

Save Cedar Lake Park

JANUARY - MARCH 1990 UPDATE

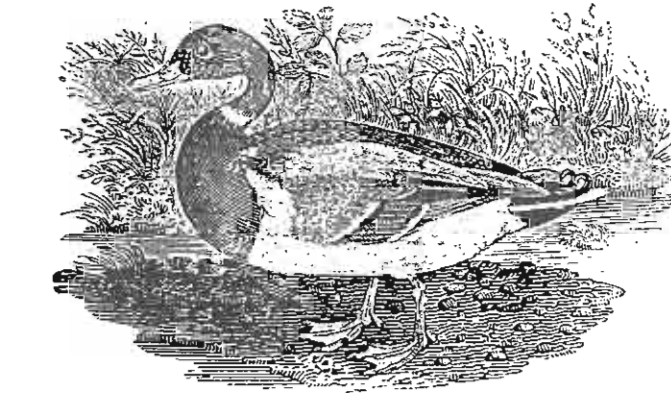
Interim Financing Arranged for Cedar Lake Park Acquisition

The Nature Conservancy has agreed to work with Save Cedar Lake Park and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in acquiring from Burlington Northern the 28-acre Cedar Lake East property.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Nature Conservancy will acquire the property through its cooperative acquisition program, and will hold the property until Save Cedar Lake Park and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board can secure sufficient funding from private citizens and the State Legislature (through the Metropolitan Council's Open Space Bonding Program) to repay the Conservancy and transfer ownership of the property to the Park Board. Save Cedar Lake Park is coordinating the acquisition of the property with the Nature Conservancy and the Minneapolis Park Board, which formally acted last December to include

the Cedar Lake East property in its open space acquisition plan. It is expected that the Nature Conservancy will lease the property to the Park Board so it can be used immediately as parkland.

While the Nature Conservancy has used this approach before with state parks and the National Park Service, this is the first time the Nature Conservancy has entered into a cooperative purchase with a local park board.



Negotiations Commence for Cedar Lake Park Acquisition

John H. Herman and the law firm of Leonard, Street and Deinard have volunteered, on a pro bono basis,

to help Save Cedar Lake Park negotiate the purchase of the Cedar Lake land parcel from Glacier Park Development Co., a subsidiary of Burlington Northern.

As previously reported, the parcel is part of a large package of Midwestern land holdings that Glacier Park has turned over to be marketed by Morgan Stanley Realty in New York. Mr. Herman has been in communication with Morgan Stanley, Burlington Northern, and Burlington

Northern's Glacier Park Development Co. in an effort to get the Cedar Lake parcel broken out of the larger package. If the parcel were to remain in the large package, the land purchase would have to be negotiated with some unknown future buyer.

Due to our ability to act now, the acquisition decisions of the Park Board and the Metropolitan Council, and to a strong letter of support from 7th Ward Councilwoman Pat Scott, Glacier Park has indicated a willingness to break the property out of the package and negotiate at this time with Save Cedar Lake Park.

Fund Raising Planning Begins for the Cedar Lake Park Acquisition

Ellen Sturgis has agreed to chair Save Cedar Lake Park's fundraising efforts in 1990.

For the last several weeks, Ms. Sturgis has been assembling pledges of support and volunteers for a major fundraising effort that is anticipated to begin this Summer. To assist in planning the effort, Ms. Janice Watson has been retained as professional fundraising counsel.

Save Cedar Lake Park has also concluded an agreement with The Minneapolis Foundation,

which will establish a designated fund for Save Cedar Lake Park, and will administer all gifts and disbursements related to the land acquisition. The establishment of this designated fund thus makes all contributions to Save Cedar Lake Park tax-deductable.

Support Is Building for Cedar Lake Park

On four separate occasions, members of the Steering Committee met with State Legislators to discuss securing funds from the Legislature for the acquisition of the Cedar Lake parcels from Burlington Northern.

Meetings were held with Senators Allen Speer, Bruce Merriam, Carl Kroening and Mike Freeman, and with Representatives Dee Long and Phyllis Kahn. Seventh Ward Council woman Pat Scott attended the meetings with Dee Long and Phyllis Kahn, and Park Board Commissioner Patty Baker attended the meeting with Dee Long. Both Dee Long and Alan Speer have been strongly supportive of our acquisition efforts, and have lobbied their fellow legislators.

The feedback from the legislators is that the bonding bill situation is very

**To Learn More About The Wirth Plan and
Late-Breaking Developments
Plan to Attend
Our General Membership Meeting
at 7:30 p.m. on April 4, 1990
in the community room
at Lurie Eiger Besikof & Co.
2501 Wayzata Boulevard**

tight. There are many competing projects, and most of them have been in line a long time before the Cedar Lake Park project was approved by the Park Board and the Metropolitan Council. However, the Legislators are generally supportive of the idea of connecting Cedar Lake Park with the Chain of Lakes and the Mississippi Riverfront, and expressed the belief that our raising of private funds definitely enhances the possibility of securing State funding in this or the next legislative session.

Your Financial Help Is Now Needed More Than Ever!

Now that we are winning the battle to preserve Cedar Lake Park, there is no time for any of us to rest on our

laurels. Instead, everyone's support is urgently needed to complete the job!

Your financial contributions have made possible the progress to date; but now we need your help in taking the next steps. Success in the Legislature depends on our ability to raise "challenge funds" from private citizens. Your financial help at this time will help us organize this effort. As of the writing of this newsletter, and as operating funds have been expended for postage, printing, and other means of building awareness and support, Save Cedar Lake Park's operating funds have dipped to just a few hundred dollars. We must immediately raise \$10,000 to \$15,000 to take the first steps in organizing the fundraising campaign that will be launched this Summer.

Will you please reach deep into your pockets and do what you can to support

us now? We will likely be approaching you again for your support in raising acquisition funds, but the first steps in this campaign must be supported now. Your contribution will be like a seed that will grow and be multiplied many times over!

Members and Volunteers Are Needed, Too!

Please tell your friends about Save Cedar Lake Park — new members and volunteers are so essential to our success! Membership is only \$5 per person and \$10 per family.

This Spring and Summer we will be organizing a number of volunteer efforts in the Park to clean up some dumping from last Fall in the North Meadow. We will also be looking at restoration of wildlife habitat along the lakeshore. The destruction of small trees and the underbrush is very alarming, and the members of Save Cedar Lake Park are determined to somehow reverse the trend.

Besides taking on an important and potentially satisfying task, anyone who volunteers will likely also have a good time!

