



Four attendees representing the partnership that built the tower were (l to r) Bob Papke, Audubon Society of Minneapolis; Anita Tabb, Commissioner, MPRB; Claudia Egelhoff, BMNA; and Ron Windingstad, Minnesota Audubon

### **Celebrating the new kiosk and chimney swift tower in Wirth Park**

J.D. Rivers Children's Garden was the site of a celebration of the new garden kiosk and chimney swift tower on Tuesday, Aug 17. Residents toured the garden, saw the new kiosk/tower, and dined on "caprese salad" made by young people in the gardening program.

The new home for chimney swifts is in Wirth Park thanks to a \$700 grant from the Audubon Society of Minneapolis to the BMNA. A third partner in the project, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board did the construction of the tower with the attached educational kiosk. Summer crews of teens assisted in the construction. The BMNA will support the kiosk and tower with \$150 in funds for educational exhibits about the garden and the value of the insect-eating chimney swifts.

Chimney swift populations have been in decline since European settlers arrived and our Eastern woodlands with large hollow trees began to disappear. At first swifts adapted well to masonry chimneys but as these too started to disappear or were capped with screens, swift numbers continued their decline. The swift tower will provide a nesting place for a swift pair during breeding season and a roost for many swifts during migration in late summer.