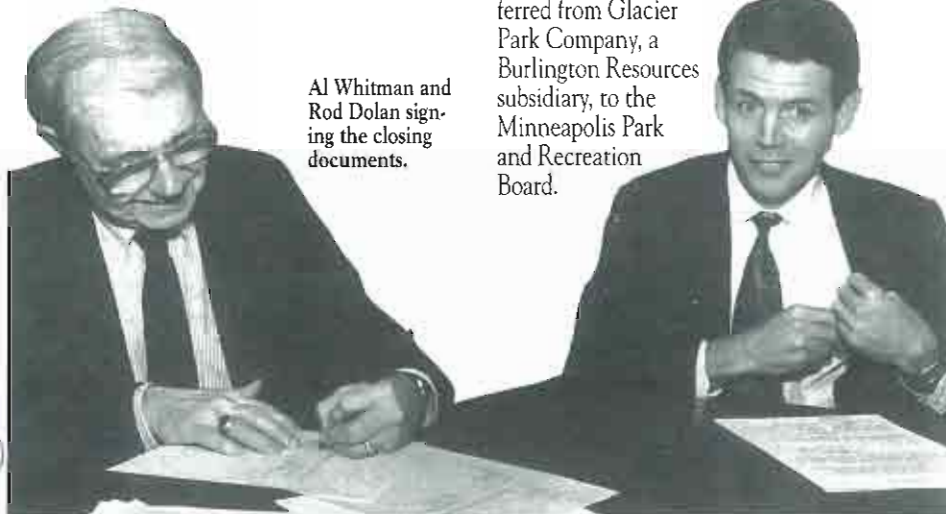


# Save Cedar Lake Park

UPDATE

December 1991

## Land Purchase Completed!



Al Whitman and Rod Dolan signing the closing documents.

A vital addition was made to the Minneapolis and regional park systems on November 25, when the purchase of 48 acres of meadows and woodlands in Cedar Lake Park was finalized. With the flourish of a pen and a check for \$1.6 million, the deed for the new parklands was transferred from Glacier Park Company, a Burlington Resources subsidiary, to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Once the site of busy railroad yards, but now abandoned, the land has been steadily reclaimed by nature and wildlife.

Present for this historic event was Al Whitman, Assistant Superintendent of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Rod Dolan, Senior Director of the Glacier Park Co., and about a dozen members of Save Cedar Lake Park. Also present was Ted Mondale, a leading voice in the Legislature for the acquisition. Upon signing the documents, Al Whitman said "Cedar Lake Park is a significant addition to the most frequently visited regional park in the metro area. It offers a totally different experience than can be found elsewhere. It also demonstrates what people can accomplish when they put their hearts, minds, and feet to the task."

*The land purchase is the culmination of a three year effort to save the former railroad yards, and to restore them to a wild state.*

**Inside: a 3-year recap.**

## Interim Financing Provided by James Ford Bell Foundation

As of the November 25 closing, Save Cedar Lake Park had raised cash and pledges totalling \$487,000 of its \$533,000 Challenge Fund obligation.

So the closing could go forward by the end of November, the James Ford Bell Foundation

made a generous \$5,000 grant (included in the above sum) and has made an interest-free loan covering uncollected pledges and about \$46,000 in acquisition funds that Save Cedar Lake Park has yet to raise. The loan is to be repaid within the next year.

SCLP Treasurer Doris Peterson and Fundraising Chair Ellen Sturgis endorse the Bell Foundation's check over to the Park Board on November 20.



"Cedar Lake Park is a gift from the citizens of Minneapolis to the citizens of Minnesota," said Park Superintendent David Fisher as he accepted checks totalling \$473,700 from Save Cedar Lake Park. From left to right: SCLP President Brian Willette, Park Board member Patty Baker, SCLP Project Coordinator Laurie Lundy, Ellen Sturgis, David Fisher, Doris Peterson, and Assistant Superintendent Al Whitman.

PHOTOS: DOROTHY CHILDERS



## Looking Back...

### YEAR 1

After the railroad signaled its intention to sell the parcel, the idea for SCLP was born when 65 concerned citizens met in Spring 1989 and agreed that the land should be developed into a nature park. Four months later, SCLP was incorporated by **Brian Willette**, **Doris Peterson**, and **Dan Dailey**, but only after committees were formed, and volunteers engaged in developing maps, charts, and a videotape to show what a nature park could be like (and how such a jewel would fit into an otherwise manicured park system). At this time, SCLP's main priorities were to raise community consciousness about the consequences of this extraordinary expanse of open space were to be sold for development, and to generate the necessary political support for Cedar Lake Park to be included in the respective capital plans of the Park Board, Metro Council, and City of Minneapolis. **Ben Wright**, **John Richter**, and **Pat Scott** provided political leadership at this crucial time of initial bridge- and credibility-building.

### YEAR 2

1990 was devoted to an extended dialog with Glacier Park Company, in order to negotiate a purchase price for the land so acquisition funds could be raised. At the request of the Park Board, **John Herman** and **George Puzak** began this dialog, then involved **The Nature Conservancy** in negotiations that resulted in establishing Glacier Park's \$1.7 million asking price. **Ellen Sturgis** volunteered to serve as fundraising chair, and pledges were secured from private citizens for a "Challenge Fund" equalling almost one-third of the purchase price. The State Legislature would be approached for the remaining third. **Laurie Lundy**, who had been serving as membership volunteer, was retained to coordinate a door-to-door canvassing effort and other project activities.

### YEAR 3

With the opening of the Legislature in early 1991, SCLP coordinated an intensive citizen lobbying effort to secure public funds to accomplish acquisition of the Burlington Northern property. Many volunteers worked behind the scenes, like **Don Beimborn** who led development of a booklet that was shared with legislators and others, and **David Klopp**, who arranged press coverage during the legislative session. About sixty additional people maintained a sometimes round-the-clock presence at the Legislature itself. Foremost among them were **John Herman** and **Laurie Lundy**. Legislators **Dee Long**, **Alan Spear**, **Ted Mondale**, **Phyllis Khan**, and **Gloria Segal** all played a major part in passing the legislation, though many others helped, as well. Yet, others had to be convinced. Hoping to sway the legislators, the **Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis** pledged its entire sanctuary fund of \$15,000 to the acquisition. On May 20, at twelve seconds to the close of the legislative session, the Legislature approved acquisition in an amendment to the wetlands bill. \$1.2 million passed through the Metro Council to the Park Board, which negotiated a final purchase price with Glacier Park of \$1.6 million.

## Looking Forward...

# Planning Process Sets Targets To

**O**n August 24, the Steering Committee of Save Cedar Lake Park (SCLP) in a day-long Saturday planning session to develop a shared vision for the future of Cedar Lake Park and SCLP the organization.

Anyone who had ever participated in Steering Committee meetings was invited to attend; attendees represented most age groups, nearby neighborhoods, and park interests.

The meeting was facilitated by **Shelby Address** of Search Institute, and featured much small-group discussion where all viewpoints were aired. Participants expressed pride that SCLP has been instrumental in establishing a new vision for parks combining parks inter-linked by trails and bringing nature into the

city. They were proud that so much had been accomplished with little rancor and much goodwill. They noted that SCLP had, in its consensus-building, discovered new "protocols of making."

They expressed concern that SCLP might lose momentum now that the acquisition was almost a certainty. They worried that the vision that created the Park might become lost or smothered once the Park passed into the bureaucratic care of the Park Board. They noted that there will be continuing danger of the Park's being overused, abused, and damaged. There was impatience for restoration of the to begin.

At the conclusion of the 5 1/2 hour process

## Save Cedar Lake Park's Goals are...

### Trail Development

To develop a system of recreational trails within Cedar Lake Park, as well as non-motorized commuting and recreational trail connections between Cedar Lake Park and the Mississippi Riverfront Park, Basset's Creek Park, and Theodore Wirth Park.

### Park Development

To complete all land acquisition within the Park (including the county railroad land), as well as any planning, public education, and fundraising necessary to assure the Park's development as a rustic nature preserve.

### "Nurture Nature"

To implement SCLP's program in a socially inclusive manner that results in a park user culture based on respect for, and nurturance of, the Park as a community of plants, animals, and people.

## Our Organization's Function is...

### To Hold The Vision

Some participants spoke of SCLP serving as "trustee" of the community values behind the initiative to create the park. They said the idea of "Nurture Nature" should inform park design and operations and should underlie education and park outreach.

### To Secure Volunteers and Special Funding

Participants said SCLP must continue to be instrumental in organizing funding and volunteers to support the vision. They agreed that citizen participation and ownership are crucial, and that a special effort must be made to involve youth.

Source: SCLP Planning Retreat, August 24, 1991.

# SCLP's Future

all present agreed on a set of goals that have since been represented as the target below. Participants agreed that Save Cedar Lake Park should also serve the two ongoing functions that appear below.

At a subsequent meeting of the Steering Committee, Juris Curiskis, Dan Dailey, John Herman, George Puzak, and Brian Willette were asked to draft a one-year strategic plan, including budgets, that reflects these goals and functions. The plan will be discussed and approved by the Steering Committee, ratified by the SCLP Board of Directors, and presented to the annual meeting of Save Cedar Lake Park on January 16, 1992.



## Benefit Concert To Save Cedar Lake

On October 20, approximately 250 neighbors and friends gathered for a benefit concert that generated about \$9,000 after expenses. The concert also stimulated the involvement of many people who had not previously been involved in the effort to save the Park.

The musical program, emceed by Dave Moore, consisted of Brass, Woodwind and Chamber ensembles by members of the Minnesota Orchestra, and a vocal offering by the group "Women Who Sing." There were readings between musical sets by local celebrities Barbara Flanagan, Brenda Wehle, Jim Lenfestey, Christine Sweet, and Eric Utne. "Everybody had a wonderful time," said event co-chair Peggy Pluimer.

### Concert Committee Members

Peggy Pluimer & Elly Sturgis, Co-Chairs; Jim Lenfestey & David Kamminga, Music Coordinators; Mari O'Rourke & Liz Tufte, PR Chairs; Kathryn Glessing, Ticket Chair; Louise Rovner, Refreshment Chair; and Leah Albersheim, Bob Bergford, Bruce Berry, Dorothy Childers, Lee Coursen, Will Craig, Debbie Crocker, Mary Donovan, Joanna Duclos, Marjorie Fedyszyn, Mariam Feldman, Molly Fraker, Diane Henry, John Herman, Sally Hope, Donna Huber, Ruth Jones, Mary Ann

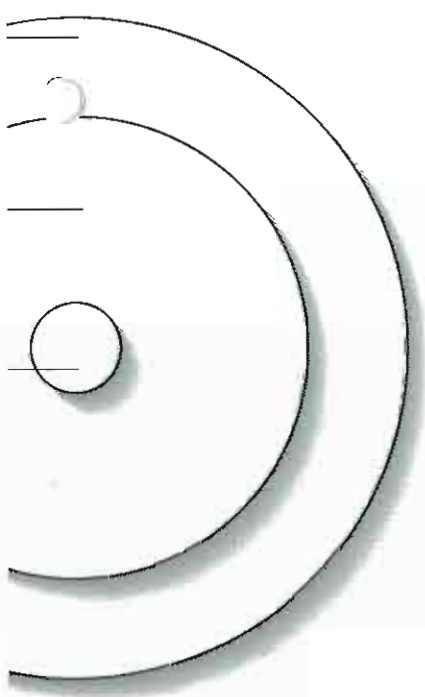
Kanee, David Kamminga, Susan Kinder, Terry Klepinski, David Klopp, Richard Kronfield, Carol Lichterman, Jan Lubov, Laurie Lundy, Mary Jo McMahon, Sue Mitchell, Mary Miller, Debbie Moran, Liv Munson-Benson, Sara Mushlitz, Sally Novotny, Kathleen Nye-Reiling, Art Olson, Solveig Olson, Doris Peterson, Susan Plimpton, George Puzak, Genevieve Ryan, Grace Sheely, Lura Shopteau, Jan Stephenson, Sue Verrett, Kathe Wilcoxin, Linda Willette, Sandy Worthing.

### Concert Musicians and Singers

Julie Ayer, Taichi Chen, Christine Dahl, Michael Gast, Janis Hardy, Ron Hasselman, David Herring, Merrimon Hipps, Carl Holub, David Kamminga, Mark Kelley, Cynthia Lohmann, Joseph Longo, Adele Lorraine, Marcia Peck, David Preves, Ron Ricketts, Anita Ruth, William Schrickel, John Tartaglia.

### Artists and Businesses Contributing to the Silent Auction

Fred Appel, Dorothy Childers, Brian Foster, Framestyles, Carolyn Golberg, Indigo, Bruce Jones, Larkspur, Laurie Lundy, Mary Madco, Peter Martin, Evergreen EnergyScapes, Phyllis Peterson, Louise Austin Rovner, Taeko Tanaka, Mary Walker, Sandy Worthing.



### Mission

- Create an Urban Nature Preserve
- Connect Preserve to River, Suburbs, and Other Parks with Trails
- Increase Community Involvement
- Complete a Grand Vision for Parks



ark

### Businesses and Others Contributing Material Support for the Concert

Bergh Jensen & Associates, Blake School Environmental Club, Chez Paul, Gelpe Old World Bakery, Hennepin Lake Liquor, Isles Market and Deli, Lurie Besikof Lapidus & Co.



### Concert Sponsors Contributing Over \$250

Marc and Karen Anderson, Fran Davis, Kevin and Elizabeth Dooley, Martin L. Freeman, Ronald Giere and Barbara Hanawalt, John and Diane Herman, Dick and Laurie Lundy, Sara Mushlitz and Gene Borgida, Kate and Stuart Nielsen, Corwin and Doris Peterson, Ed and Peggy Pluimer, John and Martha Richter, Janis and James Stephenson, Sheldon and Elly Sturgis, Dr. David Stussy, Brian and Linda Willette.



Having a great time at the concert and reception: Pictured here are The Musical Joke Group (top left); Rip and Gayl Rapson with Jim Lenfestey (top right); Brian Willette and Sandy Worthing (middle right); Genevieve Ryan, Roger Childers, and Mary Claire Schultz (lower right).

## Save Cedar Lake Park Receives CUE Award

On October 29, Save Cedar Lake Park was honored to receive the prestigious "CUE Award" from the Committee on Urban Environment. This is the most important award given by the City of Minneapolis for projects that benefit the urban environment. In presenting the award for the Committee, Michael O'Keefe of the McKnight Foundation contrasted today's man-made urban environment with the native forests, prairies, and wetlands at the time of Nicollet and Marquette. "Only the lakes and rivers have maintained some of their native qualities, and even they have been dammed and channeled, trained and housebroken, silted up or clogged with vegetation that evolved in another land," he said. With Cedar Lake Park, CUE was recognizing the value of perseverance, said O'Keefe. "The SCLP citizens coalition succeeded in accomplishing a remarkable feat: the preservation of open space in an otherwise rapidly developing city."



Accepting the Audubon Chapter's \$15,000 contribution for SCLP are George Puzak, Doris Peterson, Brian Willette, Laurie Lundy, and Dan Dailey.

## Save Cedar Lake Park Receives \$15,000 Audubon Donation

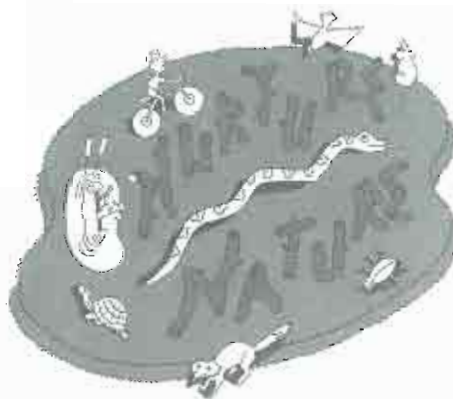
The October 1 meeting of the 3,500-member Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis was the scene of the greatest gift-giving in that organization's history, when it presented Save Cedar Lake Park with a check for \$15,000. The donation came from the Audubon Chapter's Resource Fund, built up over three decades with memorials and gifts intended to support a future acquisition of land for a bird sanctuary. According to the Chapter's *Kingfisher*, the highlight of the evening was a brainstorming session led by SCLP's Dan Dailey to discuss the future

of the land once acquired. The 100-plus Audubon members in attendance made it "overwhelmingly clear...that the land should remain virtually untouched and maintained as a wildlife area." Most agreed that the continued rustic character of the park is what will make it unique within the urban environment. Some expressed interest in having "minimum impact" bike trails along the periphery of the parkland, or of having interpretive trails as part of an outdoor education program.

## Current "Nurture Nature" T-Shirt Design Selected for Show

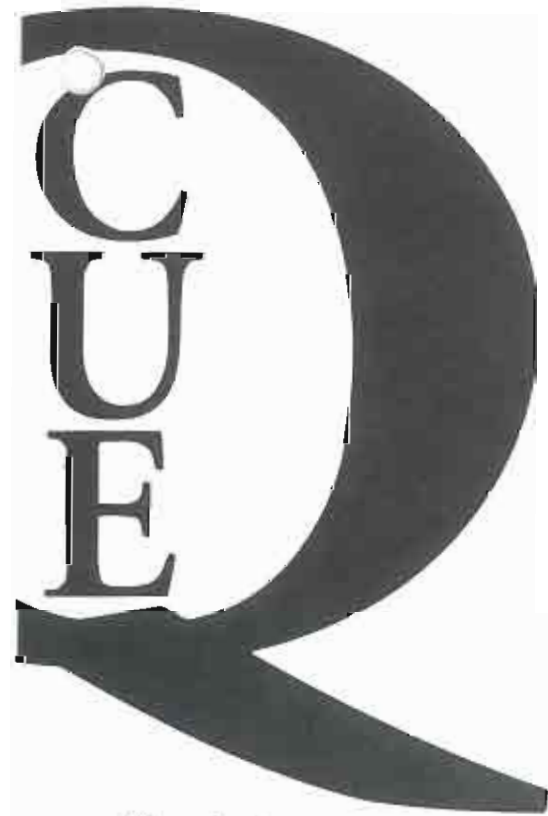
The Nurture Nature T-shirt designed by Kathe Wilcoxin of Bergh Jensen & Associates has been accepted into the American Institute of Graphic Arts/Minnesota Design 91 Show. 91 pieces were selected for the show and will be published in the annual AIGA Show book. The AIGA is a national professional organization devoted to the advancement of graphic design.

To order a T-shirt, send \$12 plus \$1 postage to SCLP, 1101 Cedar View Dr., Minneapolis, MN 55405. Sweatshirts are also available at \$24 plus \$2 postage.



## Thanks!

Save Cedar Lake Park wishes to thank these volunteers. For legal advice, John Herman; for secretarial help, Pat Moberg & Sue Mitchell; for thank you's and mail, Don Beimborn, Virginia Humphrey, Ruth Jones, Jan Lubov, Dee Marks, Louise Platt, Kathleen Nye-Reiling, Martha Roberts, Genevieve Ryan and Marilyn Weisgram; for data processing assistance, Elizabeth Dolan & Hudson Bay Company; for facility use, Grace Trinity Church & Lurie Besikof Lapidus & Co.



SAVE CEDAR LAKE PARK MEETING NOTICES  
Annual Membership Meeting  
Thursday, January 16, 1991 7:00 p.m.  
Community Room, Lurie Besikof  
Lapidus & Co., 2501 Wayzata Blvd.  
Steering Committee  
Meetings are on Wednesday evenings  
at 7:30, and are open to any SCLP  
member who wishes to attend and  
participate. For the date and location  
of the next meeting, call 377-9522.

(612) 377-9522

137 Cedar View Drive  
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Save Cedar Lake Park

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MPLS., MN 55401

As a Holiday Gift...

## Help Assure a Safe Future for the Foxes of Cedar Lake Park

Now that development has been averted by the recent land acquisition, Cedar Lake Park faces new threats. For example:

- It is a little-known fact that the foxes in Cedar Lake Park are in serious trouble. Many of them are dying of mange, a contagious skin disease that will destroy the fox population unless we humans intervene.
- If you have walked in the Park recently, perhaps you have also seen the damage caused by the dumping of trash and other abuse. Such damage will likely continue until the Park entrances are secured and a plan developed by Save Cedar Lake Park and the Park Board for nurturing the Park back to a wild state.
- And of course, there is still the need for Save Cedar Lake Park to raise the remaining \$46,000 so the private sector can meet its obligations in connection with the acquisition.

A tax-deductable gift in any amount will help Save Cedar Lake Park to fulfill its fundraising obligations, develop a plan for the Park's future, and treat the deadly disease that threatens our beloved foxes.

And by making a gift of \$75 or more by December 21, you (or a gift recipient) will receive a beautiful full-color photograph by Karen Altpeter of one of the Park's baby foxes, as pictured on the right.

**To order this thoughtful holiday gift,  
please use the enclosed envelope.**

