

Benson-Ames Alliance Almanac

SEPTEMBER 2005

- Benson-Ames Alliance created to help plan and implement the revitalization of the Benson-Ames area in northwest Omaha

NOVEMBER 2006

- Benson-Ames Alliance Plan approved by the Omaha City Council

JANUARY 2007

- Benson-Ames Alliance leadership team selected, meeting structure established for the Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council (every other month at The Omaha Home for Boys)

FEBRUARY 2007

- Web site launched (benson-ames.org)

MAY 2007

- Fact-finding bus tour of the alliance area held
- First issue of *The Bulletin* published (the newsletter of the Benson-Ames Alliance, published quarterly)

JUNE 2007

- Maple Street Corridor in downtown Benson selected as the Benson-Ames Alliance Steering Council's first priority for revitalization

- Benson-Ames Alliance joined Council of Alliances

SEPTEMBER 2007

- Design team selected for The Maple Street Corridor Project (RDG Planning and Design, the Robert Peters Company, Ehrhardt Griffin & Associates)

NOVEMBER 2007

- Housing and retail market analysis launched to help augment entrepreneurial growth taking place in downtown Benson (Houseal Lavigne Associates hired)
- Planning process for The Cole Creek Project begun

JANUARY 2008

- Virtual Great Streets Tour held in conjunction with The Maple Street Corridor Project

FEBRUARY 2008

- Two-day design charrette held in conjunction with The Maple Street Corridor Project

AUGUST 2008

- The Maple Street Corridor Project officially launched; components include a new streetscape design, a housing and retail market analysis and a community branding initiative designed to spark civic pride and investment in redevelopment opportunities

SEPTEMBER 2008

- colecreek.org launched

OCTOBER 2008

- bensonbeat.com launched

FEBRUARY 2009

- The Cole Creek Project's 2009 Mini-Grant Program launched

MARCH 2009

- Benson Mural Project launched by seven members of Leadership Omaha Class 31, three alley sites selected (The Pizza Shoppe Collective, Jane's Health Market & Deli, and Bryan Hill Entertainment)

APRIL 2009

- The Cole Creek Project officially launched with an information open house at Roncalli Catholic High School
- *Benson Free Space* launched (project designed to attract attention to the availability of affordable business, office and retail space in Benson)

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MAY 2009

- Two bioretention gardens planted in Orchard Park in conjunction with The Cole Creek Project

JUNE 2009

- Inaugural tenant (Wislanscraft) moved into *Benson Free Space* at 6007 Maple St.
- Benson-Ames Alliance co-hosted inaugural sustainable networking event with Kind Air and Element Distributing

JULY 2009

- The Cole Creek Project awarded trio of mini-grants to the Clairmont Heights Neighborhood Association, the Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association and Nathan Hale Middle School for stormwater management projects
- Organizational meeting held to establish new neighborhood association in the Benson-Ames Alliance
- Organizational meeting held to discuss potential creation of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district in downtown Benson

AUGUST 2009

- Two alley murals (@ The Pizza Shoppe and Jane's Health Market & Deli) completed in conjunction with the Benson Mural Project
- Planning process begun for Benson High School Rain Garden Project, will create a rain garden/bioretention garden on the grounds of BHS or in neighboring Gallagher Park (student involvement based on the school's magnet status as a Center for Academic Research and Innovation)

JANUARY 2010

- City Council approves creation of Tax Increment Financing District for downtown Benson
- Goodwill Industries Inc. announces plans to move its corporate headquarters to Benson Park Plaza in the B-AA

APRIL 2010

- Final plantings in at The Cole Creek Project site

MAY 2010

- Work on Benson route of city's 20-mile bike loop under way
- B-AA hosts inaugural Big Green Garage Sale
- Outward Bound High Ropes Course opens on the campus of The Omaha Home for Boys
- B-AA honors outgoing steering council chair Lisa Dale and welcomes incoming chair Troy Arthur
- Group begins exploring potential for forming a B-AA Social Services Committee

JUNE 2010

- Students from Nathan Hale Middle School, a mini-grant recipient from The Cole Creek Project, plant sustainable garden on school grounds in conjunction with Hale Horticulture

JULY 2010

- Clairmont Heights Neighborhood Association, a mini-grant recipient from The Cole Creek Project, hosts rain barrel workshop for members

AUGUST 2010

- Omaha Planning Board unanimously approves plans to expand Benson Business Improvement District (BID), update its assessment formula to fund a strategic work plan and increase membership on the Benson BID board from five to seven members

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SEPTEMBER 2010

- Mutual of Omaha volunteers complete Day of Service activities in the Benson-Ames Alliance, focusing on three parks and one triangle garden in the Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association
- Goodwill Industries Inc. opens corporate headquarters in Benson Park Plaza (open house set for Nov. 18)
- Northstar Foundation begins demolition of eight vacant and condemned properties in the 48th and Sahler area
- UNO public administration students begin neighborhood scan project in the Benson Neighborhood Association

OCTOBER 2010

- Ames-Benson Neighborhood Association joins Benson-Ames Alliance
- Rain garden dedicated at Benson High School
- Work on additional Benson Mural Project sites begins
- The Beat celebrates 2nd anniversary

NOVEMBER 2010

- Omaha City Council to consider Benson Business Improvement District package



Community Spirit in Action.

The Benson-Ames Alliance is striving to become a sustainable community that actively seeks a balance between its built and natural environments. It is bordered by Western Avenue on the south, Sorensen Parkway on the north, Saddle Creek Road/Fontenelle Boulevard on the east and 72nd Street on the west.

For more information, contact the B-AA via
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