

Save Cedar Lake Park

UPDATE

Fall 1996

Volume 8, No. 1

Long-Awaited Planting Celebration Date Set

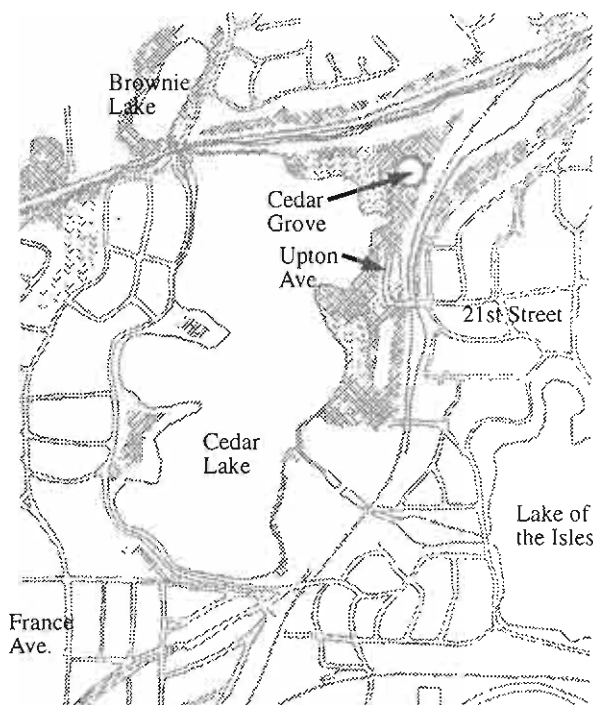
A 4:00 p.m. dedication on October 6, 1996, in the soon-to-be-created Cedar Grove will commemorate cedar tree and wild flower gifts to honor and memorialize loved ones. The grove will be located in Cedar Lake Park near the northeast side of Cedar Lake.

Shortly after the former railroad land was purchased for parkland several years ago, the concept of a cedar grove was developed. Once the land was saved, citizen members of the Cedar Lake Park Association could concentrate on producing a vision for the park and working with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board on a master plan for the park.

Now that much planning has been done, the Cedar Lake Trail has been developed, and the prairie has been planted, it is time for the promise of the grove to be fulfilled. To date, gifts have been received for many wild flowers and over 50 trees.

At present, design concepts for the grove are being developed with the help of a landscape architect, and the area is being cleared of non-native vegetation, primarily buck-thorn.

The grove will be oriented to the eight compass directions, and we hope to incorporate elements of a henge (e.g. Stonehenge)—an astronomical calendar and a medicine wheel. This will serve to anchor the grove to the ground and the sky, create a unique setting, and allow for expansion. As a result, gifts for trees and other ground cover for the grove can be an ongoing way to participate in your park.



The ceremony will incorporate elements from diverse spiritual traditions, and will not include the planting of all the trees and wild flowers at that time; rather there will be a symbolic planting of a few trees. This will allow the plan to be fully implemented later. After the grove area is laid out and fully prepared, there will be an opportunity to plant wild flowers for all who wish to dig in the dirt.

The Cedar Grove will be a wonderful, peaceful feature of the park and will honor and remember our loved ones in a living and growing community—a loving tribute. It has been a long time in coming to fruition, but the time for the celebration will soon be here.

Please attend on October 6!

DNR Approves "Big Woods" Restoration Project

Matching Money Still Needed

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted \$10,000 towards restoring the Maple/Basswood forest on the east side of Cedar Lake. The grant is contingent upon CLPA providing the remaining \$15,000 for the project.

Your donation towards this project will help fund development of the nursery site, purchase a small metal shed for a hand tool "library" and water storage, composting bins, interpretive signs and native plant stock including tree seedlings, shrubs, ferns and wild flowers. The "Big Woods" project will include an oak savanna, oak woodland, and maple/basswood and wet forests.

The Cedar Lake Park Maple/Basswood Forest Restoration Project represents an ambitious forest restoration. YOU are invited to participate in this exciting re-creation. Send your tax-deductible contribution to CLPA today!

Prairie Mowing

Q Why was the beautiful waving prairie mowed, making it look like a hay field?

A Mowing for the first couple of years is part of the prairie management plan.

Yellow Clover and other non-native species need to be cut down before they reseed.

Other questions may be answered by calling the CLPA office at 377-9522.



Save Cedar Lake Park

UPDATE

Fall 1996

Volume 8, No. 1

Long-Awaited Planting Celebration Date Set

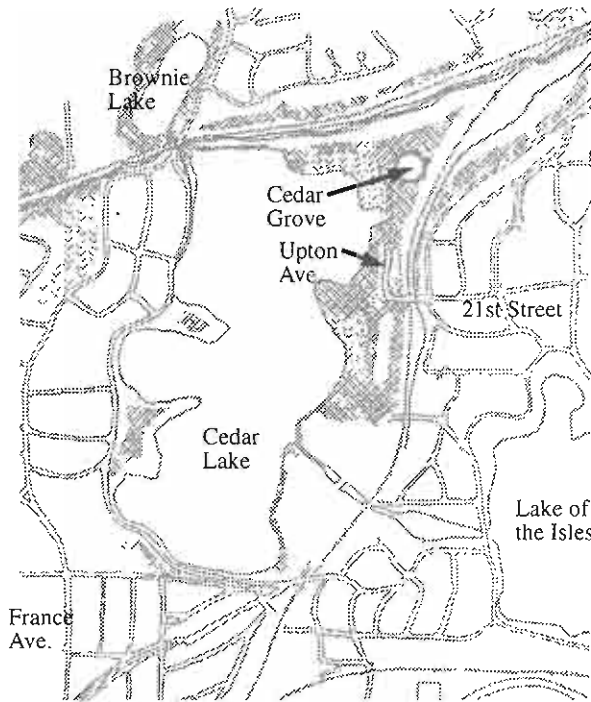
A 4:00 p.m. dedication on October 6, 1996, in the soon-to-be-created Cedar Grove will commemorate cedar tree and wild flower gifts to honor and memorialize loved ones. The grove will be located in Cedar Lake Park near the northeast side of Cedar Lake.

Shortly after the former railroad land was purchased for parkland several years ago, the concept of a cedar grove was developed. Once the land was saved, citizen members of the Cedar Lake Park Association could concentrate on producing a vision for the park and working with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board on a master plan for the park.

Now that much planning has been done, the Cedar Lake Trail has been developed, and the prairie has been planted, it is time for the promise of the grove to be fulfilled. To date, gifts have been received for many wild flowers and over 50 trees.

At present, design concepts for the grove are being developed with the help of a landscape architect, and the area is being cleared of non-native vegetation, primarily buckthorn.

The grove will be oriented to the eight compass directions, and we hope to incorporate elements of a henge (e.g. Stonehenge)—an astronomical calendar and a medicine wheel. This will serve to anchor the grove to the ground and the sky, create a unique setting, and allow for expansion. As a result, gifts for trees and other ground cover for the grove can be an ongoing way to participate in your park.



The ceremony will incorporate elements from diverse spiritual traditions, and will not include the planting of all the trees and wild flowers at that time; rather there will be a symbolic planting of a few trees. This will allow the plan to be fully implemented later. After the grove area is laid out and fully prepared, there will be an opportunity to plant wild flowers for all who wish to dig in the dirt.

The Cedar Grove will be a wonderful, peaceful feature of the park and will honor and remember our loved ones in a living and growing community—a loving tribute. It has been a long time in coming to fruition, but the time for the celebration will soon be here.

Please attend on October 6!

DNR Approves "Big Woods" Restoration Project

Matching Money Still Needed

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted \$10,000 towards restoring the Maple/Basswood forest on the east side of Cedar Lake. The grant is contingent upon CLPA providing the remaining \$15,000 for the project.

Your donation towards this project will help fund development of the nursery site, purchase a small metal shed for a hand tool "library" and water storage, composting bins, interpretive signs and native plant stock including tree seedlings, shrubs, ferns and wild flowers. The "Big Woods" project will include an oak savanna, oak woodland, and maple/basswood and wet forests.

The Cedar Lake Park Maple/Basswood Forest Restoration Project represents an ambitious forest restoration. YOU are invited to participate in this exciting re-creation. Send your tax-deductible contribution to CLPA today!

Prairie Mowing

Q Why was the beautiful waving prairie mowed, making it look like a hay field?

A Mowing for the first couple of years is part of the prairie management plan.

Yellow Clover and other non-native species need to be cut down before they reseed.

Other questions may be answered by calling the CLPA office at 377-9522.





On the Horizon

BY BRIAN WILLETTE, CLPA PRESIDENT

Keep the Course!

The Cedar Lake Trail has been competed as far as downtown Minneapolis, and Cedar Lake Park prairie has been planted. To many, it may seem that our efforts to create a nature park in the shadow of downtown and develop a commuter/recreation trail are complete. However, what seems to be the case isn't reality.

Although well begun, our work is far from done. We must keep the course! We must continue to:

- Articulate our "Nurture Nature" philosophy because of life's interconnectedness and the necessity of learning to live in harmony with nature and each other.

- Develop Cedar Lake Nature Park with a wide variety of native plant and wild life species and develop a system of foot paths through the park's interior.

- Complete the Cedar Lake Trail to the Mississippi Riverfront Park.

- Develop the Kenilworth trail on the east side of the park and make workable connections with other trails.

- Be a strong partner with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the city, the county—government at all levels—in the on-going development of the park and trails and the on-going care and management of the park. In the pages of this newsletter and other newsletters, the continuing efforts of Cedar Lake Park Association, your Association, are described. It is your efforts and support that has made our project successful to date, and it will be your continued effort and support that will assure its on-going success.

Please keep informed, volunteer when you are able, and make a contribution whenever possible.

Together, we can keep the course. Together, we will continue the success.

Sheehy to the Rescue

Remember the comfortable old bench on the north shore of Cedar Lake by the cattails that was vandalized several years ago and replaced by Teen Teamworks last summer? Well, vandals got it again.

Then, new volunteer **Kevin Sheehy** came on the scene. He rescued floating boards, bought new ones and rebuilt the comfortable old bench again. When you are resting on the bench in the woods by the cattails, say thanks to Kevin.

Spotlight on Volunteers

Thomas P. Galarneault, 18, a scout from Troop 91 who is working toward the rank of Eagle Scout, organized three clean-ups of the woods to the northeast side of Cedar Lake. The clean-ups took place on three Saturdays—June 1st, June 22nd, and July 13th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Large amounts of glass, metal, cement, old rugs, etc. were removed. Scouts participating were Richard Allen, Sam Greenblatt, Daniel Kodet, Kevin Kuerba, and Keefus Smith. Also participating were adult community members Rob and Phyllis Galarneault and Lloyd and Carol White.

Last August, **Ryan Scott Gabel** led seventeen scouts, his mom and dad and several CLPA volunteers into the

Cedar Lake Park woods to begin ground preparation work for native plant restoration. The well-planned and executed endeavor was to fulfill Ryan's Eagle Scout requirements. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in Scouting.

This August, Ryan became an Eagle Scout at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Boy Scout Troop 268. Among many letters, Ryan received congratulations from President Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton, Governor Arne Carlson and another Eagle Scout, Jos P. Cunningham.

Mr. Cunningham wrote in part, "I read about your Eagle Scout project in the CLPA newsletter. I am an Eagle Scout with the silver



Bob Eggert and Donna Seline, chair, at the start of the Twin Cities Volksmarcher benefit for Cedar Lake Park wild flowers. The Volksmarchers sponsored the event as part of the National March for Parks.

pals. I am also 82 years old. I started as a scout in 1926...I finally retired in 1971.

"More interesting is the fact that I worked for the M&STL Railroad at Cedar Lake Yards from 1937 to 1975. I was a Special Agent, railroad police, in charge of the First Division from Cedar Lake to Albert Lea."

Mr. Cunningham went on to say that his son recently produced an on-site video tape of Mr. Cunningham discussing his M&STL adventures. He then complimented Ryan and closed by saying, "You join a very distinguished group of men who are proud to say, 'I am an Eagle Scout.'"

Congratulations, Ryan and thanks for all your help in the park.

Volunteers Continue to Be the Heart and Soul of Cedar Lake Park

Fay H. Atchinson
Richard Allen
Larry Baker
Erma Beinke
Don Beimborn
Susan Bottge
Richard Calvetti
Dan Christensen
Dave Czech
Dan Dailey
Bob Day
Paul Deal
Gary DeVore
Bob Eggert
Jeff Fishman
Ned Foster
Page Foster
Phyllis Galarneault
Rob Galarneault

Thomas Galarneault
Lisa Genis
Kathryn Glessing
Elliott Glueck
Sam Greenblatt
Cheryl Hunt
David Hunt
Bonita Johnson
Ruth Jones
Jane Kempf
Katie Kephart
Daniel Kodet
Kevin Kuerba
Darwin Lay
Laurie Lundy
Paul Ledin
Jan Lubov
John McCarron
Bob McGonigal

Mary McGee
Chris Mommsen
Kathy Mommsen
Mike Mommsen
Tony Mommsen
Bekah Padilla
Mishelle Paullus
Darlene Peterson
Doris Peterson
Steve Pratt
Keith Prussing
Steni Prussing
Chuck Rhines
John Richter
Erik Rote
Kevin Sheehy
Dorene Scriven
Donna Seline
Paisley Svensson

Royce Shiller
Terry Shiller
Pat Shirley
Keefus Smith
Mary Tancheff
Laura Tiffany
Neil Trembley
Annika Varda
Maija Varda
Sue Verrett
Dave Wahlstedt
Bob Wheeler
Carol White
Lloyd White
Brian Willette
Linda Willette



Special Gifts

Cedar 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 Louis Gelfand to honor his wife, Ravina Skip & Dorene Scriven
From Bob Wheeler to honor his parents, Eleanor I. & Roger Wheeler

Cedar Tree Fund

In memory of Lee Coursen from Gayle, Ian, & Kelsey Crose; Sam, Barbara, Andrew & Ellie Murphy; Steve Pratt & Lisa Genis.

Gifts

Shelby & Jim Andress in honor of Harvey Feldman

Memorials

In memory of Trenwith Shipley Basford from Letitia Basford
In memory of railroad workers from James Gehrey

Daffodil Project

Margaret Provost

Wild Flower Funds

In memory of Amanda Lee Kimer from Deborah Jindra
From Dick & Laurie Lundy:
To honor the wedding of Michelle Babcock & Chad Wetzel
In memory of Don Beimborn's son Jeff
In memory of Gerry Jones
In memory of Al Singer's grandmother, Margaret Singer
In memory of Linda Willette's mother Ruth Hammerberg

You can honor or remember family members and friends with contributions for wild flowers or cedar trees. If you have questions, call Laurie at 377-9522.

Additional Contributions Received Since the Last Update

Paul & Dell Askegaard
Chris Bacon
Arlene Baker
Mike & Roz Baker
Patty Baker
Ann Bernstein
Jeanne Bearmon
Tom & Margit Berg
Lewis Bernier
Susan & Keith Bottge
Dick Brown
Patrick Corrigan
Joe & Jean Crocker
Rick Cucci
James Curran
David Czech
Jim Dahlseid
Larry & Joy Davis
David & Vanessa Dayton
Barbara DeCosse
Chris & Kay Effrem
Evan Ellison
James Fagrelus
John Francis
Clark Gibb
Ronald Giere
Barbar Gilfilan
Terry Gips
Bob Glancy

Susan Gross
Thelma Gubryn
Sally Heule
Suan Hiestand
Nona Hill & Clark Johnson
Barbara Hope
Steven Huey
Ettore Infante & Treudi Miller
Peter & Louan Jacobson
Ruth Jones
Shirley & Arnold Kaplan
James & Shelly Kirkham
Miriam Kelen
Beth Kelley
Mrs. M.C. Koehler
Edward Kosciolk
Michael & Diane Levy
Marion Lichtenberg
Barbara Longfellow
Kathy Low & Joe Cieslowski
Jack Lynch
James Lynch & Melissa Draper
Sandra & John Maliga

Dennis & Carol Mashuga
Steve & Cynthia Mueller
James & Karen McConkey
Jean McIntosh
Louis McLean
Chet & Miriam Meyers
Maryanne Moren
Murphy Design, Inc.
Scott Neiman
Marcella Nelson
Jeremy Nichols & Evelyn Turner
Rita Ormasa
Beth Oshwald
H. V. Pederson
Ruth Peilen
Polly Penney
Darlene Peterson
Carla & William Phillips
Marian Plummer
Alexander Puzak
Nancy & M. Riaz
Jean Roberts
Tim Russell
Bob & Jean Schiesel
Elizabeth Schutt
Miriam Segall

Michael Shoop & Joyce Prudden
Cher & Harvey Simer
Evlyn Solomon
Sallie Steinert
Paul Sollie
Archibald Spencer
Bob Taylor
Tiffany/Foster Household
Marcella Toft
Neil Trembley
Robert Troupe
Twin Cities Volks-marchers
Mary Vaughan
David Wahlsted
Elaine & Walter Walker
John Warren
John Welsh & Tom Carrillo
Medora Woods
Richard & Sandra Worthing
Steve York
Joseph & Elizabeth Zetah
Leslie Zieve
Suzanne & Ted Zorn
Clement & Birgit Zotta

To Rest a Moment

"Suddenly this summer" strollers on the Cedar Lake Trail found a bench installed opposite the Hedberg Donation Rock, near the mound. The bench was donated by **Arlene Swanson**, who recently moved near the northeast end of Cedar Lake and enjoys walking on the trails. Some of her older friends often needed to rest, and Arlene followed through with her belief that "people should support their parks, their community, and do what they can."

Mrs. Swanson's also enjoys birding in the Park. Her daughter, Laura Ellison, a teacher at Clara Barton School, will soon move close by to also enjoy the offerings of Cedar Lake Park.

The bench will probably be the only one within the conservancy area, as the Cedar Lake Park Association's Statement of Philosophy includes a desire to limit the number of human-made structures within the park and trail area of the conservancy.

So—enjoy a brief rest when you can, and be thankful there are people like Arlene Swanson, who care enough to give to her community. Thank you, Mrs. Swanson!



Wheeler Foils Graffitists

When volunteer **Bob Wheeler** called to lend a hand last spring, he did not realize the impact his volunteer efforts would produce. He chose to remove the graffiti so artfully painted on the railroad memorial depot along the Cedar Lake Trail.

One important tip, according to a recent brochure from the City of Minneapolis, is "Remove graffiti as soon as possible. Left alone, graffiti attracts graffiti." The graffiti on the Linden Yard Station did not attract graffiti thanks to Bob's quick work. He picked up the free removal product from a fire station and scrubbed off the offending graffiti. Bob is happy to report that no more graffiti has reappeared on the depot.

In addition to the free brochure, "What You Can Do About Graffiti," the City has a Graffiti Hotline at 673-2090.



April 27, 1918

The Great Ice House Fire of 1918

BY NEIL C. G. TREMBLEY & CHRIS FIEBER

In the spring of 1918, Minnesota was finally feeling the effects of the Great War that had been raging in Europe for the past three years. Local boys were being called up and loaded into troop trains destined for the basic training centers springing up across the country. Rumor of the departure of just such a troop train was what brought young Bill Porter, whose house was just a few doors away on Thomas and Franklin Avenue, to the Kenwood Bluffs overlooking the gigantic Cedar Lake Ice House on the other side of the railroad tracks.

Though almost 80 years ago, Mr. Porter still remembers clearly that spring Saturday. His father often spent his Saturday evening "on the town," so young Bill had a little more freedom on those nights.

Mr. Porter relates, "There was a neighbor girl named Peggy Peterson who had a beau in the newly formed Minnesota regiment. She hoped he would be on the train we heard was coming through that night." So he decided to join the 50 or 60 people lining the bluffs, excitedly waiting for a glimpse of the train—but it never came. However, something else did.

The Cedar Lake Ice Co. had been in existence since 1878. The clarity and purity of the local water were such that ice cars would line the tracks loading ice to be used in the finest restaurants in Chicago and St. Louis. The Ice House itself was a huge structure made of wood. Straw was used to insulate the ice. Connected to it was a horse stable.

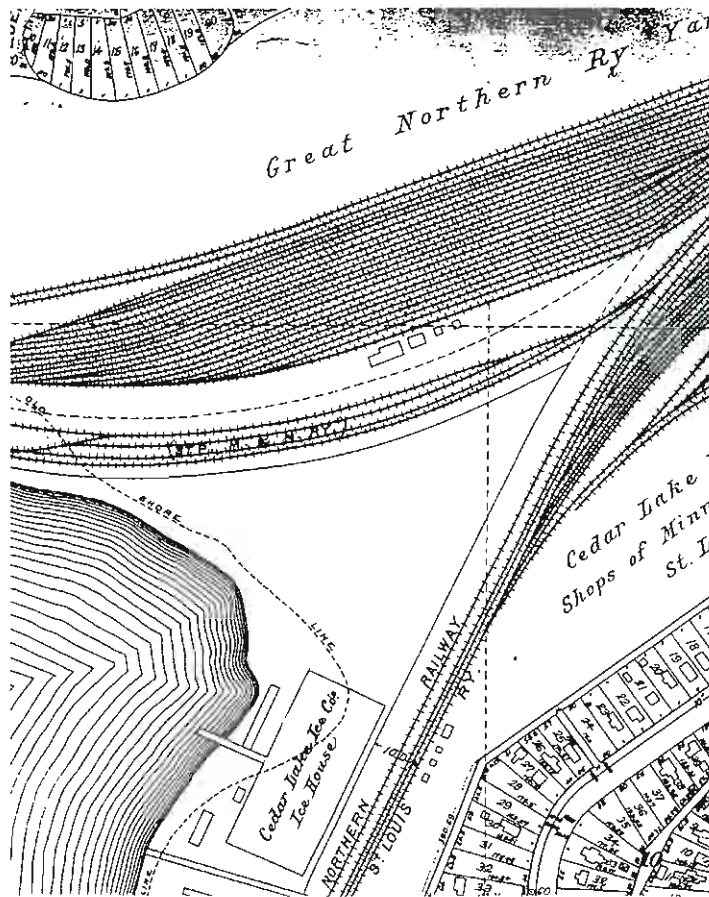
Though no one knew exactly how it started, many believed a careless smoker in the stables may

have started the fire. Whatever started it, the fire spread quickly and soon engulfed the Ice House. "It was the largest fire ever seen," Bill Porter remembers. "The gusty wind from the south blew flaming cinders all the way to Bryn Mawr. It was lucky that the wind was not blowing from the West or all of Kenwood would have gone up in flames."

Because it was Saturday night, the ferocious fire eventually attracted thousands of people. Police had to set up roadblocks to stop the spectators from getting too close. Bill remembers watching the fire-fighters struggle down the path in back of his house — pulling their hoses behind them. The heat from the fire was so intense it melted the glass in the windows of the Porter's house. The heat of the fire combined with the cool air from the ice to create a whirling, swirling fury that lit up the night sky. The fire was so large, it is noted in a list of the great fires in Minneapolis's history.

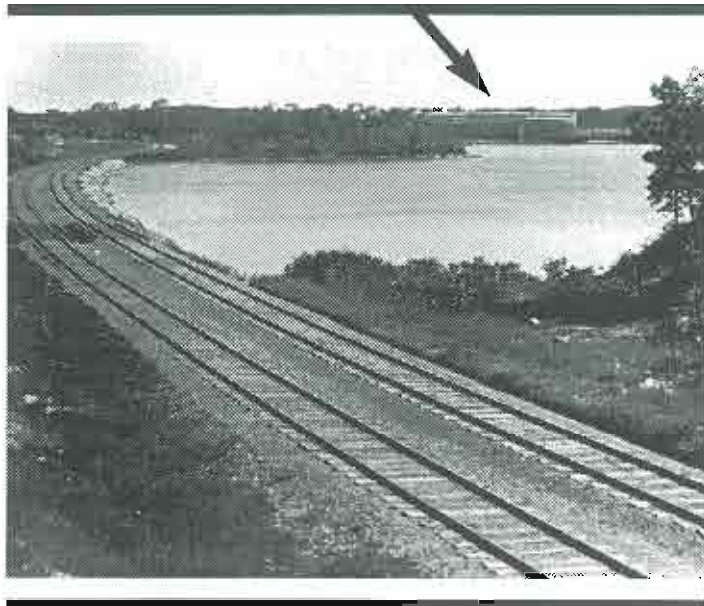
The Cedar Lake Ice House was a complete loss (the company put the cost at \$72,382.18) and was never rebuilt. After the fire, Bill remembers bringing his red wagon down to the ruins and pulling out chunks of dirty gray ice to bring back to his mother. The fire burned the ground so intensely that in an aerial photograph taken almost 50 years later, the outline of the foundation could be clearly seen.

So as you walk north along the old track from 21st and Upton, look west and see the depression where the Ice House used to be and notice how the area is slightly different than the land surrounding it—lingering signs of a bygone era.



Above: The Cedar Lake Ice House was located on the northeast corner of Cedar Lake.

Below: This turn-of-the-century photograph by William Wallof shows the Cedar Lake Ice House from the Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge, looking east across the northern end of the lake.



As you walk north along the old track from 21st and Upton, look west and see the depression where the Ice House used to be.

Projects in the Park

BY KEITH PRUSSING

Now is an exciting time in the park; there is so much going on. There are plenty of opportunities for anyone with interest to be involved in park projects. Cedar Lake Park is unique within the park system because it has an association of citizens, over 3000 households strong, with an established, and evolving partnership with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) and the City of Minneapolis. We have proven that together we can get things done.

Highlights of present projects

- ▶ the **Big Woods** Project is underway on the east shore, with a completion timetable for fall 1997.
- ▶ the **lakeshore trail** has been wood-chipped from the mound on the north shore to the Upton Avenue area. Thanks are due to the good work of the Teen Teamworks program. Eventually the trail will be chipped to the Kenilworth Canal.
- ▶ the south woods **bicycle stabilization project** is under way. (See below.)
- ▶ the **prairie restoration** is moving forward; vegetation was cut recently to favor the native plants and prevent yellow clover and other non-native species from reseeding.

▶ a **dedication rock and bench** (see page 3) have been placed along the trail near the mound.

▶ a meeting of various groups has convened to address trail corridor **safety and security issues**.

▶ the **Cedar Grove** dedication will take place October 6.

▶ the **Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge** over the trail is being repaired to last three to five more years. At that time, a new bridge will likely have to be built, either at the same location or in a new alignment.

▶ the **Master Plan** for the park, years in development, is nearing completion. The Framework planning process for the Chain of Lakes, which took place this year, acutely demonstrated the need for this. A proposal for a paved trail along the Cedar Lake shoreline was not in keeping with the Statement of Philosophy and Design Criteria. A comprehensive master plan is essential to achieving the vision.

▶ **water quality** in the lake has significantly improved. Cedar Meadows wetland is mostly complete; educational efforts are ongoing, and Cedar Lake is scheduled to be treated with alum in late October.

▶ the **Kenwood NRP** grant includes

monies for western Kenwood, which is the park boundary. Planning is underway for neighborhood enhancements that would benefit the park as well.

▶ work continues on the **completion of the Cedar Lake Trail** to the Mississippi River.

▶ MPRB is studying a system-wide **interpretive program**, with a possible pilot project in Cedar Lake Park. This will include environmental education, and a youth naturalist program.

▶ the **Kenilworth Trail** project, on the eastern edge of the Park, has generated intense discussion, due to the proposal to increase rail traffic along this line. At this time, other options are also being discussed.

▶ various enforcement agencies are committed to increase their presence in the park to **enhance security and personal safety**, especially in the Hidden Beach area.

▶ numerous smaller plantings, cleanup, and wildlife habitat projects are ongoing throughout the park.

The above list is not an exhaustive inventory of park projects, but it demonstrates how much is going on. Our efforts are largely driven by volunteers. There is a place for anyone who wants to participate in meaningful projects. Call 377-9522 to volunteer.

Biking—To Enjoy, Not Destroy

One of the wonderful features of Cedar Lake Park is the network of trails and paths accommodating pedestrians, bicyclists, in-line skaters, people in wheelchairs and, of course, lots of animals. Unfortunately, the continued expansion of the number and size of the trails being used by mountain bikers has reached a critical level and needs immediate attention.

The portion of the park from the access to Hidden Beach south to Burnham Road has been the area most affected by the mountain bicyclists. Once the site for dumping road construction materials, a forest has developed here over the last 30 years. Over time, this woodland setting and debris piles have created a unique landscape in Minneapolis that is very attractive to mountain bikers. People from throughout the Twin Cities now come to the park and test their courage and off-road biking skills. The amount of all-season riding is increasing and it is not unusual to see a few dozen riders whizzing through the area on a summer day. This use has created increased pedestrian/bicyclist conflicts, environmental degradation and even serious injuries.

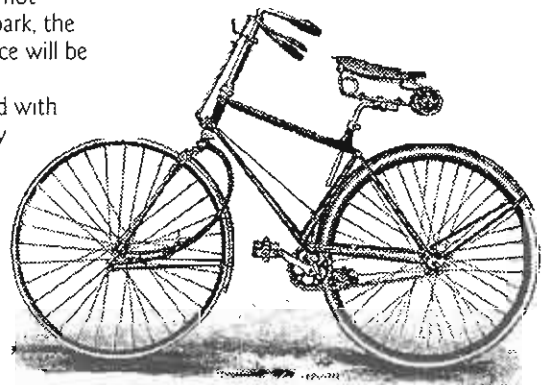
To address these issues, CLPA submitted

ideas to MPRB staff to help resolve some of these problems. This situation, as well as others throughout the park system, has led the Park Board to recently amend their bicycling ordinance to address the problems associated with mountain biking. Through a combination of new signage, stepped up enforcement in the park and physical changes to restrict the mountain bike trails, we believe there will be a better balance of uses in the park. The main pedestrian trail closest to the lake as well as some of the trails in the south part of the park will be closed to bikers. The dangerous jumps will be closed and logs will be used to eliminate existing conflicts between bikers and hikers. While these changes will not eliminate mountain biking from the park, the area where biking can legally take place will be reduced by nearly 50%.

Although the problems associated with mountain biking occur less frequently in the north part of the park, there appears to be a workable solution requiring fewer changes. Again, the main path closest to the lake would be designated for pedestrians and people with disabilities. Bicyclists would be restricted to

the existing gravel road between Cedar Lake Trail and the north end of Upton Avenue near Hidden Beach.

The vision for Cedar Lake Park has always been to develop a harmonious balance between people and the natural environment. Visitors to the park are encouraged to arrive by bicycle, secure their bikes to racks and enjoy the natural areas on foot. These changes to restrict recreational bicycling to areas and corridors within the park will allow for greater safety, less degradation of natural areas and more enjoyment of the special qualities of Cedar Lake Park.



Save Cedar Lake Park Update is published seasonally by the Cedar Lake Park Association (CLPA). CLPA's mission is 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 money for acquisition and development.
Editors: Laurie Lundy & Dorene Scriven
Designer: Pat Thompson
© 1996 Cedar Lake Park Association



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #2543
MPLS., MN 55401

1101 Cedar View Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55405
(612) 377-9522



Bob Day Reports on Cedar/Brownie Task Force

According to Bob Day, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board convened a Framework Citizens' Advisory Committee last fall to make recommendations for a master plan for the Chain of Lakes. In turn, task force representatives to the Framework Committee were elected from the constituency of each lake—Harriet, Calhoun, Lake of the Isles and Cedar/Brownie.

Bob was elected last December to represent the Cedar/Brownie task force. "Citizens attended from all the Cedar Lake neighborhoods including many who have been active in CLPA" he said. The task force concluded its recommendations to the Framework Committee in July. Although not all Framework Committee members agreed with all the task force recommendations, Bob states "There was remarkable consensus on the primary issues affecting the area."

Highlights of three main issues from Bob's report

Water Quality:

- Support completion of **Cedar Meadows Wetland**
- Support **vegetative filters** to alter course of storm drains
- Urge more education, stronger regulation and enforcement to **control phosphorous**

Roadways:

- Support further study regarding bike lanes on **Cedar Lake Parkway's** two-way road
- Urge immediate study of **Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge** redesign
- Urge MPRB to work closely with Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA), which has spent many years and dollars on **Dean Parkway** problems

Bike/Pedestrian Trails:

Support design principles under "CONNECT ecosystems, green corridors and trail systems" from Statement of Philosophy by Cedar Lake Park & Trail Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Support development of **Kenilworth Corridor Trail** as crucial link between chain of lakes and Mississippi River

- Urge MPRB to preserve **green space** by not constructing trails along canal and south-east shore thereby providing runoff filter and lessen safety concerns

Finally, according to the report, the collaborative work of CLPA must remain as a vital blueprint for future planning. The task force supports CLPA working closely with MPRB to complete Cedar Lake Park as the ultimate example of an urban park, environmentally preserved for everyone to enjoy.

Ed. note: We all are indebted to Bob Day for his diligent and tireless work on this committee. Copies of his full report and/or the Statement of Philosophy are available by calling 377-9522. The Chain of Lakes Master Plan will be available from the MPRB later in 1997.

Cedar Meadows Update

The final step in the Cedar Meadows wetland restoration was completed in May with the planting of numerous plugs and seeds of wetland vegetation. Although it will take a few years for the plant community to completely establish itself, residents should start to see plants emerge soon. Additional plantings will be done in the spring of 1997 with funds from CIDNA's DNR grant. Wetland plants play a critical role in absorbing nutrients and chemicals that can pollute rivers, ponds, and lakes downstream. Wetland plants also bind soil with their roots and help control erosion.

A multi-use path has also been created through Cedar Meadows. In addition, two docks overlook the wetland and detention pond. The path and docks were paid for by CIDNA's NRP funds. CIDNA may also use a portion of their DNR funds to create educational signage around the wetland.

—Deb Pilgeer, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board