

May 26, 2010

Hi Everyone. We hope you're enjoying this great spring and that you've had an opportunity to visit our city parks. Here is some news.

**Gateway Trail.** Positive discussions continue between DNR and landowners on the trail route between Wm O'Brien Park and Scandia's city center. Thanks to the Gateway Trail Assn and the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council for their great work. We hope to have an opportunity for interested Friends to walk the possible trail routes in the near future.

**Lilleskogen Park.** The goal is significant progress on the city's "urban" park this summer. A controlled burn eliminated some invasive species, but more work needs to be done. The city's Parks and Rec Committee is arranging a *Volunteer Opportunity* on Saturday morning, June 5 for buckthorn removal. We hope the Friends will be well represented. Come anytime after 8am at the park on Oakhill Road just south of 97. Using some of our funds, the Friends have engaged Jane Zirbes of Stillwater to research other funding sources. Anyone with ideas on funding sources or interested in volunteering time for grant-writing, contact Tom at 651-433-4749.

**Hay Lake Park.** A joint committee representing the Friends, the city's Parks and Rec Committee, the Washington County Historical Society, and the Scandia-Marine Lions Club met at the park on May 8 to evaluate improvement ideas. These ideas will be major discussion items at the Friends board meeting on June 14 (7pm at the Community Center). One exciting dimension of the planning involves linking the park to the adjoining Hay Lake School museum and to the nearby Swedish immigrants' memorial. A good opportunity to view the sites and have some great fun will be the Historical Society's annual Beer Fest at the museum on Saturday June 26. Hope to see you there!

**Fundraising letter.** Expect to see a renewal note soon. Thanks for your support in the past, and we hope you'll stick with us as we work to develop our parks and trails seek to preserve open spaces in Scandia.