

Cedar Lake Park

UPDATE

Autumn 2000

Networks Edition

Volume 12, No. 3

CLPA's 'Net Works' Keep Growing...

BY NEIL TREMBLEY, TREASURER &
BRIAN WILLETT, CO-FOUNDER

Who are we?

If you're wondering why you received this newsletter—this issue's doubled circulation reaching some 6,000 around Cedar Lake—it's because we want you to know about Cedar Lake Park. Its creation is one of the more amazing stories in the city's history. It's a story of ordinary people doing the extraordinary.

Starting in 1989, a group of citizens took on a daunting task: creating a nature park in the middle of the city. Along the way, they envisioned how a trail, running along the edge of this park, could spur the growth of an interconnected trail system throughout the metro area.

How did this happen?

About 20 years ago, the huge railroad yards that dominated the north and east sides of Cedar Lake ceased operations. In the mid '80s, the railroads began pulling up hundreds of iron rails that criss-crossed the flatlands between the base of the Bryn Mawr bluff and the northern shoreline of Cedar Lake. (*See map on page 7.*)

With the tracks gone, nature re-asserted itself. Weeds and grasses spread, squirrels and foxes took residence and people began to make paths through the new prairie. Meanwhile, the railroad company made plans to sell the land to developers. In 1989, a huge sign went up adver-



Thanks to CLPA founders, volunteers and contributors, natural prairie with native wildflowers now line the hiking and biking trails around Cedar Lake Park.

tising the developer's vision of Cedar Lake Park: a few large, expensive homes close to the lake.

At the same time, a group of spirited citizens embraced a very different vision for this area. They sensed a unique opportunity to take this vacant land and help it blossom into a beautiful nature park, with a meandering trail gracing its edge. They saw that this trail could form the lynchpin connecting the Chain of Lakes to the west with the Mississippi to the east. They dreamed of a series of these greenways connecting the city and the suburbs. And they began the task of turning their dreams into reality. They called this dream "Save Cedar Lake Park."

But how do you save a park?

First, they decided to name and claim the land. They put out trash cans and put up signs proclaiming the area "Cedar Lake Park." They

talked to people passing through the park, promoting the idea of nature. They acted as stewards for this, the newest natural wonder of Minneapolis. Though they did not own the land, they claimed it for one and all.

As they began to organize, these citizens started to publicize their cause of public stewardship of the land. For many of them, the land had become a place for reflection, for experiencing nature, a spiritual place and a cherished space to bring friends and family. Their goal was to protect this area, and share the experience. So they began to beat the drum for community support.

With their bold and compelling idea, they went door to door, handing out leaflets with a straight-forward message: What is the best use of this land? Which alternative do you want: big homes for a few, or a nature park for all?

Almost all the people contacted heartily

If you are receiving this CLPA Update for the first time:

1. Let us know if you want to be added to our mailing list.
2. Call us at (612) 377-9522.
3. Come to our next steering committee meeting, Monday, October 9, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Kenwood Recreation Center.

continued on page 3



On the Horizon

People, Partnership and Place

BY KEITH PRUSSING, CLPA PRESIDENT

In the early days of this Association we often would talk about the Three P's when asked to describe what we were about, and how it was that we were able to accomplish such tremendous and far-reaching things. People, partnership and place continue to represent core principles that guide all that we do.

From the beginning, all people were welcome to participate in the process of saving the land, planning and building the trail and visionning the nature park. All sorts of people stepped forward, and with the consensus decision-making model that we were applying, many points of view were respectfully heard. Magically, whenever a need arose, some person would appear with the ability to meet it.

Our first partnership was among the few founding members. Then a unique and visionary relationship with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board was created and became a model of what was possible in terms of relationship with neighborhood groups, various levels of government, and business and other interest groups. We continue to utilize and leverage these relationships that are cooperative, integrative and solution-oriented, rather than hierachal and authoritarian.

The concept of place grew out of the deep connection that many had for the land and waters at Cedar Lake, and the conviction that geography, railroad history and earlier parkland purchases came together to provide for the possibility of an urban nature park with connecting trail greenways. Even though significant pieces of greater Cedar Lake Park are owned by other jurisdictions such as Hennipin County Regional Authority and BN railroad, the notion of place has transcended these boundaries.

The "Net Works" edition of this newsletter is intended to celebrate and illustrate the power of these Three P's. We are doing an extended distribution mailing of this issue to reach out to more people. Our new web site will soon be active; it is an exciting new development to further our mission: to connect people and place in partnership with nature to preserve and restore the lands and waters surrounding Cedar Lake, and to provide a model for the larger community linking past, present and future.

Congratulations to all of you who have supported and participated in this grand endeavor, and welcome to all new people who have boarded the train.



Special Gifts

BY STEVE DURRANT, TREASURER

Cedar Lake Park Association gratefully acknowledges recent contributions for memorials, tributes and gifts to loved ones. Since the last Update, memorials and gifts have been received from:

CLPA Donors Since Last Spring

Appletree Child Care	George Gosko	Sandra Metzger	Virginia Puzak
Ted & Ruth Arneson	Dick Hedlund	Patricia Moberg	In memory of
Erna Bachtold	Sally Heule	Steve and Cynthia	Mrs. Richard H.
Jeanne Bearmon	Clifford and Thelma	Mueller	(Grace) Wakefield,
Lois B. and Jonathan	Johnson	Faye Knowles and	Anacortes,
S. Bishop	Phyllis Just In memo-	Douglas Muirhead	Washington
Frank Braun	ry of Margaret C.	James Mullin	Deborah Reynolds
James Brooks	Just	Elizabeth Ochwald	Judy and Bob
Barb Carufel	Jim Kiehne	Franklin and Deana	Sherman
Roger and Sandra	Don and Lois Kjellman	Berg Pass	Pat and David Shirley
Clarke	Anita Konikoff	Carla Pavone	Lane Skalberg
Coco Connolly	Rhonda Kuehl	American Express	Kristine Smith
Peretz Dworsky	Seymour Locketz	employee-match-	Kathleen and Gerald
Evan Ellison	Barbara S. Longfellow	ing program	Sovell
John and Jeanne	Trust	Polly Penny	Marla Stringer
Fitzimmons	Mr. and Mrs. James	W.D. and Carla Rahn	Mary W. Vaughan
Arlene Fried	Martineau	Phillips	David Wahlstedt
James Gehrey	Jim and Karen		Mark Wernick
William Gilbreath	McConkey		Suzanne and
			Theodore Zorn

Thanks to Volunteers!

Much of the work done in Cedar Lake Park is done by volunteers, groups and individuals, to whom we are also most thankful:

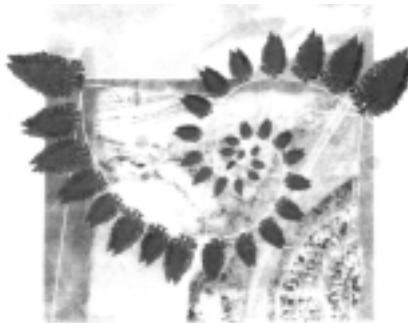
Fay Atchison	Chris Mosier
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Jake Evenson	Nate Rundquist
Michelle Gray	Marsha Ruwe
Steve Harrington	Nick Ruwe
Rachel Heffernon	Mary Ryman
Ashley Hummel	Emily Seller
Ruth Jones	Mark Simonson
Kenwood Garden Club	Ben Svenson
Robert Kuehn	Paisley Svenson
Thomas Mazula	Neil Trembley
Minneapolis Men's	Also, thanks to all we
Garden Club	may have missed.

WANTED

Water pump along trail.
Need \$20,000 to install.

Please call, or note "pump"
on your contribution.

NEXT ISSUE



Watch for our new
aerial photo of the
Cedar Grove!

"Net Works" *continued from page 1*

endorsed the vision of a nature park with connecting trails. Buoyed by community support, this group of citizens decided to back up their message with some muscle and began a fundraising drive to raise one third of the cost of purchasing the land.

Of course, they had their doubters. When these bright-eyed political rookies came to a meeting to talk about their dream, a city council member at that time said, "This meeting is about development, not about building a park." The railroad dismissed their efforts, thinking these well-meaning folk would soon tire of all the work needed to change the way it has always been done. Other powers saw this grassroots movement as nothing short of revolutionary. (This was not the usual way the park process worked.) Through it all, the Save Cedar Lake Park group persevered.

How did they do it?

First of all, they were inclusive. Anyone could join Save Cedar Lake Park. There was (and still is) no membership fee. All that was needed was a desire to support the process.

And they had a positive approach. They weren't against development; they were for a nature park. Houses—even big, expensive ones—weren't bad; a nature park was better. Again and again, they drove home their forward-looking message as they asked, "What is the best use of this land?"

A critical element in their decision-making was working by consensus. The devil is in the details, it was often heard, so they sought to focus on the key issue of saving the land, while not getting bogged down in minutia.

Most importantly, they were historians and visionaries. They looked at the park system created in Minneapolis 100 years ago and asked, "What would we like to see the city like 100 years from now? How can we begin the process of transforming our metropolitan area back to a more natural setting? And how do we create a dialogue in which quality of life in the urban environment is a primary concern?"

Enthusiastically they shared their vision, and doggedly they pushed their agenda, winning over their fellow citizens. Then they initiated a dialogue that, over time, turned into a partnership with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) to secure the land and create a park with trails. The City and Metropolitan Councils also entered the partnership to develop the connecting trails. And since the park would become part of the Chain of Lakes Regional Park, the state legislature was approached to join the partnership.

Low and behold, in 1991, with determination, humor, and sweat equity, \$600,000 raised from the community, and money from the state, the land was purchased from the railroad to become an integral part of the Minneapolis Parks system.

This citizens group (made up of people like

you), after accomplishing the seemingly impossible, could now rest on its laurels, for their original intention was to dissolve the group. Too often a group starts out with the best intentions, then evolves into an institution no longer serving the purpose for which it was created. Not them. Their agenda was to work to ensure the purchase of the land, make it a part of the park system and close-up shop. Or so they thought.

But for some, the park had become their touch-stone. They would need to "Nurture Nature" for their vision to come to complete fruition. Their stewardship was not over.

They saw a multitude of issues beckoning to them: what type of park was it to be, should there be trails through it, should there be lighting in it, what about parking? Rightfully, in their crusade to establish the park, they had postponed addressing these issues. Now, these concerns came to the front. Many simply could not walk away from the next critical stage in the life of the park.

They settled down to work.

Re-naming themselves the Cedar Lake Park Association (CLPA), they continued their partnership with the MPRB, the new owner of the land, and the city's Department of Public Works, for they had the vision and would provide the muscle to create a city-wide trail system.

In 1992, the Park Board created the Cedar Lake Park and Trails Citizens Advisory Committee with the president of the CLPA at its head. The committee first oversaw the creation of a plan for the construction of the Cedar Lake Trail that was consistent with the vision of the CLPA. They then created a Statement of Philosophy and Design Principles by which the park could be established.

Briefly, the statement encompassed the following objectives:

- Protect and improve the water resources and soils.
- Reconstitute a variety of native plant communities that reflect lake, wetland, prairie, Savannah, woodland and forest eco systems.
- Manage the plant and animal communities for long-term integrity, stability and beauty.
- Connect ecosystems, green corridors and trail systems.
- Minimize human artifacts and amenities within the conservancy.
- Integrate the surrounding land uses to complement the park.
- Facilitate learning experiences in the park.
- Celebrate people living in harmony with nature and each other.

Meanwhile, the CLPA had not been idle. Working with the MPRB, they created a comprehensive document: the Cedar Lake Park Master Plan. This bold declaration encompasses the totality of the park, where it came from, what it is, and what it should become (available on CLPA's temporary web site, www.ms-studio.com/clpa)

Starting with the geology of the land, the

document places the area historically and geographically. With the land in its present state, it outlines what type of flora should be planted, what type of wildlife supported and what kind of human interaction encouraged and discouraged. It provides a framework for educational activity and community service in the park. It is meant to be a living document (to be altered as needed) and is one of the great successes of the group.

For four long years, from 1991 to 1995, the group worked together to construct a vision of the park for the near future. They produced a newsletter three times a year to keep the membership informed about issues concerning the park. During these years, the nuts-and-bolts decisions were made. The seeds of careful planning were sown. And oh, the impatience to see them grow!

Then, in 1995, construction of Phase One of the Cedar Lake Trail was completed, and the prairie area just north of Cedar Lake was seeded. Two years later, the first memorial trees were ceremonially planted, creating the Cedar Grove. About that same time, funding was acquired to create a maple/basswood forest around the northeast edge of the lake. Other trees and shrubs were planted in subsequent phases of this project.

In 1998, the first memorial wildflowers were sown in the prairie. Since then, over 3,000 have been planted in and around the park. The nurturing of nature has proceeded, always within the framework of CLPA's Master Plan.

Over the last five years, all of the original members of the Save Cedar Lake Park Committee have left active leadership. As one member put it, "It's like a train ride. Some people get on the train and ride a short time; others ride a long time. However long they ride, when they see their station, they know it's time get off."

A new generation of leaders has taken over, guided by the principles and actions of those original visionaries. These leaders look back

to what's been laid out, and forward to what's to be accomplished. As the group moves forward, CLPA's founding principles of inclusiveness, consensus and partnership provide the energy and spirit needed to face the challenges with a positive spirit.

You may have noticed that no person has been named in this article. The primary reason is this: the Cedar Lake Park story is not about one or two people; it's about a group of ordinary citizens, like you, who achieve extraordinary goals. Although none of the original members are still active in a leadership role, the group continues to thrive as it did in the beginning.

Why? Because today's members see clearly that, as the action of the group corresponds to the vision of the group, the spirit of the group lives on.

Now, as we continue to "Nurture Nature," we invite you to hop on board the train and help us take the next steps in realizing the dream of Cedar Lake Park.

Come join us!

PROJECTS IN THE PARK

BY KEITH PRUSSING

Planting is underway at 21st and Upton Ave. S.

Upton Ave. S. in the area between the Kenilworth Trail crossing and the gateway area. Native garden areas as one crosses the railroad tracks, and prairie grasses on both sides of 21st St. are being installed. MPRB Forestry crews are removing buckthorn, and native shrubs are being planted. Additionally, an in-ground tool storage area for public use will be buried in the area. This project is funded by NRP moneys, utilizing MPRB staff and volunteers.

The **fall bird migrations** have been underway since mid-August. Fall warblers are on the move and will continue into October. Foxes continue to be seen in the north, and mink have been sighted in two different locations along the lake shore. Badgers live in the hillsides along the Kenilworth Trail. A banded bluebird was identified, through a telescope, as having returned to nest from last year. The muskrats continue to thrive. The fishing in the lake has been good, though hard on the fish. Ground-nesting wasps have been aggressive (ouch!), and chiggers have been reported by several park users.

The **lake shore trail** has been improved with six-inch-deep wood chips laid six feet wide, with areas of realignment. Now, the trail from the mound to north of Hidden Beach in the Upton Woods area has been enhanced, and new nodes of observation developed. Trail users on foot are enjoying the springiness of walking and running on the newly-surfaced trail, and bicycle use has been disadvantaged. More trail work will take place south of Hidden Beach, with the eventual goal of reaching the canal. Chips are provided by MPRB at strategic locations, and wheelbarrow transport is done by Sentence to Serve youth crews and volunteers.

MPRB has **sprayed extensively for poison ivy** in the northeast sections of the park, particularly in the area of the Cedar Grove. Preferring disturbed ground with sunlight, poison ivy has become a growing problem as the park develops. More remediation will take place in the spring. Cottonwood growth in the low areas of the prairie is a concern, as well as leafy spurge and its neurotoxic white juices. Along the woodland trail corridors, burdock, with its large leaves resembling rhubarb, is a nuisance. One control strategy being employed is to cut the seed tops, and bag and remove them from the site.



Volunteer Meredith Montgomery helps chip the trail.

Along the trail corridors, late July **mowings for sweet clover control** resulted in several phone calls from concerned and surprised trail users startled by the dramatic change from one day to the next. This is a necessary prairie management strategy to eliminate this pest. Further, observers have noted that this is the first year that the drill patterns of grass plantings on the prairie has been obscured. The prairie is beautiful.

Growing numbers of **canoeists** are traveling from the Lake Calhoun rental facility to Cedar Lake and beyond to Brownie Lake. It is a lovely, wild experience. There can be quite the assortment of water craft on a nice afternoon. The recent tragic drowning of a canoeist in Lake of the Isles, however, must instill caution in the water users.

MPRB continues to cut milfoil and other water plants on 50% of the lake area in an ongoing attempt to mitigate the impact of these clinging weeds. It has been a good year for swimming.

The long-awaited **Midtown Greenway opened** with great fanfare on Aug 12. It is now possible to reach the park from Uptown and beyond smoothly and quickly, via the Greenway and Kenilworth Trail. The Bassett's Creek Trail continues to be stalled, primarily due to exorbitant rental demands by the Canadian Pacific Railroad for the use of their corridor. St. Louis Park expects to begin construction of the western diagonal extension of the Cedar Lake Trail to the Depot in Hopkins in the spring, with the possibility of some work still this fall. Discussions continue on the design and

alignment of the trail to the river. Look for construction to start soon. It is quite a trail network that has developed.

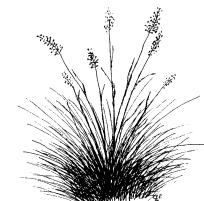
Extensive plantings have taken place on the cleared hillsides of the northwest Cedar Lake Parkway corridor. The adjacent landowners have been extensively involved in the planning and installation of native grasses and forbs and are committed to ongoing maintenance in the form of watering, more planting, and weeding. The implemented design will enhance and preserve the view scape from the neighborhood, preventing the guerrilla cutting of trees by each citizen in an attempt to maintain their view of the lake. Look for bridge construction to begin in spring 2001.

Volunteers continue to be active in park activities, such as planting and exotics removal. Throughout the spring and summer, youth groups from area churches and schools have worked with CLPA volunteers to pick up trash and uproot buckthorn. They particularly like to knock down larger buckthorn. Uniformly, these events have been rewarding experiences for all concerned. Planters have continued to install native trees and shrubs to complete the Conservation Partners (Big Woods II) grant project. Prairie and woodland wildflowers will continue to be planted throughout the fall.

Guide to Enjoying our Prairies

(Seen at the Treaty Site History Center)

"Prairies are ever-changing and may be experienced during any season of the year. Prairie plants are best appreciated in their native, living environments. **Visitors are requested to refrain from picking, digging or collecting plants**, or in any way damaging these sites.



"If you wish to add prairie to your home garden, please seek out one of the many nurseries now selling seeds or plants of cultivated native prairie wildflowers. Help preserve these fragile remnants of our state's and nation's past...walk gently."

Park Conservancy Area Contains Some 120 Plant Species

BY JEFF OLSON, BOTANIST

As cicadas buzzed in the rising heat of a recent summer morning, I slowly walked through the Cedar Lake Park Conservancy Area, noting all plant species that I observed. I hadn't chanced upon this gem of a park before. Steve Durrant had asked if I might like to assess the floristic integrity of the area.

Though still a work in progress, my plant list after recent field work contained approximately 120 species of plants observed within the Prairie, the Cedar Grove, the Kenilworth Trail and the prairie opening northwest of 21st and Upton. The species list contained a good diversity of grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees.

A simple way of assessing the floristic integrity of a natural community is to assign the terms, "native" or "non-native" to each plant species, and calculate the percent of native plant species over the total number of plant species. If this method is repeated each year, one can tell if management strategies are encouraging the growth of native species.

Of 45 plant species observed on the Prairie, 73% were native. Within the Cedar Grove, the Kenilworth Trail and the prairie opening northwest of 21st and Upton, 66%, 87%, and 66%, respectively, of total observed plant species were native. For a relatively young restoration, this is an impressive diversity!

Several plant species considered noxious



Showy sunflower near the BN Railroad tracks.



Rough blazingstar, surrounded by big bluestem and switchgrass .

were also observed within Cedar Lake Park. These include garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, common buckthorn and glossy buckthorn. These species have the capacity to reproduce quickly and can hinder successful restorations if not eradicated early.

Legions of volunteers have toiled hard to rekindle a sense of our past in this unique park.

Thanks to their efforts, future generations will still know and appreciate the prairie.

Prior to taking a position as a Botanist/Plant Community Ecologist at BRW, Olson, a native St. Paulite, was employed for seven years as a Botanist with the Illinois Natural History Survey. Olson likes to keep one leg wet while assessing wetlands and the other dry while botanizing on prairies.

Milfoil Control Report

BY RAY NEWMAN

The overall goal of our project is to assess the potential use of native and naturalized insects to control Eurasian watermilfoil. Although there are several insects in Minnesota that may be useful, we are focusing on the milfoil weevil, *Euhrychiopsis Lecontei*.

The milfoil weevil is native and is controlling Eurasian watermilfoil at several lake sites where it becomes naturally abundant. At a number of other lakes, weevil density is low or barely detectable, and the plant is not controlled. We are attempting to determine what is limiting weevil densities at these lakes and suspect that predation by sunfish might be important.

We have monitored Cedar Lake since 1992. The milfoil weevil is present, but at barely detectable levels. We have conducted a set of fish-exclusion and weevil-stocking experiments at Cedar Lake. Twenty cages, 10 open to fish and 10 closed to fish, have been placed in the lake. Fish were removed from the closed cages, and half the cages (open and closed) were



These white, raft-like "cages" floating in Cedar Lake contain the milfoil weevils which are supposed to be eating the milfoil. This latest report, though, suggests that sunfish are eating the weevils, so perhaps more weevils are needed. Watch for updates in the spring newsletter, or earlier on our new web site.

stocked with weevils.

Preliminary results suggest that sunfish are indeed limiting the establishment and population build-up of the milfoil weevil in Cedar Lake. We are working on additional experiments elsewhere and the development of a population model that will help us determine the vulnerable life history components that may limit the

development of high weevil populations.

More information on our project and on Eurasian watermilfoil can be found at our web site: <http://www.fw.umn.edu/research/milfoil/milfoilbc.html>

Ray Newman is an associate professor of fisheries and wildlife, at the University of Minnesota.

St. David's Society Raises Funds for Daffodil Plantings

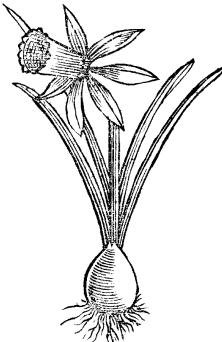
BY RUTH JONES

The St. David's Society of Minnesota has just completed a very successful campaign to raise funds for a second planting of daffodil bulbs on the west side of Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis. (This follows up our initial planting of 1,000 bulbs on this site in September of 1997.)

Contributions totaled \$565, consisting of a kick-off gift of \$50 from the Society and 23 gifts from individual members and friends totaling \$495. This will allow us—at the rate of 40 cents a bulb—to plant an additional 1,363 bulbs at the site.

Can you imagine the beauty, grace and uplift of seeing over 2,300 daffodils in bloom at Cedar Lake in the spring of 2001, the first spring of the "real millennium"? Such numbers qualify for William Wordsworth's famous phrase, "host of dancing daffodils," as a host is, by definition, a great multitude!

Isn't it wonderful what can happen when many people give a little?



With thanks to all for their great participation, here is our list of individual donors, with their citations regarding memorials or honoraria:

Adams, Ron
Anderson, Carolyn
Beggs, Helen
Cargo, David and
Cilcain, Judy—in
honor of the Cat
Whiskers Ranch
Crews, Ralph and
Betty—in honor of
granddaughter Jean
Elizabeth (Betsy)
Carnahan, whose
birthday falls on
planting day
Heacock, Dana, friend
Johnson, Frances—in
memory of members
of the Williams Family
Jones, Ruth V.
Kinsey, Betty
Lewellen, Fran—in
memory of Florence L.
Lewellen

Mathews, Jack and
Marlys
Minish, Marveen
Morrison, John and
Louise
Pogorelskin, Alexis—in
memory of sisters
Winifred Schaer and
Margaret
Pogorelskin
Provost, Margaret
Provost, Bob and Mary
Rupp, Phyllis
Warner, Judith—in
memory of
Lawrence Warner
Warner, Margaret—in
memory of
Lawrence Warner
West, Charle, friend
Williams, Howard
Wylie, Eleanor
Wylie, Scott

Society Sets Saturday, Sept. 23 for the Plantings

St. David's Society members and friends are invited to gather on the west side of Cedar Lake Parkway on the southwest shore of Cedar Lake for Daffodil planting, which will take place Saturday, Sept., 23, between 10 a.m. and Noon. The weekend of September 23 and 24 is Welsh Weekend for the Minnesota Welsh community and friends, starting with daffodil planting Sept. 23rd and ending with the Minnesota Gymanfa Association's annual fall gymanfa on Sunday afternoon, the 24th.

We will need lots of help, and we are getting tons of it from the Park Board, who will come onto the site the previous week and use their magical bulb-digging machinery to dig all 1,363 holes, the toughest part of the planting job.

By contrast, our Saturday morning task—of dropping the bulbs into the holes and covering them with loose dirt—will be a cinch...if we get a good turn-out of planters. Our hope is to get a minimum of 26 volunteer planters. This would reduce our planting task to an average of 50 bulbs apiece, a number that would make for an easy planting experience and would get the job done in good time.

So, members and friends, mark your calendars right now and also extend the invitation to plant to your children, grandchildren and friends. Then call Ruth with your collection of

"commitments to help."

We would especially like to welcome participation by children. Children love helping with projects like this. They have so much energy to give and really enjoy seeing the results of their contributions during subsequent blooming seasons. (Andy Larson, a third grader in 1997, was probably our top planter. No one else could begin to keep up with him!)

Naturally, we're hoping for a few "gardener types" to answer questions like, "Which end goes up?" Even if you're over sixty and not into heavy gardening, you might get a kick out of stopping by and dropping just a few bulbs in the holes, for remembrance sake.

The word is out that Dan Proud and his musicians just might be on hand to inspire us with some good Celtic music. They are so good!

Further, there is a very good chance that a certain Welsh daffodil expert, who has personally planted over 10,000 daffodils on the hill-sides of the old country, just might be in the area to help sing us to success.

The chorus of this song is, "Come plant with us!"

PS: You might want to bring your own thermos of coffee or tea and a snack if you'd like. The neighbor who provided treats the last time has since moved to Golden Valley.

Look for Us on the Internet

BY MEREDITH MONTGOMERY

The CLPA Internet web site is soon to become a reality. Having completed a preliminary web site design and content outline, we hope to find funding quickly and have the web site up and running in time for the annual meeting in January. Meanwhile, you can see our web site progress at www.ms-studio.com/clpa.

What will the web site do for Cedar Lake Park?

Ordinary reasons for claiming space on the web include giving better access to park information and history, making contact with like-minded individuals and groups, and promoting the park to prospective donors.

While these are important, a larger reason for our presence on the web is our need to communicate the remarkable vision behind the park's creation. This is vital to the park's ongoing development.

From the beginning, Cedar Lake Park volunteers have been passionate about the land. Citizen volunteers have displayed their commitment to preserving the park as a remote and wild place where people can escape city life, commune with nature in a peaceful setting and refresh their spirits. Volunteers continue to provide the energy that keeps the original vision alive.

The new CLPA web site will help us reach a wide audience. Our presence on the Web will invite connections with other groups and organizations dedicated to environmental preservation. Better communication tools and sign-up capabilities will encourage more community involvement in park projects.

The site is in early stage

Because it's still a mockup in early stages, the main page downloads more slowly than the later one will. And some of the links are not connected to other pages. Also, if you click on the CLPA Master Plan, you'll have to wait about half an hour for the PDF file to download. We hope to create an HTML version of the Master Plan, so it can be instantly accessible, searchable, linkable, etc. We need contributions of \$7,000 to cover that cost!

At least the PDF version of the CLPA Update newsletter won't take long to download. We hope you enjoy it.



What's the Best Use of the Greenways?

BY NEIL G.C. TREMBLEY,
CLPA SECRETARY

The Cedar Lake Park Association (CLPA) is concerned over the recent proposals for utilization of the Metropolitan Area's greenway corridors. CLPA sees the greenway system as a chain of linear parks. They are places that enhance the beauty and value of the urban environment. Our urban community's quality of life is improved by these green spaces in our midst. They are places to bring children and parents for the enjoyment of a more natural environment.

CLPA believes that these linear parks enhance the value of the property surrounding the greenways. All studies show, and a look at our park system reveals, that property near a park or green space (such as the Cedar Lake or Kenilworth Trail) increases in value. People want to live next to green spaces.

The Cedar Lake Park Association believes that the best use of the greenway system is a non-motorized corridor, where bicycles and inline skaters can commute or recreate, and where citizens can enjoy a stroll through their community in a natural setting.

However, CLPA is cognizant of the concerns recently expressed about increasing traffic congestion hampering people's commute. The rail corridors may provide a way to ease congestion, promote the common good and help urban areas to thrive.

Therefore, the Cedar Lake Park Association supports a rail system that can utilize Greenway spaces, while nurturing the natural environment of the greenways. A system, such as the Vintage/Heritage Rail Trolley, could help to ameliorate the transportation dilemma, while effectively blending in with the surrounding greenway.

It is inappropriate to pave the greenways beyond what is necessary for non-motorized transportation. A bus system in the corridors would alter the dynamics of the greenways in a most undesirable way. Not only would buses pose a serious detriment to the land values of the property surrounding the greenways, the 28-foot-wide roadway necessary to accommodate these vehicles would dramatically alter the character of the greenway.

Ecologically speaking, a rail system's effect on the corridor is negligible. Rail beds take up little room. The surrounding area necessary to accommodate the security needs of the railway is generally composed of crushed rock and soil, which allow for good soil permeability. However, a 28-foot-wide roadway would significantly reduce green space in the corridor, and lead to a radical decrease in soil permeability. In summer, the heat rebounding from this bituminous surface would negatively alter the aesthetic of the greenway.

Finally, if the bus commuter system were to



The Midtown Greenway, which opened August 12, is one example of the intense debate about buses within a greenway space.

prove unsuccessful, the pressure to open up these roadways to automobiles could prove overwhelming.

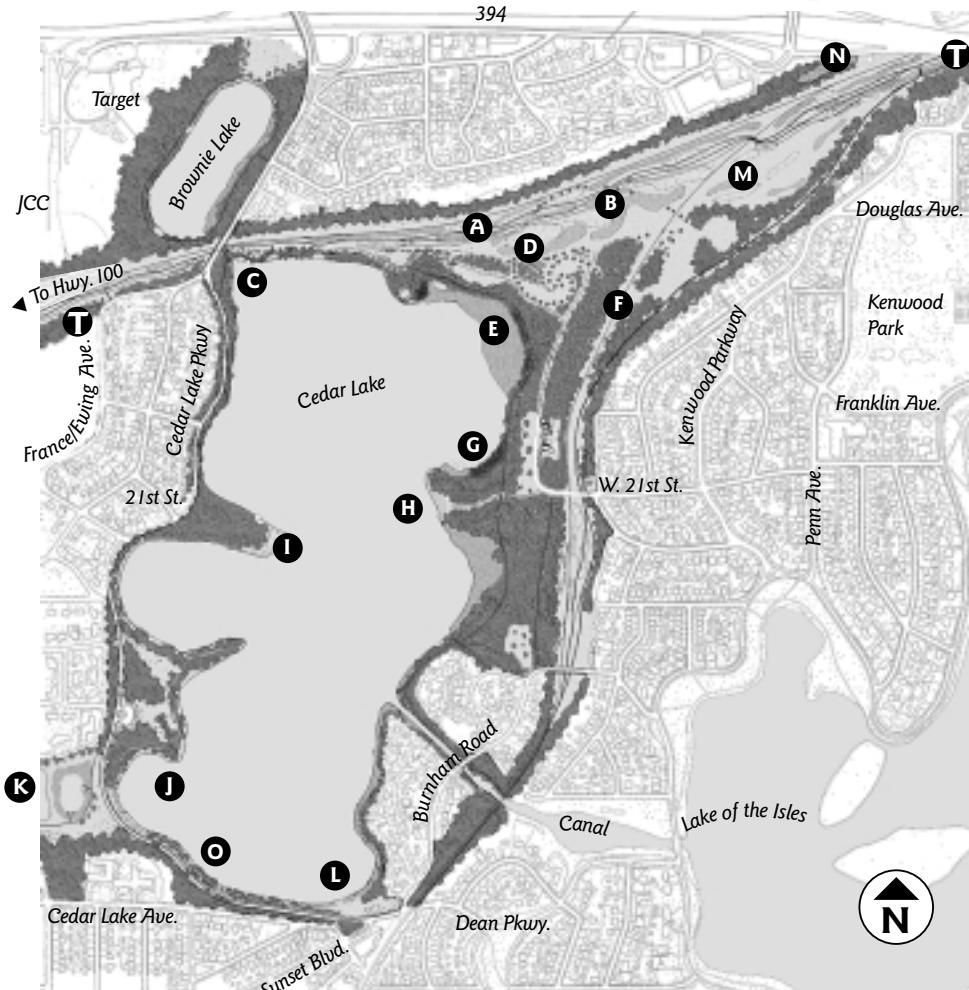
We are all concerned about traffic in the cities, and accommodating the transportation needs of our citizens; but we are also con-

cerned about the shrinking natural environment in the urban landscape. Housing and business development increase pressure on the few undeveloped areas in our metro area. Development is not an evil; it is necessary if we are to continue to thrive as a community.

So how do we balance these two forces?

More than a hundred years ago, citizens sought to balance development and preservation. They created a park system that is the envy of the world. Now we have an opportunity to build upon that outstanding legacy. We need to foster and preserve the natural environment in our metropolitan area by promoting a greenway concept that increases the value of our community, and enhances the quality of life for all of us.

Cedar Lake Park Conservancy Area



A Cedar Lake Trail
B Prairie
C Parkway Bridge/ Tunnel
D Cedar Grove
E Big Woods II

F Kenilworth Trail
G Big Woods I
H Hidden Beach
I Cedar Point
J Fishing Dock

K Cedar Meadows
L South Beach
M Wildflower Plantings

N Burlington Northern Railroad
O Memorial Daffodils
T Trail access

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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 other city, county, regional and state agencies, and raised money for acquisition and development.

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Call to let us know if you want to be added to our mailing list: (612) 377-9522.

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CALENDAR

CLPA Steering Committee

Second Monday of each month, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Kenwood Recreation Center. You're invited to participate.

Wildflower Planting

Friday, Sept. 22nd, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Meet at 21st and Upton. Call Neil, 612-377-0264.

Fall Equinox

Friday, Sept. 22, 12:27 p.m.

Daffodil Planting

Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Meet at 21st and Upton. Call Ruth, 926-1377.

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 24th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For more activities

Call CLPA (612) 377-9522.

Your support is important—

Send your tax-deductible contribution TODAY
to Cedar Lake Park Association
2000 Aldrich Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55405.

Networking on the Trail...

OUR VISION

Our vision for Cedar Lake Park is to restore the lands and waters and create a new community with nature through which we can transform ourselves, our city and our society.

OUR GOAL

Our goal for Cedar Lake Park is to bring people and nature together in harmonious community...a goal symbolized by the spiral.

Bicyclists
share a late
summer day
on the Cedar
Lake Trail.

