

SPRUCE UP AUSTIN, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

500 4th Avenue NE, AUSTIN MN 55912

www.spruceupaustin.org



Officers and Board Members for 2018 with years of service

President - Kim Underwood (11)

Vice President – Kathy Borland (16)

Treasurer – Deb Mickelsen (5)

Secretary – Greta Anderson (6)

Mike Ruzek (29)

Gretchen Ramlo (23)

Jan Chuick (19)

Kelly Lady (17)

Chris Stepp (8)

Renee Wangen (6)

Kris Baldus (4)

Ernie Hamero (4)

Ruth Arons (4)

John Duren (4)

Steve Kime (2)

Coulter Wood (2)

Holly Wallace (2)

SPRUCE UP AUSTIN 2018

Mission Statement

Spruce Up Austin, Inc. is established for the purpose of coordinating various resources to initiate, establish and maintain beautification projects in the Austin area with a strong emphasis on planting tree. Spruce Up Austin, Inc. will use these projects to promote at greater environment awareness within the Austin community, to encourage citizens to improve their property and to enhance a positive image for the City of Austin. Spruce Up Austin, Inc. will also participate in various activities that will educate the Austin community on plants and landscape concepts.

Spruce Up Austin completed its 29th year in 2018 and we look forward to continuing the efforts to enhance the landscape of our community. A dedicated board, terrific support by other volunteers, an excellent working relationship with businesses and the Austin Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department continue as strengths of Spruce Up Austin.

Spruce Up Austin was directly involved in projects where more than \$5,198 was spent in 2018. When the volunteer time associated with these projects is taken into account, the internal work of the Austin Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department, the value to the community amounted to more than \$ 9,072. During the twenty-ninth-year history of our organization, the total value to our community exceeds \$537,902. 21 deciduous and conifer trees were planted during 2018 bringing our tree total to 2,761.

Public Relations and Education

Yard of the Month: 2018 marked the 16th year for celebrating the yard of the month. Our committee is always looking to honor those front yards with curb appeal! The winners of the 2018 Yard of the Month were:

- June: 1011 15th St. SW, Garnet Butler
- July: 1103 21st Street NE, Janet Larson
- August: 1209 4th ST SW, Dave and Rachelle Root

Yard and Garden Tour: Our fundraising garden tour event was held July 14, 2018 with over 120 in attendance. Ticket sales reached \$1,517 and we had \$204 in expenses. This year's garden participants were:

- Oliver & Char Hagen, 703 4th St. SW
- Mike & Amy Cooper, 2701 15th Ave. NW
- Dave and Rachelle Root, 1209 4th St. SW
- Mike and Shelly Compton, 704 Oakland Ave West

Grant Utilization: Using a grant received from the Hormel Foundation for \$1,500, we were able to create a new Tree Trek Adoption program, update Tree Trek maps, update our website and create a giving brochure.

Community Education: This year we held our second Tree Trek Guided Tour on May 9th. It was lightly attended but all who were there were able to learn more about a variety of trees that are suitable to grow in MN.

Projects

I. Friday, April 27 Arbor Day:

Spruce Up Austin planted a male cottonwood for the Tree Trek along East Side Lake park. The group also did some spring tree maintenance. The cost of the tree was \$100. The value back to the community totals \$150.



II. September 18, 2018:



In SW Austin a street project was completed that also added a new bike path which ran along a City Park, South Grove. Six new trees were planted between the path and the park, two red buds and 4 flowering crabs. The contribution from SUA for the trees totaled \$828.34 the project totaled \$1,242 of value back to the community.



III. October 18 & 27, 2018:

SUA volunteers and the Park & Recreation crew replanted a triangle that had been done in the 90's. The project removed the crumbling paver blocks, planted a new ginkgo tree, a variety of grasses, small shrubs added boulders and river rock. The cost of the project was \$2,500 with a value back to the community of \$ 5,025.



IV. October 18, 2018



SUA volunteers, Park and Recreation Staff along with Monica Randazzo from the U of M evaluated, planted 4 trees which Monica brought down from the U of M and did maintenance work on the Tree Trek at East Side Lake Park. The trees are valued at \$420 with a value back to the community of \$630. SUA will record the progress of these trees for the U of M. Tree Trek maintenance included two trees that had died. The trees were replaced with the same variety on higher ground. After four years the evaluation by the U of M concluded that the Tree Trek is in very good condition! Thanks to All.

We would like to thank our 2018 financial supporters, Austin Utilities, Hormel Foundation, Honorary Tree donors and private donors. Projects or events would not happen without the volunteers that donate their time, to you we are grateful!

Resource Development

The main objective of resource development is the Honorary Tree program. Honorary trees can be planted for many reasons, memory of a loved one, birth of a child, special anniversary or recognition of service. In 2018 there were eight (8) honorary trees planted and dedicated and one pending to be planted in 2019. The honorary trees donation of \$1,350 is a value back to the community in 2018 of \$2,025.00. The total honorary trees planted to date are 208. Austin Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department plants the honorary trees in the fall of each year.

2018 Spruce up Austin Honorary Program		
Name	Type of Tree	Placement
Steve Kime	Pending	
Dr Richard Schindler	Witch Hazel	East Side lake
Randy Hofner	Blue Ash	East Side Lake
Richard Chuick	Eastern Wahoo	East Side lake
Howard Nepp	Canadian Red Cherry	East Side lake
Robert Enright	Eastern Redbud #3 Tree Trek	East Side lake
Norm Hecimovich	Mn Strain Redbud #60 Tree Trek	East Side lake
Harry Willmott	Yellowwood	Noon Lions Bike Shelter
Ramsey Johnson	Redbud	Noon Lions Bike Shelter

Maintenance

The wind blew and the trees grew and our six Maintenance groups kept busy! In 2018 we realigned our six groups adding our 4 new members in and all groups will report in to the chairs at the end of May and the end of October. Greta will keep a record for us.

The third, annual clean-up of East Side Lake was performed by a partnership of SUA and the AHS Wrestling Team. Volunteers met at 5:00 pm on June 27, 2018, at East Side. The efforts resulted in approximately 50 lbs. of trash collected. We noticed this to be a decline in trash collected in the previous two years. We are hopeful that clean parkways and shoreline encourages people to place trash in the multiple trash barrels provided, rather than litter.

We had two projects that needed updating that came out of the maintenance groups. The first one is the 4-H project on south Main St.....some overgrown shrubs were changed out with some low maintenance plantings at this location along with pruning, weeding and mulching. The second project was an island by 1910....this was totally taken out and will be planted in the Spring. Dolans is helping with this one and US Bank has agreed to the ongoing upkeep!

Looking forward...2019 looks to be another busy year for Spruce Up!

2018 Nominating Committee

SPRUCE UP AUSTIN, INC.

Kelly Lady (Chair)

Kim Underwood

Gretchen Ramlo

Greta Anderson

Resignations –

John Duren 2015

Ruth Arons 2015

Kris Baldus 2015

Mat Miller 2017

2019 Proposed & Approved Officers & Board

President – Kim Underwood

Vice President – Kathy Borland

Treasurer – Deb Mickelsen

Secretary – Greta Anderson

Corresponding Secretary – Gretchen Ramlo

2019 Proposed New Board Members were approved at the November 8, 2018 meeting.

Luke Reese

Tim Ruzek

Mel Morem

Susan Olson

Endowment Fund

The SUA Endowment Fund was started on November 2, 2016 with the Austin Area Foundation. At this time the Hormel Foundation partnering with the Austin Area Foundation provided an incentive for agency organizations to start their own endowment fund. If the 501©(3) organization created an endowment fund with a minimum of \$4000 there would be a \$2000 match. There was another donation offered if SUA went ahead that was an additional \$2000. The year 2016 ended with a total of permanently restricted funds of \$8000 in the SUA Endowment Fund. Permanently restricted funds would not be available for distribution but only the earnings of those funds.

At the end of 2017 the permanently restricted amount stayed the same at \$8000 as there were no additions that year. In January 2018 the amount available for distribution to SUA was \$145. Every year the SUA board will need to decide whether to receive the distribution or leave it in the fund to be added to the permanently restricted amount. The SUA board decided to leave the \$145 in the endowment fund and also added was 5% of the net balance of the year ending in 2017. This amounted to \$490.57. The SUA board has adopted management criteria for the endowment fund which includes every year adding to the endowment fund 5% of the previous year's net balance. At the end of 2018 the permanently restricted amount of the SUA endowment fund was \$8635.57.

EX-OFFICIO

From By-Laws:

ARTICLE III

Section III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The number of board members may be set by board resolution and consist of not more than 18 members. All members including officers shall serve without salary. The board of directors including officers will be elected for a two-year term ending after every even year in a manner herein provided. Prior board members who have served 5 terms (10 years) will become ex officio members. Ex Officio members who would be nonvoting members but would be able to attend and otherwise participate in board meetings and other activities of Spruce Up Austin Inc.

Thank you to our past members. Those that have meet the criteria from our By-Laws as an Ex-officio Member are: (* = Charter Members)

*Bonnie Rietz (14)

*Joyce Mlinar (10)

*Denny Maschka (19)

Pat Schmid (11)

Millie Kane (11)

Jack Sherman (22)

Darlene Thaisen (17)

Lee Bonorden (20)

Craig Hoium (11)

Bonnie Mogen (18)

Jim Larson (10)

Harlan Nelson (11)

Howard Nepp (12)

“The best friend on earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on the earth.”

— *Frank Lloyd Wright*