

Save Cedar Lake Park

UPDATE

July 1991

We Hit a Home Run, But We're Not Home Yet!!!

Y-E-S!!! We were successful at the State Legislature this session. Money was appropriated for Phase One of Save Cedar Lake Park. The Minnesota Legislature helped make our vision of Cedar Lake Park a reality with the last-minute passage of a bonding bill. The bill contained a provision to fund—together with SCLP's pledge of \$570,000—the purchase of 48 acres of former railroad land for the park. Of the 48 acres, 28 are on the north and northeast shores of Cedar Lake and 20 acres extend the park and trails west to Highway 100 in St Louis Park. Governor Arne Carlson signed the bill a few weeks later, making the addition of this key area to the Metropolitan

Regional Park System a certainty. This is the equivalent of a state park within the metro area. **YES, THERE WILL BE A CEDAR LAKE PARK!**

BUT, SCLP's work is far from over! "So many people think it's a done deal, but it's not. Just because the money is coming from the legislature—they think it's done. But it's not. ...Phase one is *ALMOST* done." With these words, SCLP president **Brian Willette** summed up our current position. We are committed to raise \$570,000, 1/3 of the anticipated selling price of \$1.7 million, for Phase One acquisition. According to Fund Raising Chair, **Ellen Sturgis**, "We have a ways to go." She then pointed out that existing pledges and the

money available from the legislature will not match the anticipated purchase price of the land. To date pledges and gifts amount to \$450,000. This leaves a gap of \$120,000. *Hey, all you park, trail, and nature lovers: We must "get busy" this summer and fall to meet this challenge.* Fund raising plans are being made now to raise the \$120,000. Hopefully we will raise even more than the \$120,000. Anything over our 1/3 commitment will be used to help assure the completion of the Park and the Trail Corridor connecting the Regional Cham of Lakes Park and the new Regional River Front Park and extending the trail west **TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT!**

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Our strategy over the last few months included informing and keeping in close contact with the legislators. We made sure that Save Cedar Lake Park T-shirts and buttons were visible to the lawmakers at each hearing or meeting that was likely to relate to the park. We developed an information package that conveyed a lot of information in a few pages with liberal use of graphics and maps.

Many people worked hard and long to assure success of Cedar Lake Park at the legislature. A big THANKS goes to the following legislators: *Representatives:* **David Battaglia** (Two Harbors), **Richard Jefferson** (Mpls), **Phyllis Kahn** (Mpls), **Dee Long** (Mpls), **Teresa Lynch** (Andover), **Mary Jo McGuire** (Falcon Heights), **Willard Munger** (Duluth), **Sally Olsen** (St Louis Park), **Tom Osthoff** (St Paul), **Gloria Segal** (St Louis Park), **Wayne Simoneau** (Fridley) and **Steve Trimble** (St Paul). *Senators:* **Nancy Brataas** (Rochester), **Carl Kroening** (Mpls), **Bill Luther** (Brooklyn Park), **Gene Merriam** (Coon Rapids), **Roger Moe** (Erskine), **Ted Mondale** (St Louis Park); Ted stayed up all night with us during a conference committee to make sure everything went all right! Thanks, Ted; **Steve Morse** (Dakota), **Larry Pogemiller** (Mpls), **Sam Solon** (Duluth), and **Allan Spear** (Mpls).

Minneapolis City Councilmember **Pat Scott** has been extremely helpful throughout the process. Thanks, Pat. And, thanks to **Ed Bell**, **Caldwell Banker** and **Lurie, Eiger, Besikof & Co.** for providing copies. Everyone who helped deserves thanks, pats on the back, gratitude, and special recognition for their efforts and donations. Many people spent long hours waiting for hearings and meetings at the Capitol, just so they could be seen as a supporter of Cedar Lake Park. In this large group of workers, two people stand out as making especially notable contributions of their talent and time: **Laurie Lundy** and **John Herman**, who spearheaded SCLP's efforts at the Capitol. They both spent untold hours at the Capitol including several 24 hour stretches and stayed on top of the issue at all times. John, our volunteer attorney and legal counsel, donated many hours (over \$12,000 worth) lobbying for Cedar Lake Park. Laurie continues to work hard to finish Phase One and has started the next phase of the project. Without their hard work we would not have prevailed. We can thank **David Klopp** for all that wonderful media coverage towards the end of the session. Also a special thanks to all the members of SCLP who went to the Capitol to lobby, wrote or called their legislators in support of the park. **TOGETHER WE DID IT!**



The Minneapolis Chapter of Audubon Fulfills a Dream

Long before our group began to save Cedar Lake Park, the Minneapolis chapter of the Audubon Society had a dream to purchase land in or near Minneapolis for a bird sanctuary. The membership voted to fulfill their dream by giving SCLP their entire sanctuary fund of \$15,000. Cedar Lake Park will be the bird sanctuary that the chapter hoped to have for so many years! SCLP wishes to thank all of you for a very, very generous gift!

Other News

Watch for an article on Cedar Lake Park in the September issue of *Minnesota Corporate Report*.

Thanks to Don Beimborn and George Puzak, a new information booklet is available. If you want copies to distribute to your group or neighbors, please call us. If you wish a speaker for a meeting or a leader for a guided walk through the park call us at 377-9522.

'Thon Results

The Minneapolis Chapter of Audubon selected SCLP as the recipient of half the funds raised by their annual spring birdathon. There were enough pledges of dollars per species seen to raise \$886 for SCLP. Teams from the local chapter identified 146 species of birds during the May event. Many, many thanks to the organizers who worked so hard to make this year's birdathon a big success: Fran Buritsa, Marge Cross, Martha Honetschlager, Dorothy Kuether, Pat Leacock, Kim Risen, Dorene Scriven, David Stamps, Mary Ellen Vetter, and Jo Ellen Warolin.

The S O S Bowlathon reported in the last newsletter raised \$854 for SCLP. S O S stands for "Save our Surroundings", a group started by Liv Monson-Benson and Kelly McGaughey, students at St. Louis Park High School. Best wishes and many thanks to them and the following S O S members who "made it happen": Jeff Abramson, Amy Beckman, Amy McGarigle, Keighley Ponthan, Anna Ripka, Beth Snell, Jaim Zuber.

Your Help Is Still Needed

WE STILL NEED \$120,000!!! We may have won, but we can't stop now. We need additional pledges and donations to meet our 1/3 match. These may be restricted to land purchase or unrestricted, thus helping to support continuing operations. There is an envelope enclosed. Please be generous with your tax-exempt gift. Now is the time to make a lasting contribution to our parks and our community. If you are not already a member, join us!

Ask your employer about matching gifts. Among many of these matching gifts, Cray Research is sending us \$100 to match the gift of a Cray employee. Thanks, Cray!

Volunteers are always needed, for everything imaginable. Call our volunteer coordinator, Laurie Lundy for information at 377-9522.

Flash—

Bill Kelly of St. Louis Park made a \$500 matching donation. Can you rise to Bill Kelly's challenge? Mark your Envelope as a "Kelly Matching Donation."

Save Cedar Lake Park

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