

REDA reflects successes of their 3rd Annual spring clean up day event.

On April 10th, 2010, volunteers distributed throughout Saint Paul's West Side Neighborhood to beautify local streets and parks. As part of the Streetscape Beautification program of the Riverview Economic Development Association (REDA), the West Side Clean up Day has increased civic engagement while community members work on improving public spaces.

The event rallied over 50 volunteers, food donations from seven local businesses, and in-kind donations of paint and materials. Thanks to community volunteers efforts, we removed over 60 bags of garbage, weeded and pruned three community gardens, and took another step toward restoring the monument to Nic Castillo that is in Parque Castillo!

Neighborhood improvements are continuing even after West Side Clean up Day! River's Edge Academy brought 20 students to pick up litter along Cesar Chavez and plant over 200 flower bulbs in La Placita, and Neighborhood House signed up 10 volunteers to finish painting benches in Parque Castillo! We also have 60 Humboldt High School students that will be spreading mulch and picking up litter along Robert Street. These on going projects are part of our Clean, Green, and Thriving Streets Campaign. If you are interested in volunteering to beautify the West Side, contact REDA.

West Side Clean up Day's success relies on collaborations and participation of individuals, community groups, and local businesses. This year we had volunteers from Guadalupe Alternative Programs, Jóvenes de Salud after School Enrichment Program, River's Edge Academy, West Side Citizens Organization, Ramsey County Master Gardeners, as well as area residents and business owners. Thanks to these volunteers, we accomplished our goals. REDA also partners with the City of Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation. The city donates gloves, trash bags, mulch, and trash pick up services to help make clean up day possible.

In addition, we also received donations of food from local businesses to treat the volunteers to a community picnic. After two hours of service, all the volunteers gathered at Parque Castillo to enjoy local treats from Boca Chica Restaurante, Captain Ken's Foods, Don Ponchos Bakery, Dunn Brothers Coffee, El Burrito Mercado, Jerabek's New Bohemian Coffeehouse, and La Fonda Mexican Eats. One volunteer characterized the picnic as a "taste of District del Sol." Thanks to the great donations this year, it helped make the celebration picnic a success! We also received in-kind materials donations from Valspar Paints and Minnesota Green.

We would like to thanks to everyone who helped make clean up day a success! The annual event will be back next year if you would like to participate, please feel free to contact Roxanne Young at REDA: ry@districtdelsol.com or (651)222-6347.

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