

in the Loop

Giving Back: Employees help beautify downtown park

Mortenson Riverfront Plaza draws city dwellers and commuters alike for a dose of nature in the midst of Hartford. The 6-acre park, which connects downtown with the waterfront, is kept beautiful for all to enjoy by a full-time crew of four that includes caretaker Spencer Killian. It's a big job to handle all the park maintenance – everything from landscaping and sidewalk cleaning to post-flood repairs. Volunteer assistance is much appreciated.

On August 24, Hartford Steam lent Killian and his crew a hand. A group of eight Hartford Steam employees tackled the task of trimming nearly 400 feet of mature river birches whose branches had been hanging low to the ground. Shortly thereafter high winds blew through the Northeast. If the trees hadn't been trimmed, there might have been more damage.

"We made a difference," says Jeff Lindberg, Hartford Steam's manager of marketing and sales. "Afterward, we all stood together and took a look at what we had done as a team. It was very rewarding to be able to see the immediate results of our work."

Killian has been tending the Plaza park for 12 years and calls it "ever-changing." Two years ago, a new section of the grounds was opened, adding around one-fourth mile of new pedestrian paths. Besides paved and lighted walkways, park amenities include fishing access, gardens, sculptures, public boat cruises, seasonal food service, an amphitheater stage, docks and boat ramps, and private event facilities.

Mortenson Riverfront Plaza is one of four parks managed by the nonprofit organization Riverfront Recapture. (Riverside Park and Charter Oak Landing in Hartford plus Great River Park in East Hartford are the other three.) The group's goals include restoring access to the Connecticut River through development of parks and recreational facilities, and improving the quality of life for people who live and work in metropolitan Hartford. Riverfront Recapture



Some of the employees reporting for tree-trimming duty included (from left) Jim Elsner, Project Engineer; Diane Wojcik, senior account representative; Jeff Lindberg, manager, marketing and sales; Tony Dudus, accountant II; Maria Seguro, buyer; and Mike Croyle, manager, district heating and cooling operations. Not pictured is Connie Rose, administrative assistant, who stayed behind to staff the office and answer phones, but was with the crew in spirit!

subcontracts park maintenance duties to the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), Killian's employer. MDC performs the work as a public service.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors come to the waterfront every year to enjoy the network of parks. With our plant within walking distance of the Plaza park, Hartford Steam employees are likely to be among them, including as volunteers. We are always happy to help out a neighbor.



Team Hartford Steam removed low-hanging river birch branches in Mortenson Riverfront Plaza and made sure to clean up debris left from the project. At work are (from left) H. Bruce Linder, district heating and cooling plant supervisor; Dave Ninesling, facilities engineer; and Mike Croyle, manager, district heating and cooling operations.

Sustainability: The right thing to do

A first-ever sustainability logo – both for Hartford Steam and the U.S. district energy industry – will be starting to appear in our printed newsletter and e-communications. Featuring a green oak leaf (the mighty white oak is Connecticut’s state tree), it symbolizes The Hartford Steam Company’s commitment to sustainability in how we do business.

We define sustainability as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Operating sustainably means that we continually strive to ensure our steam and

chilled-water system is as energy-efficient and environmentally responsible as possible. As a corporation, we also aim to make socially responsible choices in decisions affecting our employees and the greater community, which contributes to a sustainable future.

Our new sustainability logo serves to remind us – and our customers too – of the importance of using our resources wisely and ethically. Hartford Steam believes sustainability is not only good business: It’s the right thing to do.



Measuring Up: Rating systems boost building performance

Energy efficiency is a hot topic among building owners and managers – and with good reason: Energy use in commercial buildings accounts for nearly 20 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions at a cost of more than \$100 billion per year, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A number of tools and resources are currently available to help businesses assess and lower their building energy use, including the ENERGY STAR and LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating systems. Hartford Steam encourages customers to learn more about these programs, which can help businesses increase energy efficiency and their bottom line.

Created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, the ENERGY STAR program helps organizations measure their energy performance, set goals for

LEED and District Energy

HPAC Engineering featured an online article titled “LEED Opportunities with District Energy” September 7. The article details how buildings that use district energy can obtain LEED points and points out the advantages of renewable energy technologies such as combined heat and power plants and chilled-water storage tanks – both of which are used by Hartford Steam. Check out the article at <http://tinyurl.com/LEEDHPAC>.



improvement, track energy savings and, if their buildings qualify, earn ENERGY STAR certification. Interested in learning more about ENERGY STAR? Go to www.energystar.gov.

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the LEED Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. LEED evaluates not only a building’s energy efficiency but also its sustainable site development, water savings, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. For more about LEED, visit www.usgbc.org/LEED.

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These Hartford Steam customers have earned the ENERGY STAR label.

- 90 State House Square
- 280 Trumbull Street
- 450 Main Street Building (GSA)
- Phoenix Life Insurance Company-One American Row
- Travelers



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