

## Spring Ahead!

March 2018

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### Are you getting ready?

Hopefully we have had our March hockey tournament snowfall and Spring is upon us. It will soon be time to set up our greenhouses and start filling them with seedlings.

We will have our **All-Gardeners' Meeting** on March 24th. There will be some changes this year to who needs to attend and when - see the following article for details.

The Arthur and Yale plot assignments are set and there is no more room in the Inn. We do have raised beds and GardenShare memberships available at the Towerside site.

Green 4th has broken ground on the Towerside block and the Fresh Thyme grocery store will open on April 11th. Planning for the Bridal Veil Trail is in full swing. We have a seat at the table so that we can help decide the future of the PPCG Towerside site.

Thanks to all who participated in the MPRB Design Session at Luxton Park. Lots of great ideas! We need to continue to be an active part of defining what lies ahead for our Urban Agrihood in Prospect Park. Please attend the important planning meetings that are coming up so that we can hear from you. I'm excited to share more news as the vision unfolds.

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### All-Gardeners Meeting - March 24th

The [Evite](#) for the meeting was sent to the active gardeners on Tuesday, March 6. 78% have viewed the invitation, but 35% have **not** RSVPed so **PLEASE** take a moment to RSVP. While space will be plentiful in the **Community Hall of the Prospect Park United Methodist Church, 22 Orlin Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN**, we still need to plan appropriately.

Once again, this is a **REQUIRED** meeting. If you are unable to attend someone must attend on your behalf. We have made changes to the attendance requirement, however.

- If you have **not** attended an All-Gardeners' Meeting previously, you are **required** to be there from **10:00 AM -12:00 PM**, for both the **Orientation** (10 AM to 11 AM) and the **Site Breakouts**.
- If you **have** been to a required meeting in the past you can show up for just the Site Breakouts (11 AM to 12 PM).
- This will be a great opportunity to reunite with your fellow gardeners. This is also where you can sign up for your service commitments. Additionally we will review our policies, procedures, and projects and answer any questions.

So again, please RSVP to the [Evite](#) so that we can plan accordingly with space, numbers of copies of the materials, etc.

### Seed Swap

Lydia and DWI picked up some great seeds from the Minnesota Green Seed Giveaway. They will be available at the **Seed Swap** at the end of the meeting. Bring some of your extra seeds and swap them with others who have seeds you would like to try. There will also be an opportunity to swap plants later. This will be an opportunity to put the extra seedlings you grow to good use and to try some new plants that others have leftover.

### Updated Handbook and Survey

We have updated the PPCG Gardener's Handbook for 2018. You can find that [HERE](#). We have also changed the onboarding process. We will be using the online [SURVEY](#) to collect information instead of using a Commitment Form. More on that at the meeting.

### Plot Fees

Thanks to all of you for getting your plot fees in by March 1st. A reminder that some of the plot fees increased effective March 1. They are now \$35 for a full plot and \$15 for a 4x8 raised bed at Towerside. Half plots and the Towerside GardenShare will remain at \$20.

### Welcome to the New Gardener!

See the article on Page 2.

### PicStrip:



## Welcome New Gardeners!

It's still too early to know who is not returning, but we have picked up some new gardeners this year. Welcome aboard!

- The Weavers Guild (T)
- Lily Wood (Y)
- Kara Rheingans (T GS)

## SGAD Flash Mob Workday

We are thrilled that once again that [Surly Gives A Damn](#) will be having a flash mob work day on April 14th from 9 AM to 11:30 AM for the PPCG. Some of projects on the docket for this year include:

- Install the rest of the planter boxes at the Hanging Gardens
- Fill the liners with soil and put them in the boxes
- Move two raised beds to open up a path to the Stormwater Park
- Build a gravel bed nursery
- Build steps at the entrance to Towerside
- Finish rebuilding the hydroponic tomato rack

And if time allows:

- Rebuild the shed at Yale

As with previous years we'll have our hands full keeping up with them so we are going to ask that the PPCG gardeners give them the space to do their thing. We pull the PPCG ranks together for a work day at another time. Thanks just the same to those who have offered to be there. That said, I am looking for a handful of reliable PPCG folks who can act as leaders for each SGAD work team. If you fit that bill let me know.

## Good Neighbor Fund Grant Applications

Last year the Hanging Gardens of Towerside was awarded a grant from the Good Neighbor Fund. This year we submitted an application for a grant to help with rebuilding the Wildflower Garden at the Towerside site. An excerpt for their application:

“The partners for this proposal would like to transform a hillside along the north side of the Towerside site of the Prospect Park Community Gardens into a 2,000 square-foot immersive pollinator garden with opportunities for engagement, education and research. In addition to providing crucial habitat (food and shelter) for native pollinators, (specifically the recently-endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee), it will boost the yields of adjacent vegetable gardens, provide natural beauty in a transforming urban neighborhood, and serve as an awareness tool to educate pedestrians on the importance of pollinator gardens.”

Towerside also submitted an application for a grant to fund, in part, a street festival in the fall. This is the 2018 evolution of the Harvest Fest that we have had at the PPCG Towerside site for the past two years. An

excerpt from that application:

“On Saturday October 13th, 2018 from 4:00-8:00pm several local partners will celebrate the completion of the ‘Green 4th Street’ project with a Grand Opening Celebration and Street Festival. The event will begin with a ‘Puppet Parade’ featuring sculptural creations made by area youth working with Prospect Park-based sculptor Doug Freeman. The sculptures will be temporarily installed in the community garden and Stormwater Park along 4th St and 29th Ave and will become the first public art installation of Green 4th Street.

Before and after the parade several local musical performers will be stationed along the street. Performances will be on the permanent stage being built in the street boulevard as well as on a stage inside the adjacent community garden. There will be a bonfire at the Towerside site of the Prospect Park Community Gardens and they will be providing free pizzas made with the fresh garden harvest produce before food trucks, local restaurants from the Business Alliance, and the new Fresh Thyme grocery store begin selling an array of food options in the evening.

The Prospect Park Community Gardens will also be demonstrating urban agriculture practices while the MWMO hosts a ‘bio-blitz’ for students and families to learn about the watershed and the habitats supported by Green 4th and the Stormwater Park.”