

West Street Greenspace Preservation Coalition

P.O. Box 84, Naperville, Il 60566-0084 Phone: 630-637-9283 Fax:630-717-0785



Newsletter- October 3rd, 2003

Fall Fling 2003-Oct.18th, 9A.M- Noon

Your Coalition will sponsor our 3rd annual Fall Fling at the Naperville Community Garden Plots on Saturday October 18th from 9AM until 12 Noon. The Fall Fling celebrates the end of a successful harvest season and captures the enthusiasm of our "Plant a Row for the Hungry" and "Adopt a Highway" programs. The Fall Fling was added to our annual Earth Day event in 2001, and it has become a permanent Coalition event. Motivating the event is continued attention to our mission statement.... If the garden plots are to survive in the midst of intense demand for land in central Naperville, the areas best qualities can never be taken for granted. So please come out Oct.18th and spend a few hours enjoying a crisp fall morning with fellow members. Refreshments including coffee, juice, apples, and doughnuts will be available. Yes, we will be doing a bit of work beautifying the area as we honor our Adopt a Highway commitment, but everyone is always welcome even if you only wish to drop by for a few minutes.

October Coalition meeting Wednesday October 8th, 7:30 PM

The Regularly scheduled meetings of the WSGSPC take place on the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. October's meeting falls very early in the month this year, but its timing is perfect for planning the Fall Fling. Please plan to attend as we will not only be finalizing plans for October 18th, but we will also talk about our winter activities and address other ongoing concerns. Meetings are scheduled as Board Member events, but our meetings have always been open to each and every member, and have been open to the public as well. If you can't attend but have an idea or suggestion just send us a note or give us a call.

Springbrook Prairie paths nearly finished

1.8 million dollars of enhancements mean that the largest natural preserve in Naperville has become far more approachable. Crews plan to finish nine miles of trails encircling the 1,800 acre Springbrook Prairie by Halloween. The preserve is not only the largest such area in Naperville, but its proximity to the West St. properties means the animals that call it home are likely to spend time at Sportsman's Woods and the Garden Plot Prairie. In constructing the trails, care was taken to keep them on the perimeter of the preserve in an effort to minimally impact the native grasses, wildflowers, and

endangered species like the northern harrier which call the prairie home. The prairie itself has been reasonably well restored through controlled burns that help eliminate non-native species. The trail system consists of 10-12 foot wide gravel pathway with bridges over wetlands. It now gives everyone a clear way to walk and bike in the preserve without disturbing the ecosystem. The new trails connect other paths in the community, including a bike path up Fort Hill Drive off 75th St., a trail near 83rd St., and an additional trail near Modaff Rd. that travels underneath Naperville-Plainfield Rd. A comprehensive bike-path system has recently been given the go ahead by the city council.

Despite development of land previously owned by the Helen Brach Estate on the prairie's western edge, the protected preserve has grown by 63 acres over the last year. This new area, previously farmed, will act as a buffer between the natural area and the commercial development. For now it remains without trails.

In addition to the new trails, the project, funded by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, includes a dog run, picnic shelter, rest rooms, and a new parking area across from Springbrook Golf Course. Plans to create a large wetland, scaled down from the "Dragon Lake" concept of a decade ago, appear to be on hold for now. The WSGSPC will continue to monitor changes at Springbrook Prairie.

Morton Arboretum seeks volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the Fall Color Festival at Morton Arboretum. The Arboretum is in the midst of a multi-million dollar project which includes the complete reconstruction of its principal visitor center. A new interpretive prairie area is already open. Throughout construction the nature preserve remains open with the Fall Festival scheduled weekends from Oct 4th through the 26th (including Columbus Day). Individuals ages 14 and older are asked to volunteer for either the morning or the afternoon shifts, lasting 3 and a half-hours each. The festival offers traditional harvest season activities such as hand-dipped taffy apples, pumpkin decorating, a corn maze for children, and a Fall Garden Market. For more information, or to volunteer, call Sally Kenaston at 630-719-2443 or e-mail skenaston@mortonarb.org.

23rd Annual Flower and Garden Show Held

On Saturday the 23rd of August the Naperville Community Gardeners held its 23rd Annual Flower and Garden Show at the Alfred Rubin Riverwalk Community

Center. Talk about holding the 24th Annual Show on August 24, 2004 ended quickly when it was revealed that date falls on a Tuesday.

The annual Flower and Garden Show allows dedicated members of the Naperville Community Gardeners an opportunity to show off the best and the most beautiful plants from their gardens. Seven accredited judges carefully scrutinized 622 entries submitted by 43 participants. Lee Bourland, a judge from an unincorporated area near Lemont, said each exhibit is given lots of attention. "We're looking for the freshness of the flower. We see to it that they're in prime condition, no disease, no dirtiness, no insect bites", said Bourland. A wonder of gardening, he said, is that two gardeners will take the same kinds of seeds, plant them and end up with two very different results. As well, the results are never the same from one year to the next.

Plant-preying bugs were a problem in Naperville this year, said Joe Hudetz, the show's chairman. "A lot of people complained about a lot of Japanese beetle problems. They love rosebuds, stone fruit trees, cherries, plums. They seem to be attracted to yellow flowers", Hudetz said.

Weather is always a major factor and this summer it contributed to a rather poor showing for roses. Ben Calvert, previous President of the Naperville Community Gardeners, remarked, "It's been a strange season. It was so wet and cold. It seems everything is delayed". A long time gardener and early advocate of the "Plant a Row for the Hungry" program, Calvert submitted about 170 entries. He won Best of Class for his leeks and his bonsai plants. Calvert also won the show's award for receiving the most combined points in all categories.

Jeri Huckabay, current President of the Community Gardeners, along with her husband Roy won the Best of Show and Best Vegetable awards for the couple's basket full of herbs. It consisted of a rosemary, golden sage, gingermint, variegated sweet marjoram, thyme, and basil. "I potted them in the spring," Jeri Huckabay said. "It was a good year for herbs, a very English-type summer, a lot of moisture, not a lot of heat."

The show's best flower award went to Milly Ginocchio for her Nikko blue hydrangea. Ryan Fowler, a fourteen-year-old gardener, took home blue ribbons for his tomatoes. Naperville resident Roger Chawla, a former master gardener, brought his three-year-old daughter, Noor, to the show. "We're trying to get [young people] to appreciate gardening and flowers at an early age, things that are related to nature rather than being inside all the time". (Adopted from "The Naperville Sun" 8-24-03, written by Ann Piccininni and George Bennett.)

Nature's Fireworks

The WSGSPC reminds you that one of the most impressive displays that Mother Nature has to offer is on the way. In the next few weeks yellows, oranges, and reds will replace summertime green as the annual fall display of color erupts all around us. Sadly, nature's fireworks last scarcely longer than those on the 4th of

July. Winter's brown and white is just around the corner, so take the time to enjoy the beauty of autumn, and remember that when the leaves are gone winter will bring something different and new, silent and graceful..

Greenspace Coalition Information

Mission Statement *The West Street Green Space Preservation Coalition resolves to defend the existing green space west of and adjoining West Street against incompatible development and encourage and promote programs and amenities that foster conservation, honor historical tradition and preserve the area for passive use.*

More on Our Mission Our focus is to not lose any greenspace ground on the 4 properties on west side of West Street. (Garden Plots, Sportsman's Park, Von-Oven Scout Camp, Soccer Fields/Forest on Oswego. Support current uses that keep it green, and no more construction, lights, pavement or new high intensity uses. No reduction in trees, and additional uses should utilize the green or natural values of the properties.

Contact Information

See info in letterhead
Our web site is: www.greenspace.koolhost.com

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Membership

Membership is open to all individuals, families and organizations who would like to support our mission (see mission statement). Dues are \$10 or your choice of a different amount (lower or higher) A membership application is available to facilitate joining. *The*

WSGSC is always careful to note that its viewpoints on individual topics do not necessarily reflect those of individual members and member organizations.