




MOROSS GREENWAY UPDATE

A Word from Our Chair

Welcome to our first newsletter! We bring you greetings and thanks for your support of the Moross Greenway, along with current happenings of our project.



As you travel along this major thoroughfare on the Eastside, I'm sure you can't help but notice all the recent activity on the islands.

We are proud to say that the Moross Greenway has launched! Articles inside tell the story of what's happening on Moross Road. What were all those trucks doing? Why were there piles of sand and soil on the islands? Why so much standing water this Winter and Spring? Trees and shrubs may already be planted, but the Moross Greenway Project is an ongoing effort. We will continue to beautify and improve the islands as funding allows.

You can always find up-to-the minute information on our website, www.moross-greenway.org, where you can also make a secure donation to support our work.

– Sheila O'Hara, Chair

Moross Greenway Project is a Reality!

After six years of planning and fundraising, the Moross Greenway Project became a reality this past October when the volunteer organization held a groundbreaking ceremony to signal the start of re-landscaping the seven island beds on Moross Road between St. John Hospital and the I-94 service drive that make up the Project.

The Moross Greenway seed was sprouted in January 2009 during a Grosse Pointe Farms Beautification Commission discussion of the declining landscape on the median islands. Diseased and dead trees lined the medians, dandelions and other weeds choked out much of the overgrown turf, graffiti and handbills plastered the light poles and utility boxes, and trash and debris littered the area.

Within the next few months, representatives of Wayne County, the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, and the Detroit Mayor's office were invited to join the discussion. Other interested volunteers representing the Cornerstone Neighborhood, garden clubs and Moross Road churches joined this initial group. Three Beautification Commission members signed on as the Project's founding Board members.

During those first six years, the nascent organization sprang into action and never let up! The Project name was chosen. By-laws were written. A logo was designed. Our non-profit status was obtained. Semi-annual volunteer clean-ups were held to address the trash on the islands and freeway ramps. Additional mowings were scheduled to augment the inadequate

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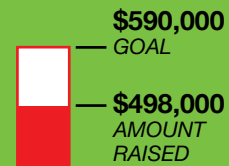
Moross Greenway Tackles Drainage Challenges

Keeping our newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials alive and healthy, especially during their first few years in the ground until they are established, is a top priority for the Moross Greenway Project. But an unexpected development proved to make that goal a very challenging one!

Island construction uncovered a perched water table under the top layer of soil on the islands which have been dominated by turf for more than 100 years. This

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Help Us Reach Our Goal!

Although the Moross Greenway construction is nearing completion, the need for funding remains a continuing one. We have made great strides in reaching our \$590,000 Project goal and want to thank all our generous contributors for making our Moross Greenway a reality!

Your help is needed to ensure that the Greenway remains an attractive Eastside thoroughfare. The continuing need is for maintenance and operating funds to mow the grass, kill the weeds, water the plantings and run the irrigation system. We have water and electric bills too!

We will keep a keen eye on the plantings as they mature, but if a tree or shrub should succumb to a fungus or other problem, a maintenance fund will guarantee that they will be replaced. To keep the beds in tip-top shape, additional mulch and topsoil will also be needed from time to time.

Won't you help us? Join our effort at MorossGreenway.org.

Fall Clean-Up is Slated for October 22!

Our fourth annual Fall Clean-Up takes place on Saturday, October 22. Volunteers will meet at 9:00 am at Grace Community Church located at the corner of Moross Road and the I-94 service drive.

Water and trash bags will be provided. Wearing gloves and sturdy footwear is encouraged. Bring a rake, if you have one!

Be sure to mark your calendars now and check our website, MorossGreenway.org, for up-to-date information on the Clean-Up.



Our Honorary Chairs Go the Extra Mile

Moross Greenway is very fortunate to have the guidance and leadership of two area couples who have served as Honorary Chairs of the Project since its inception. Giving generously of their time, talents, and treasure, Gail and Lois Warden and Bill and Sally Shelden have worked tirelessly to advance the work of the organization.

The Wardens and Sheldens have been invaluable partners and have willingly lent a guiding hand to the Moross Greenway Board. They have been instrumental in ensuring the success of our fundraising efforts, but doing so away from the spotlight.

We salute these generous humanitarians and thank them for their leadership!

MGP is a Reality! *continued from page 1*

number of mowings by Wayne County. Dead and dying trees were removed. A large sink hole was filled. Our website made its debut. Requests for presentations to tell our story to community groups were filled. Fundraising began in earnest.

All the while, a committee worked diligently for a year or more to design the landscape plans. Drawings were created. A landscape firm was hired. Project approval and permits from Wayne County were sought. Irrigation systems were explored.

The culmination of this hard work and planning took place on a sun-filled day this past Fall when Moross Greenway friends, neighbors, supporters, media reps and government officials gathered under a tent on Moross and Chester Roads to celebrate and break ground for the Moross Greenway

Project. Speeches, media interviews and applause were punctuated by the bustling sounds of the front-end loaders and dump trucks which whirred on an adjacent island, signaling the start of construction. The Moross Greenway Project was underway!



Moross Greenway Receives National Award

The Garden Club of America awarded the Moross Greenway Project its Club Civic Improvement Commendation in June, recognizing the “extraordinary collaborative effort” of the volunteer organization. Sheila O’Hara, the Project’s chairperson, accepted the award from the Garden Club of Michigan, who made the presentation on behalf of the Garden Club of America at the Club’s annual meeting.

“We are so honored to receive this award,” notes O’Hara. “It has been the collaborative effort of Eastside churches, garden clubs, businesses and volunteers from surrounding

communities that has ensured our success.”

Other community groups have also recognized the efforts of Moross Greenway Board members.

The Junior League of Detroit bestowed its “Volunteer Extraordinaire” Award this Summer to Mildred Hurley and Anne Burke for their years-long dedication to the Project. Lambro Niforos was recognized by the Master Gardeners of Wayne County with its Unsung Hero Award.



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA



**A helicopter landing pad?
A large baseball diamond?
A giant stepping stone?**

Folks have been asking....What are those squares of white concrete in the center of some islands on Moross?

The answer is simple! They represent Phase III of our Project. They are the foundations for future art installations along the Greenway.

Our plan is to feature works of art on a rotating basis on three islands. Later this Fall or Winter, we’ll form a committee to begin plans for selecting an independent jury of art enthusiasts to find local artists and choose the art. If you have an art background or experience with public art displays and would like to serve on our committee, we would like to hear from you. Please contact sheila@moross-greenway.org.

Drainage Challenges *continued from page 1*

is an accumulation of groundwater trapped above the soil layer that is impermeable, but below the surface of the turf. This extensive below-ground soil compaction restricted natural drainage throughout the medians and led to standing water on the islands during the Winter and Spring months. Some of the newly planted material suffered from having “wet feet” for an extended period.

After consultation with experts in the field and reviewing several proposals, it was determined that raising the planting beds to a height of 18-24 inches is the optimal remediation approach. A planting mix of 2076 cubic yards of sand, compost and topsoil was delivered to the islands. The process of re-grading the beds began. Trees, shrubs and perennials were removed from the beds, and “heeled in” for replanting. Those plants that didn’t survive the standing water are being replaced. New shrubs and trees that were not available last fall from area nurseries are being planted. Completion of an irrigation system that was started last fall will ensure adequate moisture levels during the current and future droughts. It is planned that irrigation will be reduced in about three years’ time, as the plants become established and are strong enough to sustain themselves.

Too much water! A spring drought! All in just six months! These are the toughest challenges for any seasoned gardener. The Moross Green-

way Project is up to the challenge of creating a beautiful, welcoming and sustainable Greenway for all the motorists, workers and residents who travel the thoroughfare.



Email or Snail Mail?

In an effort to put the “green” in Greenway, Moross Greenway is asking supporters to provide their email addresses for future communications.



If you would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically, please email sheila@morossgreenway.org.



UPDATE



MOROSS GREENWAY
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We are truly grateful for the generosity of individuals, foundations, garden clubs, and members of our community who make the Moross Greenway Project possible.

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Gifts received by August 31.