

southwest journal

Green Digest: Tiny Diner is a Watershed Hero

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Tiny Diner owner Kim Bartmann, right, with Mayor Betsy Hodges on the restaurant's patio earlier this summer.

Dylan Thomas

Minneapolis restaurant is honored by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District; plus, Community Garden Day and Master Recycler/Composter training

A small South Minneapolis restaurant powered by a big solar array is one of this year's Watershed Heroes.

Tiny Diner won the annual award from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District in the "Excellence in Development" category. The restaurant, one of two restaurateur Kim Bartmann opened in 2014, will be honored alongside award-winners in six other categories at a ceremony Oct. 16 at Bayview Event Center in Excelsior.

The solar array that shades Tiny Diner's patio is one of its most prominent features, but its selection for a Watershed Hero award had more to do with other unusual aspects of its lot, located on East 38th Street. An announcement from the watershed district noted: "The sustainability-minded business employs a number of features to manage stormwater, including cisterns and dry creek beds to catch, slow and store water on site. It also has a robust environmental curriculum that includes water quality programming."

This year's other Watershed Heroes include Hennepin County. The county won in the "Innovation in Government" category for cooperation on several projects and its quick response this spring's flooding.

For more information on this year's Watershed Heroes or the awards celebration scheduled for next month, go to minnehahacreek.org/watershed-heroes. Tickets for the awards celebration are \$35 and must be reserved prior to Oct. 2.

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