

# Save Cedar Lake Park

UPDATE

Winter 1995

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## Come Preview the Park's 100-Year Vision

This has been an extremely formative year for the Cedar Lake Park Association," said CLPA president Dan Dailey. "At our annual meeting on January 25, we're looking forward to sharing with our members some exciting ideas that have been in intensive development over the last several months."

In August, after receiving recommendations for a park master plan from landscape consultants Jones and Jones/Richard Haag Associates, the Park Board concluded the Seattle firms' consulting contract. The task remains to pull together all the creative materials generated to date, including master plan recommendations, into a vision document. The Park Board and the Cedar Lake Park Association agreed that CLPA, with the assistance of the Citizens' Advisory Committee, will develop the 100-year vision document and present it to the Park Board.

### Fourth Annual Meeting

January 25, 1995

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Lurie, Besikof, Lapidus & Co.

2501 Wayzata Boulevard, Minneapolis

(See page 2 for directions)

Commenting on the recommendations made by Jones and Jones/Richard Haag Associates, Brian Willette, chairman of the Cedar Lake Park and Trail Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) and CLPA vice president said, "Their input provides a solid foundation for a vision document. Now it's our task to pull all the materials generated by citizen input and the various consultants into a single, well articulated plan."

Our great challenge, Brian noted, is offering a vision that can sustain the community's interest and dedication for the next hundred years. To assist us in developing an inspiring development vision for the park, the CLPA Board allocated funds to involve the landscape architecture firm of Diana Balmori Associates (New Haven, Conn.).

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## CLPA Hosts National Rec & Park Visitors

Brian Willette, vice president of CLPA, spoke to an enthusiastic audience from the National Recreation and Park Association on October 12 at Hidden Beach. As part of their meeting, the group met to learn about CLPA and its unique approach to urban park management. Dan Dailey and David Dayton also spoke.

The bike trails' new signage, a prototype to be used throughout the city, was in place for the group's park tour, led by Al Singer of the Minneapolis Park Board.





## Looking East

BY DAN DAILEY, CLPA PRESIDENT

Since the purchase of 48 acres of former railyards in late 1991, a number of people have expressed surprise that the Cedar Lake Park Association has continued working, organizing, and fundraising for the park. "Isn't the park already saved?" they've asked.

The answer, of course, is both "yes" and "no." Our efforts of the past several years have been very productive. However, as recent experiences suggest—the loss this autumn of the Ewing woods and wetlands to inappropriate residential development, and the Hennepin County Board's February 1994 sale of a single undeveloped lot within the Kenilworth Trail corridor to a city fireman—Cedar Lake Park will continue to face development pressures along its edges for years to come.

Viewing these setbacks as a wake-up call, the Cedar Lake Park Association initiated a strategic course correction so that

the Association will be equal to future challenges. We added resources to our newsletter effort and initiated a year-end telephone fundraising campaign. We redoubled our effort to complete development of a comprehensive master plan for the park, and at our January 1995 annual meeting, we will unveil the core ideas of a 100-year vision.

The coming year will bring many exciting changes in the park. Construction will begin in early spring on the first phase of the Cedar Lake Trail, which will provide a bicycle commuting link between the west end of Cedar Lake Park (at Highway 100) and downtown (at 7th Street). At the same time, restoration of the north prairie will begin according to a planting plan developed by the landscape architecture collaborative of Jones & Jones/Richard Haag Associates. Other park developments will be announced at the Association's annual meeting on January 25th.

This is the year Cedar Lake Park needs your involvement and support. Together we will establish a refuge for nature and a common ground for an enriched civic and community life. I encourage you to please come to the annual meeting and join with us in our shared vision and work.

## Annual Meeting

*continued from page 1*

In addition to managing her own firm, Diana teaches in the schools of architecture and forestry at Yale University. In December, she recently had the coveted honor of delivering the Frederick Law Olmsted lecture at Harvard University.

"The first products of our collaborative work will be unveiled at the January 25th meeting," Dan said. "I think our members will see that Diana Balmori not only brings us a great scope of urban design knowledge, but shares a deep affinity for the values and spirit of our work."

### **Directions to the annual meeting**

*Exit I-394 south on Penn Avenue. Once on Penn heading south, the street immediately curves to the right and becomes Wayzata Boulevard. Go west on Wayzata Boulevard two blocks to 2501.*



## Volunteers Make the Difference

BY LAURIE LUNDY

### **Second Annual Bike-Use Counters**

The sun rose on leaves starting to turn gold, blazing red sumac and "counters" under the Cedar Lake Parkway bridge on a beautiful day in September. CLPA performed the second annual user count in order to analyze the before and after bike traffic on the trail. Thanks to the following "counters": Dan Christensen, David Dayton, Kathryn Glessing, Sandra Hunter, Mary Lynn Pulscherm, Cathie Puzak, Beata Rapoport, Dorene Scriven, Neil Trembley.

### **Phonathon Callers**

Early in November we started contacting members from whom we had not heard in awhile. In addition to fundraising and updating the mailing list, we are interested to know peoples' thoughts on the newsletter and any other aspects of Cedar Lake Park.

Thank you to all of you who responded to those calls with pledges and information, and thank you to the volunteers who helped with phones and organization: Susan Bottge, Craig Bowron, Dan Christensen, Dan Dailey, David Dayton, Frank Dosal, Kathleen Fix, Lisa Genis, Kathryn Glessing, Joel Itman, Doug Kline, Solveig Olson, John Perentesis, Cathie Puzak, D'Ann Topoluk.

We especially want to thank Fran Davis and the Lakes Office of Burnet Realty for providing their wonderful phone bank facilities.



**Volunteers Doug Kline (left) and Cathie Puzak (right) joined more than a dozen others to make calls for the phonathon.**

### **Newsletter Volunteers**

Thanks to all of you who helped with the last newsletter:

**Article authors:** Mike Carlson, Dan Dailey, Lisa Genis & Steve Pratt, Jeff Lee & Deb Pilger, Mary McGee, Ted Mondale, Neil Trembley & Chris Fieber.

**Newsletter mailers:** Virginia Averill, Mary Ellen Bartle, Gaynal & David Cross, Lorene Falk, Bruce Jones family, Debbie Moran, Ann Seigal, D'Ann Topoluk, Polly Wells.

### **Administrative Volunteers**

Many thanks to Ruth Jones and Mary Donovan.

### **Adopt-a-Park Volunteer**

Accolades go to Craig Bowron for being our first Adopt-a-Park volunteer.

### **Event Planning Volunteers**

Thanks to Kathryn Glessing and Sara Muhlitz for help with the National Rec and Park presentation at Hidden Beach.

## Steering Committee Wants You

The CLPA Steering Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of every month at Kenwood Recreation Center, 2101 West Franklin. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come with your ideas.

## Thanks to Mary Lynn Pulscher

Many, many thanks to Mary Lynn Pulscher, park board planner, for her successful first grant writing efforts. (Federal ISTEA funding was approved for Bassett's Creek and Kenilworth Trails.)

## Give a Special Gift to the Park

To memorialize or honor friends or family members, consider giving a special gift to Cedar Lake Park.

Your tax-deductible gift of \$300 will provide for the purchase, planting and nurturing of a cedar tree in a designated grove at the heart of Cedar Lake Park. Donors and interested guests will be invited to a tree planting celebration being planned for summer 1995.

Your contribution of \$150 will provide for the planting of native wild flowers and/or prairie grasses.

All memorials of \$150 or more will be recognized at a permanent marker. Portions of all gifts will fund the general work of CLPA.

For more information, contact Laurie Lundy at 377-9522 or send tax-deductible contributions to 1101 Cedar View Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55405.



BY NEIL G. C. TREMBLEY

## When the Water Was So Clear

In June of 1914, during a severe storm, a steel dredge toppled off its wooden platform and sank in the southeast part of the Cedar Lake. In an effort to salvage it, a diver, William Lehnoff of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, was sent down in August of that year. After his dive, he said, "I am down 45 feet and I've never seen such clear fresh water as this of Cedar Lake." He also reported that the lake had lots of bass and pickerel. Upon his recommendation, efforts to save the dredge were abandoned.

In June of 1957, Henry J. Neils, who had been a resident of Cedar Lake since 1923, wrote of seeing "metal parts to an old dredge located just east of the Cedar outlet to the channel." Mr. Neils' daughter, Mary Magee, remembers canoeing in that area. "The water was so clear back in the '50s," she explains, "that you could look all the way down to the bottom of the lake and clearly see the old dredge." No doubt it's still there — a home to creatures at the bottom of the lake.



A diver prepared to descend to the bottom of Cedar Lake on August 22, 1914, as shown in the next day's *Minneapolis Journal*.

# Invest in the Future: Volunteer for CLPA

IT'S NOT OFTEN *we have the chance to do something that really matters. Something that lasts. Something like developing Cedar Lake Park's 100-year plan, maintaining trails or planting wildflowers and cedar trees. As a volunteer for Cedar Lake Park Association, you can do this and more.*

*Plus, it's fun. You'll work with your neighbors and meet new friends.*

DURING THE UPCOMING YEAR there will be many volunteer opportunities:

### Administration

Write thank you notes, organize events, update lists, enter data, run occasional errands, call members, mail meeting notices and organize small phone trees.

### Adopt-a-Park

Hands-on involvement in Cedar Lake Park.

### Board of Directors

Please call the office for application information.

### Committees

Bassett's Creek Trail, Cedar Lake Trail (working on the last phase of the trail, the warehouse district), Communications, Fundraising, Kenilworth Trail, Publicity, Steering.

### Communications

Develop press packets to help publicize CLPA; operate a camcorder at meetings and to document park restoration.

### Event Planners and Participants

Some examples: Cedar tree planting celebration, spring clean-up, bird watching outing, non-native plant removal, planting native plants and a benefit.

### Newsletter

Writers, bulk mail stickers and lickens, bulk mail organizer (training provided) and delivery people to a few specific sites.

***Cedar Lake Park needs you. All year long. Together, we can make a better future. To volunteer, call Laurie Lundy at 377-9522.***



BY PEGGY LEPPIK, STATE REP.

## Sustainable Development Key to Park's Future

In my next life, I might be a tour guide. I love showing off Minnesota and I have a favorite route for newcomers. Starting at Minnehaha Falls, we wind through the magnificent Minneapolis park system along the chain of lakes, past the Lake Harriet band shell and the Lake of the Isles bird sanctuaries, around Cedar Lake and into Wirth Park. By the time we reach the Eloise Butler Wildflower Sanctuary, my visitors are ready to pack their belongings and move here. Without my saying a word, they have already understood much of

what makes this state so extraordinary: people here not only love this glacial land, they have preserved and protected the best of it through visionary public policy and generous public and private resources.

Minnesota's urban parks in particular are priceless legacies of this public-spirited vision and generosity. Unfortunately, Cedar Lake Park may be the last major regional park addition for years to come. As funding increases for education, public safety and health care, what will be the impact of state funding for parks and trails?

As I gaze into my crystal ball, I see the words "flat funding" and "sustainable development." We all know what "flat funding" means. It means little new park development. It means, at best, the operation and management budget for existing recreational areas will keep pace with inflation.

But what is "sustainable development?" While not as exciting or glamorous as new acquisitions, sustainable development represents a shift in focus that could be as important to the future of our parks and natural resources as was their initial preservation. It is not spending more but spending smarter.

Sustainable development is ecosystem-based management, working with nature and natural processes. It is management of landscapes (large areas) for the long-term rather

than crisis management of specific sites or projects. Together with a regional DNR coordinator who provides technical and planning assistance, local communities and agencies work collaboratively to prevent environmental degradation. The Phalen Lake Watershed in St. Paul is already operating successfully under this model.

*Sustainable development . . . could be as important to the future of our parks and natural resources as was their initial preservation.*

Sustainable development is good news for Cedar Lake Park. Its public-private partnership, community-based approach meshed perfectly with the park's history of citizen involvement. In focusing on the regional prevention of problems such as pollution and erosion, sustainable development represents the next generation in caring for our parks and natural resources.

*Peggy Leppik is State Representative for District 45B (Golden Valley, Plymouth, Medicine Lake). She serves on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.*

## Budding Editor Starts Earth Magazine

### Donates Profits to Cedar Lake Park Association

BY NONA HILL

Ingrid Jones translates her love of nature into action. Ingrid, age 12, is editor and publisher of *Earth Magazine*, a collection of articles, puzzles, movie reviews and science projects that celebrates nature. She says she was inspired to start her magazine by reading *New Moon* magazine, a publication written by and for girls.

Ingrid, who lives in the Cedar Lake Park neighborhood, attends Blake Middle School in Hopkins, where her father, Bruce Jones, is a science teacher. She and her friend, Maggie Moore, began working on the first issue in March and were ready for publication in April. They have since enlisted the help of six other friends, including Ingrid's younger sister, Anneka, age 9.

*Earth Magazine's* fourth issue, published in December, features articles on Antarctica, seals, ospreys and winter footprints. The seventeen-page magazine is hand written and illustrated by Ingrid and her assistants and distributed at school and in the neighborhood by the girls themselves. Readers are asked to donate at least one dollar to cover printing costs. All proceeds raised above that are donated to the Cedar Lake Park Association.



**Ingrid Jones and her most recent issues of *Earth Magazine*.**



If you would like to receive *Earth Magazine*, call Ingrid at 926-6276. She also welcomes contributions from other young people in the Cedar Lake area who would like to work on the magazine.



## Special Gifts

**C**edar Lake Park Association gratefully acknowledges recent contributions for memorials, tributes and gifts to loved ones. Since the last *Update*, the following memorials and gifts were received:

### Cedar Trees

From Winnie & Scott Crosbie for tree fund to honor the wedding of Lisa Genis and Steve Pratt.

In memory of David Eiger: Marshall Besikof, Karin Fischer, Robert Hurley, Sheldon & Rivia Kaplan, Gail D. Katz, Warren & Patty Kelly,

Mrs. William H. Kelly, Neil Lapidus, Joel Lebewitz, Dick & Laurie Lundy, Bud & Dory Rose, Tim Schmidt, Joyce Sladek, Ed Sternberg, Randall Vick.

### Other Gifts

A birthday gift to Joye Harris from R.E. & Dory Rose.

### Other Memorials

Wild flowers in memory of Mike Waldham from Dick & Laurie Lundy.

## Joan Connoy Wasserman Remembered



Joan Connoy Wasserman was, in every way, unique. In her dress as in her home, Joan's style was filled with originality and verve. With her flaming red hair and high style, no one could ever

mistake her for anyone else.

Whether it was helping a friend choose wallpaper or lay out a flower bed, working with victims of AIDS or volunteering at a women's center, Joan always found time for others.

After a career in interior design, Joan went back to school to become a psychologist. She was still in school when cancer struck; she completed surgery and treatment as soon as possible to resume her education. Friends and family were doubly proud when she received her degree. But the cancer returned.

Joan loved all green and growing things. The cedar tree that has been donated for Joan is a fitting memorial to her and to the many courageous men, women and children whom cancer has deprived of the opportunity to see the fulfillment of their life's dreams.

—Revina Gelfand

## Tree Fund Started for Nate Jones



Cedar Lake Park lost a good friend recently. On October 28, Kenwood resident Nate Jones died from leukemia, one year after diagnosis. He was 17.

For all practical purposes, Nate grew up in the park. He knew it well and spent more time there than many of us could ever wish to. With friends, he played at the beach, built forts on the trails and enjoyed the park from a very unique perspective.

To Nate, the park was a playground, not a sanctuary. He wasn't burdened by the responsibilities of preservation, only those of enjoyment. Everyone who has worked for the park should be very happy in the knowledge that Cedar Lake Park was so much a part of one boy's life.

We would like to plant a cedar tree in Nate's name. Tax deductible contributions, in any amount, may be sent to CLPA at 1101 Cedar View Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55405 or given to Wally Marx (377-6976) at the Isles Market.

—Wally Marx

## Buckthorn: Park Nemesis

BY CRAIG BOWRON

**D**ecades ago the Statue of Liberty proclaimed, "Send me your tired, your hungry, your Buckthorn," and as a walk through portions of Cedar Lake Park will show you, Europe has responded generously.

Buckthorn (or *Rhamnaceae*) — a family of erect or climbing shrubs or small trees — is prodigious and its biological vigor threatens other species. The plan for the natural restoration of Cedar Lake Park includes the removal of non-indigenous species and in this regard, buckthorn is the foremost of sinners.

Buckthorn has long growing seasons, a rapid growth rate and it resprouts vigorously following top removal. Mature plants, cut near the base early in the season can send up sprouts up to two meters tall in the same year!

Buckthorn was first introduced into North America as early as 1800, but was not found widely until a century later. Here in Minnesota it was used as a hedge material until the

1930s, when it was banned from nursery production since it was found to be an alternate host of crown rust of oats.

Today, because of its devastating efficiency, buckthorn has become the nemesis to natural resource managers across the country. It has invaded wild areas in the midwest, crowding out native species. Cultural controls such as cutting, mowing, girdling, excavation, burning, and "underplanting" (planting native woody species in established woods to prevent primary invasion or re-invasion) have been daunted by the buckthorn's phoenix-like ability to rise from the ashes and sprout, en masse. These failures have led to the development of numerous chemical treatments, most of which are applied to the cut stump in the fall, when the application is absorbed and distributed into the still-active buckthorn root system, though not in dormant native plants.

In the fall, buckthorn's green leaves and black berries are easy to spot along Cedar Lake. While cutting (only) has taken place in a few small areas, plans are being made for more



effective removal on a larger scale. Hopefully, this will take the "green" out of our golden fall colors, and bring a brighter spring and summer for our native species.



Save Cedar Lake Park Update is published seasonally by the Cedar Lake Park Association (CLPA). Formerly known as Save Cedar Lake Park, CLPA continues its mission to create and nurture the nature park at Cedar Lake and the connecting trails and greenways.

Since 1989, CLPA has built a membership of over 3,000 households, developed a successful partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Department of Public Works, and raised and helped leverage money for acquisition and development.

Laurie Lundy, Project Coordinator  
Erika Walker, Editor  
Pat Thompson, Designer

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**Cedar Lake Park**  
ASSOCIATION  
1101 Cedar View Drive  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
(612) 377-9522

# We've Saved the Park, Now Help Us Bring It to Life!

Thanks to your generous support, Cedar Lake Park is now protected. It will never be developed into condominiums. But our work is far from over. Together, we must continue to protect and nurture Cedar Lake Park.

With your help we can:

- Plan and design multi-use trails and qualify for construction grants.
- Develop projects such as the Burnham Woods wetlands, north shore restoration and trails, prairie creation and oak savanna restoration.
- Keep citizens involved and informed; coordinate volunteer activities.
- Strengthen our partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Department of Public Works; seek new sources of funding.
- Guarantee that our 100-year plan becomes a reality.



Your commitment is needed to fulfill our vision. Your tax deductible contribution of \$25, or \$75 or whatever you can give, is vital to ensure the future of Cedar Lake Park.

*We have the land. We have the vision. We have a plan to get there.  
We need you to keep it going.*