

INSTITUTE ON THE  
**ENVIRONMENT**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

## MINI GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY

Please complete the project summary and return the completed form to April Snyder, Associate Administrator for the Institute on the Environment at [aprilsnyder@umn.edu](mailto:aprilsnyder@umn.edu). Paper copies will not be accepted. Please also attach any photos, publications, brochures, event agendas or other materials that were a result of the mini grant summary.

<b>Date of Report Submission:</b>	Spring 2013
<b>Project PI &amp; Dept/School</b>	Stan Hokanson
<b>Project Title:</b>	Van Cleeve Community Gardens
<b>Grant Amount \$:</b>	500

### Project Context & Purpose

*Please include the original project purpose statement and revise for any changes that occurred in the project after the start date with a short explanation of the changes.*

Three 7' x 3' raised garden beds along the east side of Van Cleeve Park have been sorely neglected since 2008. Our immediate goal was to revive and improve the Van Cleeve gardens. To do so, the University of Minnesota students collaborated with Van Cleeve Center staff worked together in (1) selecting Minnesota-native plants and soils, (2) purchasing gardening tools to be stored and used by Van Cleeve park, and (3) invite summer daycare programs at Van Cleeve to utilize gardens as an outdoor learning space.

## Work Completed

*Please provide a summary of the work that was completed for the mini grant project.*

Garden beds were dug out, repaired, and re-filled with new soil. A variety of herb and flowering plants, chosen with the guidance of the Horticulture club, were planted during a community gardening event. Over 100 gardening tools and gloves were purchased and donated to the Van Cleeve Community center. An unpaid intern, U of MN student Amy Kallenbach, was selected to maintain garden beds throughout the summer. Amy worked with the Van Cleeve's summer childcare programs to implement garden activities for students age 5-14.



*Volunteer Katherine Thorson at the Van Cleeve gardens.*

## **Partnerships & Collaborations**

*Please provide a summary of the project personnel, partnerships and collaborations that worked directly on the project or were started as a direct result of the mini grant project.*

Van Cleeve Community center staff  
Minneapolis Park and Rec  
Intern Amy Kallenbach  
UMN Horticulture club  
Van Cleeve community memebers



## Project Outcomes & Impacts

*Please provide a summary of the outcomes and /or impacts of the mini grant project including future plans for the project.*

Thanks to the IonE mini grant, the Van Cleeve garden beds have been fully revived. Our community efforts have captured the attention of Sherry Brooks, the MPRB Volunteer Coordinator for Environmental Stewardship. Mrs. Brooks was delighted to take over responsibility of the Van Cleeve garden beds. Starting next summer, she will be allocating all volunteer efforts and continue collaboration with Van Cleeve childcare programs.

Finally, Mrs. Brooks will be distributing donated gardening tools to community gardens across the metro area. The IonE grant has directly increased community garden space, available gardening supplies, and outdoor learning opportunities throughout Minneapolis.



*A portion of the gardening tools donated to the Van Cleeve community center. Garden intern Amy Kallenbach's dog, Copper, was a favorite among community volunteers.*