

THE BULLETIN

A publication of the Benson-Ames Alliance

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B-AA RECEIVES MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT

The Benson-Ames Alliance is the recipient of a 2011 grant from Mayor Jim Suttle's Neighborhood Grants Program. The grant, totaling \$4,788, will support the Prairie in the Park project, a partnership of Omaha by Design, the City of Omaha and the Benson-Ames Alliance.

A series of urban prairie plots featuring a mix of prairie grasses and wildflowers will be created in Benson and Fontenelle parks. Each plot will include interpretive signage that explains the value of incorporating native plantings into the local landscape.

The construction portion of the project will be carried out in three phases. Phase I will create a two-acre test plot in Benson Park in the spring/summer of 2011. Phase II will create a second site in Benson Park, and Phase III will create a third site in Fontenelle Park. (See page 3 for a site plan of the first two phases.)

Funding for the project is provided through grants, donations and in-kind support from the City of Omaha Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Property. For those who would like to contribute, a fund has been established at the Omaha Parks Foundation. Checks can be sent to:

Omaha Parks Foundation
Prairie in the Park Project
Attn: Amber Miller
1819 Farnam St., Suite 701
Omaha, NE 68183

To book a Prairie in the Park speaker for your neighborhood or civic group meeting, call 402.554.4010.



The plots will feature a mixture of prairie grasses and wildflowers.



Community Spirit in Action.

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REENERGIZE PROGRAM EXPANDS START ZONES

The reEnergize Program's Omaha Start Zone has recently expanded to include the areas under development with Destination Midtown, a portion of the Benson-Ames Alliance and the North Omaha Development Project.

The program is a collaborative effort between Omaha and Lincoln to build energy smart communities. The plan is to complete energy evaluations on a total of 263 commercial and nonprofit buildings and make energy upgrades on 3,193 residences over five stages.

Start Zones have been identified to incorporate neighborhood-scale redevelopment and capitalize on existing neighborhood communication mechanisms.

For more information on how to get involved, visit reenergizeprogram.org/ or call 402.444.6731.

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BULLETIN BITS

NorthStar Moving to 50th & Ames

The NorthStar Foundation will relocate its headquarters and the Outward Bound Omaha offices to the Baker Place shopping center at 50th Street and Ames Avenue this May.

As a gesture of support for NorthStar and its mission to serve at-risk male youth in the Baker Place neighborhood, a portion of the costs for the NorthStar office space was donated by PDM Inc., the owner of the shopping center.

Lund-Ross Construction was selected to build out the interior of the new office space and anticipates construction will be completed in early May.

Shop Local at the BFM

The Benson Farmers Market, Military Avenue at Maple in downtown Benson, kicked off its 2011 season April 30.

New this year—a longer season, longer hours and a Wednesday market.

The 2011 season will run until Oct. 1. In response to requests from customers and vendors, the market will operate an additional hour each Saturday from 8:00am to 1:00pm. There will also be a weekday market each Wednesday from 3:00 to 7:00pm between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The location will be announced soon.

The Benson-Ames Alliance is a 2011 sponsor of the Benson Farmers Market. For info on how to

become a sponsor, visit

www.bensonfarmersmarket.org.



Benson Community Garden Under Way

The Benson Community Garden, under the direction of Kurt Goetzinger, is beginning to take shape at 60th and Lafayette. An official groundbreaking ceremony attended by Mayor Jim Suttle was held April 23 prior to the city's annual Earth Day celebration in Elmwood Park.

The Benson-Ames Alliance is a founding sponsor of the Benson Community Garden.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities or how to get involved, visit www.bensongardens.org.

Community Garden Planned at 48th & Sahler

The NorthStar Foundation is planning to build a new community garden on a portion of the newly reclaimed land that once held the abandoned Park Crest Apartments in the 48th and Saylor neighborhood.

Last fall, NorthStar demolished and removed eight dilapidated and vacant multi-unit buildings—known as Park Crest—on the site, leaving a field of 2.37 acres of land for future development.

The community garden will only use a portion of the available land on Sahler Street, and a community study is under way to research possible uses for the land, both in the long- and short-term. Once the study is finalized, the report will be shared with the community.

For more information, call 402.614.6360 or email info@northstar360.org.

Next B-AA Steering Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council is set for Wednesday, July 13, from 11:45am to 1:00pm at The Omaha Home for Boys in the Youth and Family Services Building, Rooms B and C.

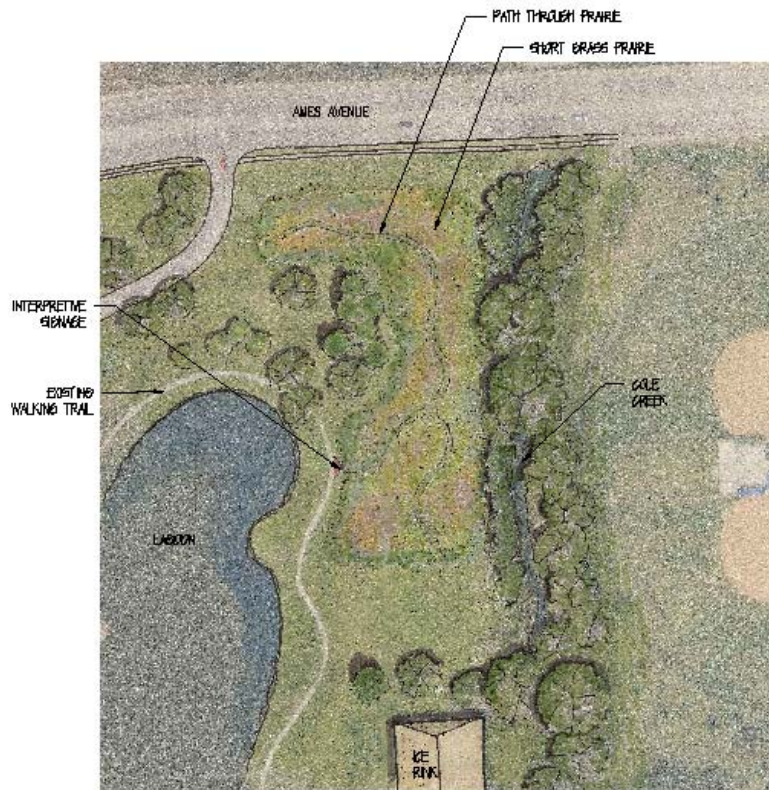
To attend this meeting as a guest, call 402.554.4010 or email info@omahabydesign.org.



INTRODUCING THE PRAIRIE AESTHETIC TO TWO CITY PARKS IN THE BENSON-AMES ALLIANCE

Above: an architectural rendering of Phase I and II of the Prairie in the Park project, a collaboration of Omaha by Design, the City of Omaha and the Benson-Ames Alliance. At right: an up-close view of Phase I, a two-acre test plot in Benson Park. (See cover story for details.)

Renderings prepared by John Williams, City of Omaha Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Property.



B-AA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Please send listing corrections to baalliance@omahabydesign.org.

Ames-Benson Neighborhood Association

60 to 66, Fowler to Sprague

Meetings vary.

Pamela Duncan, president

Benson Neighborhood Association

Fontenelle to 72, Ames to Western

Meets the last Monday of every month (except May, June, July, August and December) at 7 p.m. at Benson Baptist Church, 6319 Maple.

Liz Moldenhauer, president (mold_e@yahoo.com)

Clairmont Heights Neighborhood Association

45 to 48, Military Avenue to Maple

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Holy Name Little Gym.

Kim Reid-Kuhn, president

Cole Creek Neighborhood Association

60th to 72nd, Camden to Sorensen

Daniel Clute, president (drdjclute@gmail.com)

Country Club Community Council

52 to 56, Corby to Blondo

Meets the first Monday of every other month (February, April, June, August, October and December) at 7 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 5410 Corby.

Matt Herzog, vice president

www.historiccountryclub.com

Fontenelle View Neighborhood Association

48 to Fontenelle Boulevard, Ames Avenue to Brown

Charlene Potter, contact person

Fort Redman Neighborhood Association

50 to Fontenelle Boulevard, Brown to Sorensen Parkway

Cynthia Wakefield, contact person

Hartman Avenue Neighborhood Association

50 to 60, Kansas Avenue to Fort

Meets the second Thursday of January, April, July and October at 7 p.m. at Mount View Presbyterian Church, 5308 Hartman.

Skypp Dorsey, president

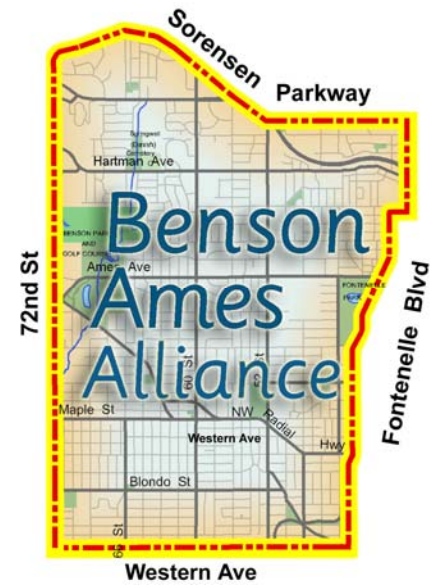
Metcalf-Harrison Neighborhood Association

Lake to Western (48 to 52), Blondo to Western (52 to 56)

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in March, June, September and November at Harrison Elementary School, 5304 Harrison St.

Ann Hosford, president

www.metcalf-harrison.org



www.benson-ames.org

The Benson-Ames Alliance is a volunteer grassroots organization formed in 2005 to help plan for and implement the revitalization of this historic corner of Omaha. Omaha by Design serves as the project manager.

The Bulletin, the B-AA newsletter, is published quarterly. To submit news or request copies to stack at your business or organization, call 402.554.4010 or email info@omahabydesign.org.

Follow the Benson-Ames Alliance on

