

Mayor Coleman to Welcome Saint Paul's Newest Park

Mayor's Parking Space to be Transformed into a Public Park as Part of National Park(ing) day

(Saint Paul) - Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman today announced that the city will gain a temporary new downtown park for a few hours on Friday, thanks to a partnership with the Trust for Public Land. As a part of the National Park(ing) day event, City's Division of Parks and Recreation will turn the Mayor's parking space in to a public park.

"The City of Saint Paul is blessed with a world-class, award winning parks system. This event brings to light the value of public green space, and allows us to rededicate ourselves to making the preservation and expansion of parks and open spaces a priority in Saint Paul," Coleman said.

In a joint effort with the Trust for Public Land, the Parks and Recreation staff will be creating a unique urban park using the Mayor's parking space and one additional parking space in front of City Hall on 4th Street.

The City of Saint Paul has great places to visit and fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. Included among its facilities are over 160 parks and open spaces, the Como Park Zoo and Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, a 9 hole and three 18 hole golf courses, over 100 miles of trails, indoor and outdoor pools, a public beach, sports and aquatics facilities, and wonderful rental facilities for weddings, picnics, and corporate events.

The Park(ing) Day concept began in San Francisco when an artist group, REBAR, transformed a metered parking spot into a public park. REBAR identified a site that was under-served by public outdoor space and was sunny between noon and 2 P.M. They installed a small park that provided nature, seating and shade. In 2006, with the support of the Trust for Public Land, the event went international with events in 13 cities including New York, London and Rio de Janeiro. This year, Saint Paul will be one of more than 30 cities across the country to take part in National Park(ing) Day.

For More information the Saint Paul Division of Parks and Recreation, visit:

<http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks/>

For More information on National Park(ing) day or the Trust for Public Land, visit:

<http://www.tpl.org/>