

## The Art Park Story

In 1997, Heritage Community Association (HCA) and community volunteers initiated a plan for a scenic "Art Park" located on a vacant lot at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Halifax Street. The park idea was conceived as an alternative green space, a sort of inner city oasis. Many volunteers worked hard to bring the vacant lot from a neglected space to a point of pride in the community.

Shrubs, grasses, trees, and perennials were planted in the park. Concrete benches embellished with colorful, handmade ceramic tiles framed the park's perimeter. An artistic wood and metal bench and metal and stone sculptures were housed in the park.

Unfortunately, in the years since the Art Park's beginnings, the space had gradually fallen into disrepair. Despite its increasingly disheveled appearance, the Art Park retained its unique charm, and over the past couple of years, a new group of volunteers came forward from within the community.

In 2009, volunteers chose the Art Park as their United Way Day of Caring project. Over the course of the summer, this energetic group visited the Art Park several times, transforming it from an overgrown forest to a welcoming and inviting area. Improvements, thanks in part to funding from a Walmart Evergreen Green Grant, included the planting of edible native species and the widening of the paths to allow wheelchair accessibility. A performance area in the green space is still to be developed.

Today, we celebrate the recent movement behind the Art Park and look forward to making it one of the most vibrant cultural green spaces in Regina.

## The Heritage Community

Heritage is one of the oldest communities in Regina, with a rich history and geography. The Old No. 1 Fire Hall, which houses the community Association, is one of the most renowned buildings in the City.

The Heritage neighbourhood is statistically poor but ripe for revitalization.

The neighbourhood's name "Heritage" reflects pride in our past and a readiness to become recognized as one of the most beautiful communities in Regina.

## Make Your Mark, Adopt the Park

This program is open to community minded organizations and individuals who want to take an active role in the revitalization of the Heritage Community. The Heritage Art Park is an evolving green space made up of edible and native plants and artistic works. It is a unique project in Regina and an important resource in our community.

## Goals

Our vision is to maintain the Art Park as a safe place for community members to enjoy and to foster resident engagement by hosting regular cultural events in the park. These noon-hour events could include poetry readings, story telling and musical performances in addition to an annual Harvest Festival hosted by the Association in September. Cultural programming provides opportunities for neighbors to meet and to enjoy shared experiences.

## Adoption Objectives

Ongoing Maintenance~

- Picking up litter
- Pruning trees
- Removal of weeds and invasive plants
- Watering
- Pathways
- Planting shrubs and flowers as required

Also~

- Reporting hazardous materials or graffiti to the Association
- Other potential projects: installing solar lighting, building a performance area and ongoing landscaping
- Volunteer participation in cultural events

## Commitment

As an individual, group or organization, your support will have a transformative impact on the green space and consequential benefits to the Heritage Community and the city of Regina.

## Seasonal Adoption

A financial contribution of **\$1,500.00** to go towards maintenance (including materials for seasonal renewal of pathways); includes sponsor recognition of three summer cultural events. Volunteer commitment of **a minimum of one full day per month (scheduled days should be when the majority of your group is available)**:

- Cleaning winter debris in mid-April
- Pruning, planting, and landscaping of trees, flowers and pathways in May
- Regular maintenance of the park in May, June, July, August and September
- Clean up prior to community Harvest Festival
- Fall clean up in mid-October

**In addition to regular maintenance days:**

- Volunteer support at summer cultural events

## Program Details

Heritage Community Association will:

- Provide garbage bags, shovels, rakes, and other tools
- Collect bagged garbage from designated location
- Provide information on vegetation and orientation regarding Park plans and happenings
- Work with you and your group to make the community service experience positive for all involved



## Recognition

In return for your investment, you will receive:

- A yellow rose bush planted in your name in the Art Park with recognition signage to honour your work
- Invitation to the Citizens of Distinction Dinner in June
- A Certificate of Appreciation for placement in your workplace
- Your company name and logo on Art Park promotional event materials as appropriate
- Acknowledgment in the *Heritage Happenings* newsletter that is distributed to 5000 community residents and a cross section of the city; in HCA e-newsletters and on the HCA website
- Tax deductible receipts for cash contributions, as well as receipts for in-kind contributions where applicable
- A sense of pride in leading by example

**Could I/we still volunteer if I/we cannot commit to the Season Adoption? ABSOLUTELY!**

The Heritage Community Association sponsors one-time events in the Art Park. We also welcome donations that support the purchase of planting and landscaping materials, such as crusher dust for annual maintenance of the pathways. Tax-deductible receipts for cash contributions, as well as receipts for in-kind contributions can be issued where applicable.

With a combined and cumulative contribution of **40 service hours**, you or members of your group will receive:

- Invitation to the Citizens of Distinction Dinner in June
- A Certificate of Appreciation
- Recognition in the HCA newsletter

**Heritage Community** is bound by Broad Street, College Avenue, Winnipeg Street, the CPR Mainline, and includes the area known as the "Arcola Triangle" –Winnipeg Street, Arcola Avenue to Victoria Avenue.

### The Heritage Community Association logo:

**"The Rose"**-Historically, though the source of this legend is only verbally validated, the community was once abloom with a multitude of yellow rose bushes. The yellow rose, a beautifully scented and cheerful flower symbolizing friendship, embraces new beginnings and rejuvenation; recognizes the growth and revitalization of the Heritage neighbourhood yet gives heed to the historical roots of the community.

**"Blocks"**- Reflects the "Building Community Block by Block Strategy" and furthermore suggests pieces coming together in collaborative community revitalization.

**"Green"**-Speaks to sustainability of the entire community.

**"Home"**-The house symbolizes the importance of the people who live in this community. Home by home, resident by resident, Heritage is a community of friends and neighbours. 5000 residents call Heritage home.

**For more information, contact:**

**The Heritage Community Association**  
#100-1654 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Regina, SK S4P 0H4  
757-9952

Email: [heritagecommunity@sasktel.net](mailto:heritagecommunity@sasktel.net)  
[www.heritagecommunityassociation.com](http://www.heritagecommunityassociation.com)

Heritage Community Association Inc. is a registered charity  
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## Make Your Mark, Adopt the Park



*Going green is the way to go...*

**Heritage Community  
Art Park**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Halifax Street**  
**Regina, Saskatchewan**

