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City in America

# Sustainable Saint Paul Briefings

January 2014

*The Sustainable Saint Paul Briefings is intended to provide quick updates on sustainable initiatives and projects in the City of Saint Paul.*



## Meet our MN GreenCorps Members!

The City of Saint Paul is hosting two Minnesota (MN) GreenCorps Members through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) MN GreenCorps program. The members started their terms in September 2013 and will be finishing in August 2014. Learn more about them in their words!



### Yen Tran - Waste Prevention and Recycling

"When I was four years old, my family moved from Vietnam to Saint Paul, MN. I've been living here practically my entire life thus far. I graduated from St. Catherine University in May of 2013. I obtained my Bachelors of Science in Public Health; Health Education. I have always had a deep rooted passion for the environment that stems all the way back when I was a youngling; my family would take a lot of camping trips and go on fishing outings. My parents told my siblings and I that the most beautiful things in life are not (material) gifts we seek but the gifts that are already presented all around us. During high school and college, I developed another passion for civic engagement.

I applied to be a MN GreenCorp Member to be able to work with both of my passions. I realize if I could help share my knowledge to the public, they may further understand the significant relationship between how the environment and human activity impacts each other's well-being and be inspired to take the initiative to lend a helping hand."

### Luke Hanson – Bicycling

"After spending my formative years in Milwaukee, WI, I moved to the Twin Cities in 2004 to pursue a degree in Urban Studies at the University of Minnesota. After graduating, I interned with Menomonee Valley Partners, an organization dedicated to the ecological and economic revitalization of Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley.

Finding Minnesota just too alluring, I moved back after my internship and worked in music marketing for a few years before serving as an employment coach with Catholic Charities in 2011. Following my stint in social work, I joined the Minnesota GreenCorps, a statewide environmental AmeriCorps program coordinated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. As a GreenCorps member I served with Cycles for Change, a Saint Paul non-profit committed to making bicycling accessible to those traditionally marginalized from the cycling community. In the fall of



2013, I decided to return as a GreenCorps member, this time joining the City of Saint Paul Department of Public Works. I am currently working in the Capital and Transportation Planning division, working with Reuben Collins on the Saint Paul Bikeways Plan and other bicycle related efforts. Serving as a GreenCorps member with the city has been an enlightening and rewarding experience, and I look forward to continuing to promote ecologically- and economically- sustainable transportation in Saint Paul.”

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## City Releases Bikeways Plan Draft



The City of Saint Paul Public Works Department has released a draft of the Citywide Bikeways Plan, a document which will dramatically influence the development of Saint Paul bicycle infrastructure for years to come. Once in place, the plan will make biking in Saint Paul safer, more convenient and more accessible.

*(Photo above: Courtesy of Metropolitan Council/Jeff Syme)*

Residents are invited to attend an upcoming open house to learn more and provide feedback. Click [here](#) to view the draft and find more information about the open houses. If you're unable to attend an open house, comments can be made [online](#). The city will gather public input through April 30, 2014.

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## Save the Date – Participate in the 2014 Spring Cleanup



It may be hard to believe, but spring is just around the corner! Save the date for the 2014 Citywide Spring Cleanup taking place on **Saturday, April 12, 2014**. Join us for food and fun at one of our five kickoff locations, and join your community to help keep Saint Paul clean and beautiful.

With the help of volunteers, we can remove the trash that accumulates in these natural areas harming wildlife, polluting lakes and rivers, and detracting from the beauty of our community. This event is a fun and effective way to improve the natural environment and meet others in our local community.

There will be kickoff celebrations at Harriet Island-Kelley's Landing Pavillion, Indian Mounds Shelter, Highland Park Pavilion, Como Lakeside Pavilion, and Phalen Picnic Pavilion. [Sign up today!](#)

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## Sustainable Saint Paul Events Calendar

Check out [environmental events](#) happening in Saint Paul that are open to the public.

JANUARY 2014						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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## Now Accepting Nominations for 2014 Sustainable Saint Paul Awards

Nominations for awards will be accepted through Thursday, March 27. [Nominate today!](#) Click [here](#) for more information.

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Visit the Sustainable Saint Paul [website](#) for more updates. Questions? Email [Pa Vang](#) or call 651-266-8533.