



For Immediate Release  
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## **Mayor Coleman to Replant Trees in Storm Ravaged Park on Earth Day**

*Mayor joins children, neighborhood organization in celebration*

SAINT PAUL – Mayor Chris Coleman will celebrate Earth Day tomorrow at a ceremony in College Park, at the center of one of the areas hardest hit by last August’s severe storm. The celebration will kick off the beginning of the planting season in which the city will begin to replace the significant number of trees lost in that storm. The Mayor will be joined by Parks & Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid, Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation chair Jeff Blodgett and community members, including third graders from St. Anthony Park Elementary School.

“Our ability to build partnerships with groups like the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation has been critical in making Saint Paul a national leader on sustainability,” said Mayor Coleman. “The prevalence of green space in our neighborhoods sets Saint Paul apart from other cities. I want to thank the foundation for supporting our efforts in the spirit of Earth Day.”

Local resident and arborist, Mary Lerman, will give a brief explanation of the landscape design and tree species planned for the area before the planting of the first new trees. The city’s replanting plan consists of 22 new trees in and around College Park and an additional 17 trees along the boulevards that were in the storm’s path. The rest of the seedlings will be planted as soon as the ground has firmed up enough to withstand the weight of the nursery trucks. The mix of trees to be planted includes burr oaks, Norway spruce, sycamores, locusts, and a new disease-resistant species of elm.

The Saint Anthony Park Community foundation is partnering with the city to assist in the effort to replace the substantial number of trees lost last year. The Foundation will present a check to the city from its Keep It Green fund to enable additional boulevard trees to be replaced this spring. According to Executive Director Jon Schumacher, the response to the Foundation’s call for financial help to accelerate the replanting process was generous and immediate.

“This is a neighborhood that loves its parks and trees and showed it. Several donors, including the Garden Club, gave substantial contributions,” said Schumacher. “We are so grateful to our donors who have enabled us to further the city’s resources devoted to replenishing trees in Saint Paul. This donation will not only benefit our neighborhood, but other hard hit areas like Como Park, as well.”

Mayor Coleman has taken bold action to make Saint Paul one of the greenest cities in the country. Under Mayor Coleman, the city has its first Sustainability Coordinator as well as the first Energy and Water Resource coordinators. Mayor Coleman has committed the city to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 25 percent by 2020. He also has committed the city to investing \$1 million over the next three years into an Energy Conservation Investment Fund to retrofit and build city-owned buildings with energy efficient systems. In December, the City also opened its first LEED-certified building, the Western District Police Station.

**Who:** Mayor Chris Coleman  
Bob Bierscheid, Parks & Recreation Director  
Jeff Blodgett, Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation chair  
Mary Lerman, Saint Paul resident and arborist  
Third grade students from St. Anthony Park Elementary School

**What:** An Earth Day celebration and kick-off of the city's tree replanting season; the Community Foundation will present the city with a donation to enhance the tree replacement efforts; elementary school students will pot seedlings and sing a song in honor of the day

**Where:** College Park (at Carter and Raymond Avenues)

**When:** **10am** (students will be potting seedlings at 9:30am)

For more information on the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, visit [www.sapfoundation.org](http://www.sapfoundation.org).

For more information on Mayor Coleman's Sustainable Saint Paul initiative, visit [www.stpaul.gov/mayor](http://www.stpaul.gov/mayor).

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