Here are some of the 2020 accomplishments from my little corner of responsibilities (Bri):

* Launched our monthly Service Saturday events!
	+ Monthly trash and park clean-ups
	+ Hosted two blood drives for Memorial Blood Centers
	+ Hosted four donation drives to support communities impacted by the civil unrest, focusing on school supplies, food and household goods, and diapers
	+ Hosted "tree census" event to help document and identify new trees and ones that need to be replaced
	+ Registered voters and provided key information to residents about the census and key dates on the electoral calendar
* Became stewards for James I. Rice Park and led consistent clean-up efforts
	+ Cleared the riverfront views and removed invasive plant species like buckthorn and vines (I think Andrew Morse tallied up the total number of hours we did on this project, in case you'd like to include that)
	+ Groomed and opened up the wooded walking trails
	+ Planted wildflower seeds
	+ Replaced the mulch at the playground
* Installed a Little Free Library on 1st Street North and relocated another one to the dog park
* Purchased and donated 40 (? -- can't remember the exact number) books on racial justice and equity to our LFLs
* Hosted a flu shot clinic
* Hosted a meet-and-greet event for those running for local office, including candidates for the MN State Legislature and school board

**Neighborhood Highlights (Mike)**

**\***We drew a capacity crowd (350+) to the Muse Event Center where a record 21 candidates were vying for seats on our board. North Loop businesses contributed more than $2,500 worth of goods for us to give away as prizes.

\* The colorful new North Loop monument was installed in the Welcome Park at Washington and 3rd Avenues in May.

**Online Presence**

\* Day after day, we used our Instagram and Facebook accounts to shine a positive light on the North Loop—and get our neighbors to safely help one another during the pandemic.

\* To support North Loop businesses during the restrictions, we posted dozens of mini-profiles with photos, compiled online lists of which businesses were still operating—and regularly updated them on our website.

\* We helped promote the cheering from balconies for healthcare workers which drew coverage from all 4 local TV stations. Governor Walz mentioned the North Loop cheering at a news conference and Mayor Frey turned out to join in one night.

\* We promoted mask-wearing with our online mask contest—and bought gift cards from North Loop restaurants to give out as prizes.

\* We helped promote and distribute candle votives for the windows of North Loop restaurants as a sign of hope and solidarity. The votives were produced by Hennepin Made which is owned by one of our board members.

\* We worked with a local business, Ovative, to revamp our website, [northloop.org](http://northloop.org/) and give it a more current, user-friendly look.

\* Our Instagram account grew to 15,300 followers by the end of the year.

**Community Engagement**

\* After the civil unrest in May, we held donation drives that produced an outpouring of support for hurting communities.

\* That inspired us to conduct Service Saturdays for the next several months, with events ranging from blood drives and voter registration to a flu shot clinic.

\* We purchased books on racial equity and distributed them through our Little Free Libraries—including a new LFL we installed at the dog park.

\* We brought neighbors together for monthly litter pickups, and established a table at Corner Coffee for anyone to pick up bags and gloves whenever they were able to pick up litter on their own.

\* Our work to beautify the riverfront continued, with the clearing of invasive plants and overgrowth in the woods and planting beds, plus putting down new mulch around the playground.

\* While the pandemic forced us to cancel many of our annual events, we were still able to hold some safe outdoor events:

\* Movie night in August: It’s a Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood at Target Field Station

\* Food trucks on 1st Street in September

\* Jurassic Park movie at Target Field Station on October 31st

**Historic Preservation and Public Art**

\* We installed plaques on 14 historic buildings with photos, brief histories and QR codes that connect people to more information on our website.

\* We created an online map to help people conduct walking history tours of the North Loop.

\* The Historic North Loop section of our website grew to 34 entries.

\* We helped pay for more artworks in the Tower Tunnel.

**Dog Park**

\* We saved the dog park from closing by taking over management in 2020 and gave it a much-needed new coating of gravel—four truckloads worth.

\* We also produced and installed friendly new banners on the fencing and trimmed the trees.

**Other Pandemic Assistance**

\* When businesses started to slowly reopen after 3 months, we produced stickers, reading “The North Loop Is Open. Come On In,” and placed them outside dozens of businesses.

**Streets and Pedestrian Safety**

\* After much lobbying from board members, the city installed stop signs at a dangerous intersection—2nd Street and 5th Avenue.

\* With more than 100 new trees + sod planted (mostly along 3rd Street), we helped coordinate volunteers to do regular watering and placed little signs reminding dog owners to steer their pets away.

\* We placed several of our pedestrian crosswalk signs around the neighborhood.

How could we top that in 2021???

Mike

2020 Accomplishments that I would add, David

1. The Board has engaged Friends of the Mississippi to help North Loop volunteers  ID, remove and replace the invasive species along the river in James Rice Park. This is being accomplished with the cooperation of the Minneapolis Park Board and staff.

2. The Board has engaged a group of volunteers working on refreshing the plantings around the playground area of James Rice Park.  This is being accomplished with the cooperation of the Minneapolis Park Board and staff.

3. A new west entrance was added to James Rice Park using 8th St. by the Star Tribune building.

4. The board along with the Minneapolis Park board has been working on adding a new park to the North Loop on 3rd Street. It is possible that this summer we may have a new park in the North Loop.

5. Little Free Library add to Dog Park