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## Award-winning Lyndale Gardens blend environmental education, site-seeing, nature at its finest

This summer, be sure to stroll through Lyndale Park Gardens in Minneapolis to enjoy the colors and fragrance of a variety of display gardens. You'll also get



Emily Gray Charter School students visit the Lyndale butterfly and hummingbird garden.

to see why the gardens win awards, are picturesque settings for weddings, and annually draw hundreds of thousands of visitors.

The latest award recognized the [butterfly and hummingbird garden](#) as a winner of the 2009 Exemplary Education Award by All-America Selections® (AAS). The AAS is a non-profit organization that tests new flowers and vegetables for home gardening. Lyndale has been an AAS Display Garden since 1966.

The Exemplary Education Award, as well as development of the butterfly and hummingbird garden, is a demonstration of what happens when volunteers from different organizations take a project "under their wings."

The project dates back to 2006 when Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Coordinator of Horticulture Programs Mary Lerman, now retired, and Carondelet Catholic School, located near Lake Harriet, teamed up to put their green thumbs into the dirt at Lyndale Park. Over the next three years they helped plant the butterfly and hummingbird garden, incorporating All-America Selections.

In 2008, plant ecologist Douglas Owens-Pike, a member of First Universalist Church in southwest Minneapolis, approached MPRB gardeners about having students of the church's Emily Gray

Charter School volunteer to maintain the woods of the Lyndale Park Peace Garden. At the time the MPRB planned a small expansion of the nearby butterfly and hummingbird garden, including a strolling path with flowers on both sides. Gardeners and Owens-Pike agreed that the planting was a perfect volunteer opportunity for the children.

### **Educational Opportunities Blossom**

The educational component began in May 2009 when 140 students from Emily Grey Charter School enjoyed a presentation by Owens-Pike. MPRB gardeners demonstrated proper planting techniques and guided the children in planting the AAS Display Garden. Later that month, 120 third through fifth graders from Carondelet took part in a hummingbird gardening presentation by the gardeners.

Last fall the Emily Grey children attended an AAS Display Garden tour where MPRB gardeners discussed butterfly and hummingbird populations found in the garden. This May the children returned to plant AAS annuals. Prior to the planting, MPRB staff visited the school to prepare the students for the project.

### **About Lyndale Gardens**

The gardens are located adjacent to Roseway Road N., east of Lake Harriet. Each growing season approximately one million people visit the gardens, which include:

**Annual/Perennial Garden** – Long perennial borders and six annual beds comprise this garden. It features the Phelps (Turtle) fountain.

**Peace Garden** – With light-colored and irregularly-shaped ancient rocks, alpine plants and dwarf conifers, the garden features the Spirit of Peace sculpture and the new peace bridge dedicated in 2009.

**Rose Garden** – Showcasing 3,000 plants in 100 different varieties, the rose garden is the second oldest public rose garden in the United States. It's an official All America Rose Selections (AARS) test rose garden, and features the Heffelfinger fountain.

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