

Greening Frogtown

Dale Street: Frogtown's 'Green Artery'



From vacant lots to lots of possibilities: An artist's conceptions for lots at the Dale and Lafond intersection.

In 2015, look for exciting green changes on Dale Street, among Frogtown's major north-south arterial thoroughfares. With \$60,000 from the Knight Foundation, local urban farmers at Stone's Throw Farm will invest in more permanent infrastructure on a lot at 625 North Dale that the Farm leases from the City of Saint Paul.

"We'll be adding hoop houses, seating, and a street-side market stand," said Farm staffer Caroline Devany. The Farm will grow into a pedestrian-friendly business and provide a space for sharing knowledge about urban farms and backyard gardening. Across the street, the neighborhood's "Tree Frogs" group has plans for more

permanent seating, an archway, and signs to enhance the Pop-Up Park at the corner of Dale Street and Lafond.

"Every fall, we've given away fruit and shade trees to residents. Next winter, we're hoping to also be able to give out Christmas trees to families who need them," says Tree Frogs member Liz Colwell.



Top: Dale and Lafond, west side. Bottom: Dale and Lafond, east side. Renderings by Nicole Peterson, MLA, LOCI, loci-presarch.com

Why Have Farms in Cities?

Stone's Throw Urban Farm will be expanding their farm activities at 625 Dale Street, which will increase Frogtowners' immediate access to fresh produce. But beyond that benefit, what's the point of a farm in a city neighborhood? Plenty, as Frogtown Green's Shelby Maidl reports:

Research shows being in natural spaces reduces stress and mental fatigue from the daily hustle and bustle of city life. Even spending a half hour in a small garden can be restorative to personal wellbeing. Green places like farms and gardens provide an open, friendly space that increases interactions between neighbors and reduces isolation, creating bonds between people who happen to live in the same place.

The process of establishing a farm or community garden also brings a neighborhood to the attention of local officials. Community members negotiate and establish agreements with the city. As barriers between residents and officials are reduced, new avenues for community-directed change and action open up. Beyond strengthening the community, urban gardens also

bring economic benefits. Property values surrounding a garden or farm increase, increasing household prosperity and assets for homeowners.

Frogtown has the opportunity to embrace such a space. Rather than see the lot at Dale and Lafond become a receptacle for litter, we are excited to see the Farm prosper and grow and bring positive benefits to the neighborhood.



A Green Gathering

February 22, 2015

Calling all Frogtowners and friends working to make this neighborhood the greenest it has ever been. Let's get together!



Frogtown's City Councilmember Dai Thao speaks at last year's Green Gathering at Rondo Library.

A "Green Gathering" hosted by Frogtown Green and partners is slated for Sunday, February 22, from 2-4 PM at Rondo Library. Neighborhood gardening, farming and environmental organizations and businesses are invited to share information about their work and progress and to network with others. We'll have delicious snacks, activities for kids and more. Mark your calendar!

'Bring the Frogs Back to Frogtown': Progress by Leaps and Bounds



That's why it's called Frogtown? Yup.

Frogtowners may be hearing spring peepers and other frogs again soon, thanks to Christine Baeumler, a public artist and environmentalist. Baeumler will be working with Frogtown Green to research and propose possible ways to restore the site of a former landfill to a state pristine enough to support frogs and other watery creatures. The initiative got a boost last month from the Capitol Region Watershed District, which

granted Frogtown Green a second year of funding for raingarden maintenance at the Minnehaha Mall, at Pierce Butler Route and Minnehaha Avenue.

"The money will support demos and education about how raingardens filter stormwater runoff from streets and parking lots, that would otherwise pollute wildlife habitat: rivers, ponds and streams," says Frogtown Green coordinator Patricia Ohmans.

Frogtown Businesses Save \$\$ by Recycling and Composting

If you own a business in Frogtown, a grant of up to \$10,000 can help you kickstart or improve your recycling or organics diversion program (so you save even more).

Trash haulers charge by weight. Has your business thought about diverting food waste from your trash so it won't be so heavy and expensive?

Starter grants from BizRecycling, a public health program, can help you get a program started at your place of business. Funds can be used for equipment and supplies, or to help train staff or inform the public.

For restaurants and other businesses, just starting or improving a composting program could make you eligible for up to three months of

reimbursement, according to the program's staff. Improvements could include adding new materials such as paper towel waste or food waste from employee break rooms to an existing composting program.

Interested? The program is free.

"Advisors from BizRecycling offer a short site visit at a time that fits your schedule," says program manager Joel Anderson. "The consultant will give you lots of options for designing a new, or improving an existing recycling and/or organics recycling



Wet, heavy food waste adds hundreds of dollars to trash-hauling bills. Composting takes weight out, turning trash into savings.

Photo courtesy BizRecycling

program that meets your business needs," Anderson adds. To find out more, visit LessTrash.com or call 651-266-1199.

The 2015 Garden Tour is Coming This Spring— So Nominate A Frogtown Garden!



Is there a beautiful garden on your block? Do your neighbor's tomatoes inspire envy? Does your own garden generate oohs and aahs? Share the beauty! Let everyone know: when it comes to gardens, Frogtown rules.

Nominate your favorite Frogtown garden, urban farm or greenspace for the 2015 Frogtown Garden Tour. Just call 651-757-5970 and give us the garden's address and, if you know it, the gardener's name. We'll take it from there.

The Bees Say: Pleeze, Stop Killing Us With Those Pesticides

Beekeepers, gardeners and other green advocates converged on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in early December 2014 to deliver petitions asking the Department to consider banning neonicotinoids, a type of pesticide linked to massive extermination of bees and other pollinators. Urban gardens need bees, too, so Frogtown Green sent a letter to Agriculture



photo by Mikenna Wolff
Commissioner Fredrickson, supporting their request.



Frogtown. Green grows here.

Greening Frogtown is published six times a year by Frogtown Green, a community volunteer initiative to make Frogtown the greenest neighborhood in Saint Paul.

Find out more at frogtowngreen.info or call 651-757-5970.

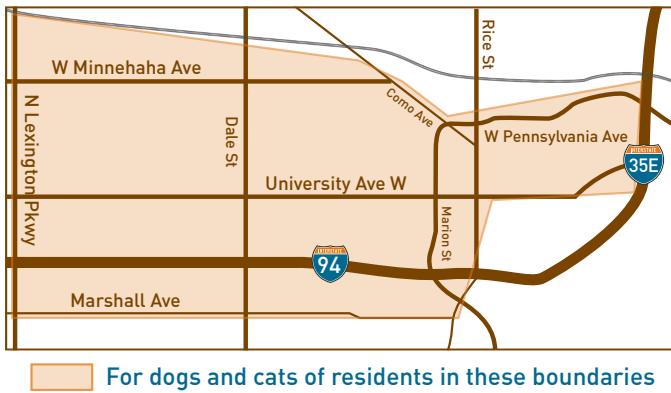
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on the Sledding Hill,
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Let's Talk About CATS!

Cats Are Your Friends! They kill rats and mice far more often than they kill birds. Why seek dinner that flies away? Take care of your friends. Keep your pets indoors. Provide winter shelter for community cats.

For more information, call Molly at 651-642-5900, ext.4 or email outreach@felinerescue.org

For more information on shelter for community outdoor cats, see www.allevcat.org.

Feline Rescue, Inc.

593 Fairview Avenue North
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www.felinerescue.org
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533 Dale Street N. or 35 Water Street W.
651-292-8710 nwhomepartners.org



St. Stephanus Church

739 Lafond Avenue, Saint Paul

Celebrating 125 years of worship, service and community in the Frogtown neighborhood with special services and events throughout 2015.

Worship: 8am and 10:30 am
Bible study and Sunday School: 9:15 am
frogtownneighbors@gmail.com

"I saw heaven open" is our theme for this year.



INFORMATION NIGHT
January 29, 5:30-7:30 PM

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