

ECCO Board 2013 Activities

Do you wonder what your ECCO Board and Neighborhood does?

2103 Summary of Activities:

- Primer on Uptown Small Area Plan – January 22
- Organize volunteers for organics recycling at Loppet – February 2-3
- Public Meeting for 36th St Bikeway – February 7
- Livability Committee meeting focusing on late night noise – March 26
- Organized 10th Ward Candidate Forum on Environment – March 28
- Morning bird-watching walk – April 28
- Earth Day Clean-up – May 4
- Bicycle Festival – May 11
- Super Sale – June 1
- Community Puppet Show & Potluck – June 1
- Organize volunteers for organics recycling at Nature Valley Uptown Criterium – June 14
- Raingarden project planting day – June 22
- Community Picnic – July 11
- National Night Out block parties – August 6
- Labor Day Parade and Community Potluck & Bingo – September 2
- Organize volunteers for organics recycling at Greek Festival – September 6-8
- Host joint Uptown Green Team meeting on Solar Power – September 11
- Hazardous Waste Collection – September 21
- Annual Meeting which brought together neighbors, our state, regional and local representatives as well as presentation by Minneapolis Fair Skies Coalition for community information and discussion– October 3
- Raingarden Tour – October 5
- Co-sponsor Ward 10 Candidate Forum – October 16
- Wine Tasting Fundraiser – October 30
- Holiday Caroling Party – December 18
- ECCO participated in the yearlong Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis conducted by Metro Transit. ECCO had a representative on the Community Advisory Committee. We promoted all of the public meetings in our e-newsletter to help raise awareness for the transit study.

Here are some of the ways you ECCO Board works to get information to you, our neighbors:

- We purchase a half-page ad in every issue of our monthly neighborhood newspaper, the *Uptown Neighborhood News*, with information about our board, committees and upcoming events; we also publish our monthly board meeting minutes in the paper, which is delivered to all addresses in the neighborhood (including mutli-family buildings) and the paper is available at a number of local businesses. *Uptown Neighborhood News* is

delivered to 1,000 addresses in East Calhoun. In addition, the paper is available at a number of local businesses.

- We produce and distribute a monthly e-newsletter.
- Hennepin County mailed a postcard to all residents to promote the Hazardous Waste Collection that ECCO helped organize and staff.
- We redesigned our website to be more engaging (www.eastcalhoun.org). The new software allows us to easily update content to keep the site current and relevant.
- Fliers delivered for the Bicycle Festival, Super Sale, Labor Day celebration and Annual Meeting is an effective way to communicate with residents in single-family homes and duplexes.

Continue to next page for highlights...

THESE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES IN 2013

1. East Calhoun Bicycle Festival, May 2013

The ECCO Green Team organized the first annual Bicycle Festival.

The focus of the event was to promote bicycle safety and featured good and services related to biking including helmet fitting, bicycle tune-ups and a bike swap. Over fifteen

businesses/organizations donated time and products to the event. The

festival also featured fun activities such as slow bike race and a kids' bike rodeo.

Unfortunately, the weather was very cold and windy so attendance was lower than expected.

The organizers are planning for the second annual Bicycle Festival in May 2014.



2. Hazardous Waste Collection, September 2013

ECCO partnered with Kingfield, CARAG and East Harriet neighborhood to organize a Hazardous Waste Collection event. A local church provided their parking lot so we could hold the event in the area. The neighborhood organization provided volunteers to help direct traffic. The event was a great success with over 500 participants and no long waiting lines.



3. Raingarden Project

The East Calhoun Green Team partnered with Metro Booms for the installation of 14 raingardens on residential property in the neighborhood. The Green Team was awarded grants from both the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed



District to defray the majority of the project costs. The gardens were planted on June 22nd (one day after the Solstice Storm tore through the neighborhood taking down numerous trees and power lines).

To achieve the project goal of improving water quality, ECCO carefully selected each potential rain garden location, working closely with the homeowners to place the garden in the most feasible location that received runoff from impervious surfaces (typically roof runoff). During the project pre-screening conducted by an ECCO volunteer (Nathan Campeau, P.E.) several sites were eliminated from consideration due to the small potential benefit to water quality. After ECCO's pre-screening, Metro Blooms worked with each resident to further refine the location of each garden to maximize treatment.

Due to the sandy soils that predominate the neighborhood, ECCO requested that the gardens be constructed deeper than typical Metro Blooms rain gardens, further increasing water quality treatment. Our estimate of water quality improvements resulting from the 14 raingardens constructed watershed includes:

- Reduction of annual runoff by over 95% from contributing watersheds (over 112,000 gallons)
- Reduction of total suspended solids (TSS) by approximately 51 pounds annually
- Enhanced groundwater recharge

To support the outreach and educational goals of this project, ECCO conducted outreach in several ways, including workshops (Metro Blooms workshop 2012), neighborhood meetings (ECCO Green Team meetings, annual meeting), email (ECCO email newsletter, multiple publications), print (Uptown Neighborhood News, multiple publications), direct education and communication with recipients of rain gardens, and a neighborhood rain garden tour in October 2013.

Benefits of a raingarden: A raingarden is designed and planted to capture rainwater so it can penetrate deep into the soil to help protect and restore water quality. This helps to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff that would otherwise take pollutants from the air, our yards, and the streets and carry them into our lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

4. Nice Ride Station

East Calhoun resident Grant Dietrich asked for support from the ECCO Board to request a Nice Ride station in the neighborhood. Nice Ride did not have plans to a station in our neighborhood in 2013. Dietrich met with the owner of Dunn Bros Coffee and sought permission to place a station on his property. Dietrich developed a



proposal that he submitted to Nice Ride requesting a station in 2013. Nice Ride couldn't refuse Dietrich's arguments and installed a station at 34th and Hennepin in Spring 2013. Nice Ride considers the location a success with 1,046 trips originating from this station in the first five months of service.

5. Community Leader Award

The Uptown Association (at its annual meeting in January 2013) nominated EIRA Coordinator Monica Smith for a Community Leader Award.