



Friends Of The Wild Flower Garden

Dear Friend of the Wild Flower Garden,

Two years ago, your board of directors reviewed what we agreed was our mission:

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden is an organization of private Citizens whose purpose is to protect, preserve and promote the interests of the Garden, for its unique beauty, and as a sanctuary for native flora and fauna of Minnesota, and to educate and inspire people of all ages in relating to the natural world.

A compelling concern emerged: how to sustain our work and support the Garden into the future.

In addition to the Friends' invaluable volunteer contributions, the board designates about \$7,000 each year for plant materials, tree seedlings, and infrastructure repair to nurture and maintain the Garden. We select these projects in consultation with the Garden Curator, using funds from two sources: membership fees and a portion of the interest income on our current endowment.

The need for funds to care for the Garden will always exceed the public monies available through the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. New costs arise from new threats to the Garden, among them invasive plants and pests, violent storms and climate change. The economy and the aging of a significant portion of our membership are also concerns.

Looking to the future, the board initiated several strategies to ensure our ability to provide ongoing support, including membership promotion, networking with like-minded organizations, and enhanced communication through our website and the Gentian. And, in our 60th anniversary year, 2012, we plan to initiate a capital campaign to grow our endowment.

Today, we are excited to announce a special project for 2011, the Cary George Wetland Project. We invite all Friends to join us in this important restoration of Garden infrastructure. It will be of great benefit to Garden visitors, while honoring the dedication of our fourth Gardener. Please take a look at the attached description and consider joining in this commemorative endeavor.

The economy has taken an undue toll on many of us. Thank you for your continued annual membership contributions. They are of great value to the organization and continue to be our largest source of funds. But, if you do have some additional discretionary capacity, your consideration of this appeal is greatly appreciated. We know that many Friends deeply value Cary's service to our treasured Wild Garden. We hope you will choose to help if you can.

Sincerely, *J Pam Weiner*

J Pam Weiner, President

P.S. If you wish to know more details about Friends finances, board service or our mission please contact J Pam Weiner at drjpw@earthlink.net or 612 377 3573.

A support group for The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary