friend



David M. Lilly

With the death of David Lilly on February 12 the parks and the Friends of the Parks lost a true friend. David served on the Board of the Friends of the Parks from 1989 to 1999, when he was elected Director Emeritus. His foundation, R.C. Lilly Foundation, contributed to the operation of the Friends beginning in the middle 1980s. David was a great benefactor of the parks and the Friends of the Parks for over 25 years.

David had both a business and government background. He purchased the Toro Company with two college classmates after serving in World War II. He later served as president of the company.

He also served on the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Later, he filled an opening as Governor of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C.

David was interested in establishing a beautiful environment. One example of that inclination is an outside garden he created near the Federal Reserve Building in Washington, D.C. After his return to Minnesota, Lilly was recruited to become Dean of the University of Minnesota School of Management, now the Carlson School of Management. He was later appointed Vice President for Finance and Operations for the University. The East Bank campus at the U created and named the David M. Lilly Plaza garden in his honor.

As a strong supporter of our organization the R.C. Lilly Foundation has contributed financially to the Friends for close to twenty-five years. David encouraged beautification of parks along with increasing access to the Mississippi River by citizens. Lilly wanted to mold St. Paul into a version of a northern Minnesotan town where people could walk by the river, hike, and bird watch. David loved being active in the outdoors. He continued downhill skiing until his mid 80s.

A reception will be held to honor his memory at 4 p.m. March 31, at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. The Friends extends sincere condolences to David's family.

St. Paul Bikeways Plan



In the late 1880s, planners in St. Paul envisioned a giant figure 8 encircling Minneapolis and St. Paul, crisscrossing the two cities with a continuity of trails. While our neighbor Minneapolis moved ahead creating the bicycle-friendly Grand Rounds, Midtown Greenway and Chain of Lake trails, St. Paul has been slow to adopt similar facilities. The new Bikeways Plan is a vision to provide a safe and affordable means of travel around St. Paul. It will make St. Paul a more bike-friendly city.

The City of St. Paul recently issued a draft bikeways plan to establish a framework for development of new bikeway corridors. The St. Paul Comprehensive Plan approved by the City Council in 2008 projects a strong vision to increase the number of bicycle trips throughout the city. Their goal is to increase the bicycle mode transportation share from 2% in 2000 to 5% in 2025.

Currently there are 144 miles of bikeways in St. Paul. The plan recommends developing 214 additional miles of bikeways for a total of 358 miles. 68% of the total recommended bikeway network will be off-street paths or in-street separated accommodations such as bike lanes or cycle tracks. Another 13% will be bicycle boulevard facilities, and local neighborhood streets with low traffic volumes.

The draft bikeways plan will be implemented over the next 20-30 years. The first piece to be built is a 1.7 mile dedicated downtown off-street trail around the loop on Kellogg Boulevard, Jackson, St. Peter and 10th Streets. Phase 1 of the Loop Trail will be Jackson Street, connecting the Samuel Morgan Regional Trail to the Gateway Trail.

A series of public hearings was held in February. Follow this link to additional ways to be involved:

www.stpaul.gov/bikeplan

You can also:

- Subscribe to the Saint Paul Bikes Newsletter to stay informed: www.stpaul.gov/bikeplan
- Voice your opinions and ideas online at Open Saint Paul
- Attend public meetings of the Transportation Committee, Planning Commission, and City Council (dates to be announced)
- Testify at upcoming public hearings (dates to be announced)

Elm Trees - Past, Present & Future

Based on info from Barb Spears
St. Paul Tree Advisory Panel

The St. Paul Tree Advisory Panel aims to honor St. Paul's important and iconic American elm trees. There are very few of these grand trees still shading our city, due of course to Dutch elm disease which was first discovered in St. Paul in 1961. With financial and staff support from the City of St. Paul, the Department of Parks and Recreation Forestry Division and the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities through its CityLabs Program, the project "Writing the Story of St. Paul's Iconic American Elms" is underway!

This project will link St. Paul's past, present, and future through the lens of the City's previously abundant American elm (*Ulmus americana*) trees and their impact on the community. With the aim of preserving communal memories of St. Paul's elms, students from the University of St. Thomas will create a detailed narrative constructed from interviews conducted with a diverse selection of community members. This story, enhanced by archival research and future plans for the urban forest, will be transformed into education and outreach pieces to be shared throughout the City at community events and other venues. The project aspires to promote the value of large trees and encourage their care and preservation in the City, particularly in light of new threats to the urban forest such as the emerald ash borer.

The Friends will keep this project visible to its members as it is so aligned with our mission. Watch for updates.



INTRODUCING SHIRLEY ERSTAD THE FRIENDS' NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Shirley graduated from South Dakota State University with a political science degree. She worked for U.S. Senator Larry Pressler in Washington, DC. She has experience lobbying two State Legislatures (MN and SD) for higher and early childhood education. She's looking forward to her Friends of the Parks role helping shape public policy as an advocate for parks and trails.

Shirley and her husband have three talented daughters in high school and college. They work with an international student exchange program, and have hosted students in their home. Shirley has worked on behalf of Sierra Club, the American Red Cross, and Children's Home Society. Her present volunteer work is with a dog rescue service. Some of her positions include secretary, office manager and reference librarian, as well as a "domestic engineer" (a stay at home mom!). The Erstad family raises monarchs, and their city garden is loaded with native plants that sustain monarchs and other butterflies, bees, and bugs. The saying, "You can take the girl off the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the girl" is very true about Shirley!

When she isn't walking her three dogs, Shirley likes to garden, camp, hike, bike, travel, read, and watch the Vikings. She is a big fan of the BWCA. One year she and her family made quick visits to 20 National Parks in the southwest in only 17 days!

This past summer the Erstads were finally rewarded with their first crop of apples and plums from trees purchased at The Friend's tree sale in 2009. As the new Executive Director, Shirley looks forward to letting people know about The Friend's great work, as well as encouraging others to donate, plant and nurture trees for everyone's enjoyment and benefit.