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23

We're Greener!

FROGTOWN GREEN
ANNUAL REPORT



2023 in Pictures...

WE WERE BUSY ALL YEAR LONG



WE GREW FRESH FOOD FOR FAMILIES

Frogtown is not a food desert—with its plentiful grocery stores, it's more like an oasis. But who doesn't like to supplement store-bought stuff with fresh watermelon, okra or corn? More than 60 Frogtown gardeners harvested crops from our two big community gardens this year.

WE PLANTED HUNDREDS OF TREES

This year we closed in on an amazing goal—1,000 trees planted since 2011. By the end of next year, we will be well on our way to the next 1,000. Thanks to our industrious volunteer Tree Frogs, the neighborhood is (even) greener and cooler.



WE MADE SUSTAINABILITY FUN!

Neighborhood children and their families learned about birds, bees, compost, gardening, the water cycle and more at our year-round FrogLab sessions. And in August, more than 250 Frogtown kids and adults attended our summer Climate Carnival, chockablock with sustainability-focused games.

...And Achievements

VOLUNTEERS HELPED US GROW

WE MADE A BIGGER, BETTER BEE LINE

Pierce Butler Route is a busy, mostly barren transitway on the north end of Frogtown. But pockets of beauty burst with color and health this year, thanks to our Bee Line volunteers, who planted, weeded and watered native gardens along the 2.5 mile stretch. The bees were abuzz!



WE TENDED OUR PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

From April, when we kicked off the neighborhood's parks clean-up, to November, when we finally put away our pitchforks and weeding tools, we were busy every day of the week, maintaining and improving Frogtown's greenspaces.

WE SUPPORTED OUR PARTNERS

PFor example, this year we partnered with the Cash Money Ryders and Safe City Project on their twice-weekly outdoor food distributions at the Lily Pad community garden. We also supported tree-planting groups in three nearby neighborhoods and two public housing complexes.



We're Greener, but...

THE STAKES GET HIGHER EVERY YEAR



CLIMATE CHANGE HIT HARD IN 2023

Gardens withered. Tree leaves shriveled. And we watered, watered, and then watered some more, during the hottest July on record—July 2023.

Summer in Minnesota is always hot, but we hit a record stretch of drought and heat this past year. And this was just a taste of the heat waves to come, as our planet quickly warms.



HOW WE RESPONDED TO THE CHALLENGE

The good news is that our efforts are paying off. Some numbers to tell the story:

- More than 1,000 trees in the ground
- 250 Climate Carnival attendees
- 10,400 sq feet of pollinator gardens
- 8 years of weekly FrogLab sessions
- Countless hours of volunteer time

Many thanks to our photographers:

Cover: Climate Carnival, Phil Davies

Page 1: Our Village Gardener, Patricia Ohmans; Tree planters, Phil Davies; Climate Carnival kids, Phil Davies

Page 2: Bee Line, Stephanie Hankerson; Park cleanup volunteers, Tony Schmitz; Food distribution, Patricia Ohmans

Page 3: Watering, Canva; Volunteers, Patricia Ohmans

Back cover: Climate Carnival food booth, Phil Davies

...We Really Need You!

THANKS FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT

A NOTE FROM FROGTOWN GREEN'S FOUNDER

Frogtown Green is literally a kitchen table operation: we have no office other than my well-worn oak table. We save money that way. **We do a lot, with a little—** we now boast one full-time staffer, a couple of interns, plus me (at a stipend that matches my monthly Social Security check!)

Our annual budget of \$129,000 this year covered not only our **free tree planting program**, but also management of **three community gardens**, twice-weekly **FrogLab programs** for kids at Frogtown rec centers, and maintenance of **multiple pollinator-friendly gardens** throughout the neighborhood.

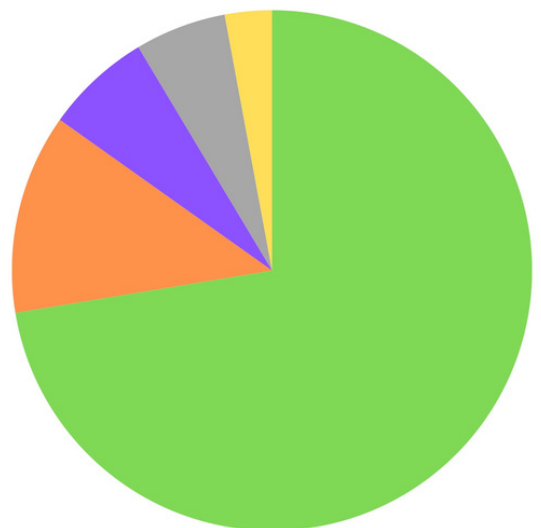
Not to mention repairs for my 1997 Ford Ranger, which has hauled hundreds of trees to their neighborhood homes. **Take a look at the chart, right, to see where the money goes:** 73% of it for greenspaces in Frogtown, and close to 20% for outreach and supplies for activities like FrogLab and Climate Carnival.

We all know that climate change will hit us hard in Frogtown. We're working as hard as we can to forestall its harshest effects. **If you'd like to help us out, just scan the QR code below.** And thanks!

Patricia Ohmans



- Greenspaces (planting trees, protecting pollinators)
- Outreach (FrogLab and Climate Carnival)
- Administration (keeping the lights on)
- Supplies (seeds, tools, water, mulch)
- Services (insurance, utilities)



WHERE THE MONEY WENT

OUR FUNDERS AND DONORS

In 2023, Frogtown Green was funded by contracts and grants from Great River Greening, the MN Department of Natural Resources, Capitol Region Watershed District, Banbro Inc, MN State Horticultural Society, Mortenson Foundation, Unity Church-Unitarian, Audubon Society and US Forest Service. In addition, we received donations from dozens of generous individuals. To learn more and to help support Frogtown Green, simply scan the QR code at right.



