
Seitu Jones (left), Frogtown Farm Co-Founder and multidisciplinary artist, advocate and place-maker, welcomed us to Frogtown Farm. He spoke about the history of the farm site, with a focus on community coming together to preserve and cherish greenspace in their neighborhood. This history also covered the early challenges of watershed management at Frogtown Farm given the site’s urban setting and unique topography. Jones noted that now as a grower, “I never thought I’d worry so much about water quality and pests!”

Chris Mann, Farm Manager and Keanue Driscoll-Cherland, Program & Facilities Manager at Frogtown Farm, led a tour of the farm. Charlie Zieke, Permaculture steward, explained the many stormwater management features that have been installed at the farm, including the innovative berm and swale permaculture installation. The tour also covered irrigation approaches, field layout, and the importance of community relationships in responsible land stewardship. The volunteers that help do the work were recognized for their contributions!

Co-host Keely Cervantes, Food & Agriculture Program Manager for Conservation Minnesota, a statewide conservation organization working to protect the Minnesota we love for future generations, gave the water quality perspective to urban environs. She stated that “urban landscapes are especially challenging due to all the impervious surfaces which prevent water infiltration, making a site like Frogtown valuable from a water quality standpoint”. Cervantes said the goal is to “ensure that everyone who has access to the Great Outdoors and opportunities to enjoy it”. She added that Conservation MN aims to find common-ground policy solutions to address our most pressing conservation issues, including minimizing the impacts of a changing climate and protecting the quality of our water in all communities.

Frogtown Farm was founded in 2013 from a community-led initiative to secure 13 acres of green space in the Frogtown neighborhood. In partnership with the Trust for Public Land, the City of St. Paul and the Wilder Foundation, Frogtown Park & Farm was created as a natural area, a recreation area and an urban demonstration farm. The farm now sits within this public park and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Networking – informal and informative ... in-place ... adult education.

www.sfa-mn.org/twin-cities-growers-network

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