



Another full and fruitful Wildflower Garden season has come to pass. It's a delight to reflect on the inspired work of the past 12 months carried out by staff members, volunteers and the Friends. I'm continually impressed with the dedication and good-spirit with which this community of educators, stewards and supporters approaches the day-in, day-out work of the Garden. What great fortune we have, to do our very best here, so that all—visitors, plants and animals—can revel and thrive in a wild native plant Garden, full of nature's splendor and sanctuary.

A few highlights from the late autumn and early winter

Extensive buckthorn removal in Wildflower Garden and surrounds

A great team effort created fabulous results. Staff members spent a large part of November and early December removing "second generation" buckthorn from the entire Garden, and it shows! We were fortunate to have the assistance of hard-working Minnesota Conservation Corps crew members helping us with buckthorn removal in the Garden's wetland and along the east fence line outside of the Garden, which is one of the areas the Friends have been caring for so diligently. On two days, staff members and the MCC crew worked in this area with many seemingly tireless volunteers from the Friends. We are all looking forward to sharing the renewed beauty of the Garden next spring.

Full Survey of Wildflower Garden: Wonderful Management Tool

Prompted by the planning process for the wetland boardwalk project, a full topographical survey of the Garden was conducted in December. In addition to elevations, the survey includes accurate trail, building, bench, fountain, utility and fence locations; and an updated inventory of all trees with a diameter (at 4.5' above ground) of 4" or greater. The wetland portion of the Garden will be surveyed in the spring. In addition to its usefulness for the development of the new boardwalk design and installation specifications, this information will be helpful in managing the Garden in future.

Wetland Boardwalk Project Developments: Great Progress

It is thrilling that we continue to make progress on the development of a plan to install a boardwalk through the wetland area of the Garden. The boardwalk project goes above and beyond the bridge replacement project outlined in the Garden's management plan and addresses a key need to improve the trail system through the heart of the Garden. In addition to the survey work, five soil borings were taken in December to assess several characteristics of the soil in the wetland. This was done to ensure that site-appropriate materials and footings will be used to stabilize the boardwalk in our unique wetland setting. The thoughtful design and installation of a boardwalk in this area will provide for an enduring and ecologically sound addition to the infrastructure of the Garden. As planning for the wetland boardwalk project continues, I would like to thank the Friends again for their ongoing commitment to and enthusiasm for this project, including sustained efforts

to raise funds to go toward materials and installation of the boardwalk. I would like to extend one grand end-of-the-year thank you to the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden for the tremendous amount of support and generosity this organization continues to bestow upon our treasured public Garden. The Friends support the Garden in so many vital ways, from helping to grow programming for young people, through transportation grants, to funding planting projects and fundraising for the wetland boardwalk project. The Friends have been staunch supporters of the Garden for the past 59 years. It's collaborative and sustaining relationships like these that make gardens like ours grow.

During this quiet and beautifully still time of year, as we continue to do our field work and planning and preparations for the next growing season, the wise words of Henry David Thoreau seem most welcome:

“We are enabled to apprehend at all what is sublime and noble only by the perpetual instilling and drenching of the reality that surrounds us.

We can never have enough of nature.”



A Note From Susan Wilkins GARDEN CURATOR

The seasonal wheel has turned again. Spring is here, with all of her delicacies and delights, including the unlocked gates at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.

The Wildflower Garden's 105th season is now underway. A great number of wonderful plantings, new projects and dynamic programs are planned. Here are a few highlights.

- Trees, shrubs, wildflowers, sedges and ferns will be planted on both sides of Violet Way trail this spring, thanks to the generosity of the Friends.
- Two Step-Up Teen interns will be on staff this season to assist with gardening tasks and youth programs.

- Art in the Garden events will take place on Saturdays, June through August, in partnership with the Minneapolis Institute of Art.
- The June 16-17 Urban Birding Festival will include many family-focused birding programs and activities at the Wildflower Garden and in Theodore Wirth Park.
- Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) will be assisting staff members with invasive species removal periodically throughout the season. In addition, the CCM crew will be teaching a group of young people from North Minneapolis about invasive plants. Sessions will take place in the classroom and the Garden.

- Several special classes will be offered, including Wildflower Photography, Gardening with Native Plants, Plant Taxonomy and Families, and Medicinal Plants of the Garden.
- Honeybees will be housed at the Wildflower Garden, and pollinator-focused programming will be offered to the public.

To find out more about current and future happenings at the Garden, visit www.minneapolisparcs.org/ebwg.

We look forward to seeing you at the Wildflower Garden soon!

A NOTE FROM SUSAN WILKINS, CURATOR

Happy 60th Anniversary, Friends of the Wild Flower Garden! Sixty wonderful years have passed since your organization formally started dedicating time, resources and vision to the care and improvement of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary. The Wildflower Garden is immeasurably fortunate to have Friends that are steadfast in their commitment to nurture everything that makes it what it is. As we all know, the whole of the Wildflower Garden is far greater than the sum of its parts.

Thank you for being such an essential part of this whole that is the Wildflower Garden.

In September, additional wildflowers and ferns will be planted along the hillside with the remaining funds from the donation given by the Friends for this project. Walking along Violet Way Trail has become even more delightful with the addition of more than 3,000 plants this year! Thank you to the Friends for your continued support of these important planting projects.

In addition to the plantings noted above, more than 2,700 more trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns and sedges had been planted throughout the Wildflower Garden through July. That makes a current total of more than 5,700 plants added to the collections in 2012.

The removal of invasive species and other weedy plants continues to be an ongoing maintenance activity and key management goal at the Wildflower Garden. Much time this season has been given to removing garlic mustard, buckthorn, reed canary grass, periwinkle, dame's rocket, moneywort and creeping Charlie. A huge thank you goes out to the many volunteers who dedicate themselves to removing invasive plants from the Wildflower Garden and the preservation zone surrounding the Wildflower Garden.

The Garden's 105th season has been full of wonderful activities, including large planting projects, plant rescues, dynamic environmental education programs for youth, adult programs on a variety of subjects, international visitors and much more. This is all in addition to the day-in and day-out work of maintaining trails and buildings, managing plant pests and diseases, removing invasive plants, caring for existing plants in the collection, leading public programs for Garden visitors, providing educational materials for the public and working with an amazing group of dedicated volunteers in a variety of ways. A few highlights from the season are mentioned below.

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, staff members have planted more than 150 woody trees and shrubs and more than 2,850 woodland wildflowers, sedges and ferns along Violet Way Trail and the adjacent hillside. Among the many species are: blue beech, American plum, red elderberry, chokecherry, sugar maple, witch hazel, Missouri gooseberry, wild black cherry, gray dogwood, American hazelnut, wood lily, wild leek, early meadowrue, wild blue phlox, zig-zag goldenrod, Jacob's ladder, wild geranium, large-leaved aster, wild ginger, white woodland aster, maidenhair fern, short's aster, blue cohosh, red baneberry, Pennsylvania sedge and Solomon's seal.

Assisting with invasive species removal this season was a group of six women from around the world, recognized as influential leaders working on climate change issues. The women—from Morocco, Liberia, Brazil, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Ethiopia—were in the United States as participants in an International Visitor Leadership Program sponsored by the Department of State. They toured the Wildflower Garden, discussed environmental issues that affect the global community as a result of the increase in invasive species, and volunteered together, removing periwinkle from the Wildflower Garden's native woodland plant collection.



Photos above: Shrubs awaiting planting

Photos right: Interns Caitlyn Bergh (l.) and Xiaomin Han (r.) installing perennial plants

Photos by Judy Remington

