In these times of trouble, when the cacophony of events severs our serenity, and ideals and beliefs are cast aside or torn asunder, it is meet that our heart find a place to heal and our soul a place to rest. We seek a haven. One where communing with nature is not only an exercise in the search for a path to follow, but a guide to find what is needed to survive. Cedar Lake Park is such a place.

Among the acres of forest, prairie, and lakeshore we can find what is needed to soothe the psyche. Within this circle, life’s cycle plays out. The trees creak in a sonorous language—speaking of stability and strength. The dormant meadows awaken with the blaze of verdant grasses. Bluebirds flit above the prairie lending their voice to the song of life. And the brittle piling of ice shards upon the shore turns into the gentle lapping of waves upon the beach.

Here we seek what Abraham Lincoln called “the better angels of our nature.” Here we nurture our spirit by embracing the revivifying force of nature.

Here we are at peace.

Cedar Lake Park offers diverse opportunities to find peace, escape, and renewal, all within a short distance of downtown Minneapolis. Photos by Meredith Montgomery (unless otherwise noted).

North Mound Offers a Great, Wide View of the Lake

The mound, located near the pump on the north shore of Cedar Lake, is of uncertain origin.
Cedar Lake Park Association gratefully acknowledges recent contributions in the form of money, stocks, materials, volunteer time and in-kind services, memorials and gifts. Since the last Update, contributions have been received from:

Edward Artt  
Lawrence Baker  
Letitia Bedford  
Robert & Pamela Berkowitz  
Tom Bugbee  
Sharon Burnell  
Kenneth & Judy Dayton  
David & Vanessa Dayton  
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Dale & Loreen Falk  
Ned Foster & Laura Tiffany  
Arlene Fried  
Art & Jean Hinebootham  
Linda Huhn  
Vivian Mason  
Jean McBean  
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Steven & Cynthia Mueller  
Owen & Mason Myers  
Michael Nystuen  
Bob & Mary Peplin  
Walter & Harriet Pratt  
Walter & Harriet Pratt  
Ed & Jan Prescott  
Virginia Puzak  
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Robert Silverman  
Bruce & Julia Sibley  
Pat Thompson  
Gail Thompson  
Horsey Vitale  
Mark Wernick & Mary Entwistle  
Sylvia & Dennis Wilson

Thanks to Volunteers

Fay Atkinson  
Chris Carlson  
Dan Dailey  
Benjamin & Nicolas Bob Day  
Paul Dea  
Peter Durrant  
Steve Durrant  
Ned Foster  
Linda Huhn  
Ruth Jones  
David Klopp  
Greg Klopp  
Bob Lazear  
Laurie Lundy  
Mary McGee  
Jim McPherson  
Meredith Montgomery  
Peter Neubeck  
Colly Peterson  
Dons Peterson  
Keith Prussing  
Chuck Rhines  
Tom Rice  
Erik Roth  
John Richter  
Martha Richter  
Dorine Svitins  
Pauley Swnsson  
D'Ann Topoluk  
Paisley Svensson  
Dorene Scriven  
Martha Richter  
John Richter  
Erik Roth  
Tom Rice  
Chuck Rhines  
Keith Prussing  
D’Ann Topoluk  
Paisley Svensson  
Dorene Scriven

Visit Our Website: www.cedarlakepark.org

On June 17, we will be unveiling the new, improved version of the CLPA website, www.cedarlakepark.org. This resource is the repository of all that we do. The site contains maps, photos, newsletters, the concept master plan, news and events, links to other resources, and ways to participate and contribute. It is the story of the park and trail since 1850, and is used extensively. The new edition will be easier to navigate, and have many more features.

Claire Carlson  
Dan Dailey  
Benjamin & Nicolas Bob Day  
Paul Dea  
Peter Durrant  
Steve Durrant  
Ned Foster  
Linda Huhn  
Ruth Jones  
David Klopp  
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Dorine Svitins  
Pauley Swnsson  
D’Ann Topoluk  
Paisley Svensson  
Dorene Scriven

Watch out for poison ivy!

Poison ivy is abundant in certain areas of the park. It does have wildlife value. And, it causes a severe, itching skin reaction in certain susceptible individuals. The oil is transmitted by contact with the plant. You can be exposed if your dog runs through it and then touches you. You can get it on your shoes or legs. Learn to identify and remove it. You can then prevent an ailment.

New board member Linda Huhn.

New board member Ned Foster.

Welcome to New Board Members

Ned and his wife, Laura Tiffany, have lived “in the park” at the North end of the Hidden Beach block of Upton Avenue since 1987. Ned jogs or walks his dog in the park virtually every day and has watched the park evolve over the years. He decided it was time to serve on the board to help provide the perspective of the residents that live closest to the park.

he is a strong supporter of buckthorn removal, and not just because it improves his view of the lake! Ned worked for the Minneapolis Community Development Agency for eight years before becoming a commercial mortgage banker in 1989, and now works for Wells Fargo Bank.

New board member Ned Foster.

New board member Linda Huhn.

Linda Huhn is a freelance event/nature photographer who did some photography for CLPA back in its early days. A 25+ year resident homeowner in the Wedge neighborhood.
Buckthorn removal has taken place in the park in several areas. A group of volunteers from Bethel-St. Margaret, assisted by Park Board staff and neighbors, worked on a fine spring morning at Hidden Beach. Native plants were also installed. Also, men, women and children from Beth Shalom congregation offered mitzvah (loving service) in the Western Extension at the pedestrian bridge near the Jewish Community Center. Buckthorn was pulled using weed wrenches, and trash was gathered. Finally, Hennepin County crews are continuing their labs, with cutting in the area of W 21st Street as well as in the Kenilworth Canal between Cedar and Isles.

Facing severe budget cutbacks, MPRB has been extensively visiting with the community in various formats to determine the priorities of park users. Initially, wading pools, chemical toilets, and fountains were targeted for cuts. Due to intense public outcry, these cuts have been modified. This process does point out, however, the need for potential private funding for things that people value, such as the Berger fountain in Loring Park, which will be turned back on; or biffs, which cost approximately $3000/season to operate. It takes about $2000 to operate a wading pool. Cutting of milfoil from the lakes will be curtailed. Finally, a key consideration is how to capture revenue from the millions of non-park users in light of the sharp reductions in Regional Park funding by the state through the Metropolitan Council.

Recently there was a multi-faceted reception to thank everyone, including CLPA, who helped make the inaugural Minneapolis Loppet a great success. It was the third largest event of its kind in the country this year, all on three inches of snow. We look forward to next year’s event. In addition, there will be a major biking extravaganza this summer, as part of the Mayor’s efforts to promote silent sport, and have a major event occurring in each season.

The consultants studying the future transportation possibilities in the Southwest Corridor have been presenting an ongoing series of neighborhood meetings. The Midtown Greenway Coalition board has gone on record as favoring streetcar/trolley access only through the Greenway with light rail or diesel hybrid buses (on rails) for the potential routes such as Southwest, Nicollet Ave. or Lyndale Ave. into downtown Minneapolis. There is the possibility of a station near the junction of the Cedar Lake and Kenilworth trails, in close proximity to Penn Ave. and I-394. This would necessitate a bridge over the railroad.

MPRB’s budget process does point out, however, the need for potential private funding for things that people value…

Animal Control officers have stepped up enforcement of off-leash dog laws in Cedar Lake Park in response to increased complaints. In addition, as it is against state law for dogs to be off-leash during waterfowl nesting season (now), the state DNR has also become involved. Wildlife seen in the park includes turkey, prairie dog, fox, raccoon, badger, mink, and all sorts of waterfowl and other birds. City and park police are also more evident as summer approaches, especially in the Hidden Beach area. Exotic plants continue to be a problem in the park. MPRB is inviting participation in a phenology (when things happen) study. For instance, by associating garlic mustard (a pest) emergence with violet blooming, or buckthorn cutting continued on page 6
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Continued from page 4

Outreach activities continue throughout the park. The annual spring bird-watching event took place in mid-May. The annual Earth Day watershed cleanup occurred in April. National Trails Day is June 7. We are compiling a birding database through an ongoing series of bird counts. A mid-summer prairie wildflower walk will be held, as well as walks in the woods. CLPA is working with MPRB to map all of the native plant locations in and around Cedar Lake Park as part of the development of a systemwide database that will allow for a durable record for planning, restoration, preservation, and publication purposes. In looking at this record of activity in the park, it is truly amazing how much has been done in the past eight years. Coupled with the native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that were already present, the vision of a nature park at Cedar Lake is well on its way to becoming a reality. We continue to work with the Minnesota Native Plant Society. The park and trail have been a major case study for a LiDAR of Minnesota wildlinds class teaching future environmental resource students how to preserve and restore land in an urban setting. CLPA guided a recent tour of the park for these students. They enjoyed the park immensely. Finally, we are participating in the Embrace Open Spaces program coordinated by the McKnight Foundation. Designed to encourage neighbors to look out for the open space in their local area, so that they may be proactive in preserving it in the face of ongoing development.

At present there is only informal dirt trail access to the CLRT between Ewing Ave. and Highway 100 in the Western Extension section of the park. Owned by MPRB and located in St. Louis Park, this area is a well-used recreation area for neighborhoods such as Lake forest and south Tyril Hills, the Jewish Community Center, as well as trail users passing through. St. Louis Park is actively pursuing development. Vegetation, including large trees, has been removed. According to Minneapolis Bridge Division crew chief Meseret Wolana, the contractor will revised its construction schedule to ensure that the bridge will be completed with the end of the 2003 calendar year, so promised officials have said that the section of the Cedar Lake Regional Trail under neath the bridge will need to be closed from time to time; however, they indicated it would be a high priority to keep this highly-used corridor open as much as possible. Presently, bridge traffic is confined to one lane with stoplights, and Cedar Lake Road is now dirt for several hundred feet. Vegetation, including large trees, has been removed on both sides of the bridge. Citizens are monitoring the construction daily to ensure water quality is protected. For updates, or to voice any concerns, contact CLPA.

Work Begins on CLP Bridge

Construction began on the long-awaited Cedar Lake Parkway bridge in April, 2003. Originally scheduled to start in March, final contract negotiations pushed back the start date. According to Minneapolis Bridge Division crew chief Meseret Wolana, the contractor will revised its construction schedule to ensure that the bridge will be completed within the 2003 calendar year, so promised officials have said that the section of the Cedar Lake Regional Trail underneath the bridge will need to be closed from time to time; however, they indicated it would be a high priority to keep this highly-used corridor open as much as possible. Presently, bridge traffic is confined to one lane with stoplights, and Cedar Lake Road is now dirt for several hundred feet. Vegetation, including large trees, has been removed on both sides of the bridge. Citizens are monitoring the construction daily to ensure water quality is protected. For updates, or to voice any concerns, contact CLPA.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Spring in the Wildlife World

BY MARY MCGEE

After the ice went out of Cedar Lake on April 1, and the woodland paths were clear of snow, summer residents began to return to join the local winter birds. First came the Canada geese and then pairs of mallards and wood ducks followed by herons, egrets, robins, red-winged blackbirds, swallows, bluebirds and phoebes.

They joined the chorus of cardinals, downy and hairy woodpeckers, chickadees and nuthatches who were singing, mating and building nests. Next, the earliest of the spring migrants arrived on their way north—assorted waterfowl, fox and white-throated sparrows, thrushes; kinglets, and myrtle (yellow-rumped) warblers.

In the sky, hawks and over the lake, gulls and of course, always the crows. All of this activity will peak in May around the time Peter Neubeck leads the annual spring bird walk in Cedar Lake Park.

Meanwhile, the raccoons and chipmunks have reappeared to join the red and gray squirrels. The foxes, who were very visible cruising around in winter, now are seldom seen, while the young kits are in their dens.

Muskrats, too, are raising young, and the carp are spawning along the lakeshore. Everywhere there is much to be seen. Look down and spot the emerging woodland wildflowers and the green sprouts under last year’s prairie grasses. What better place to be these days than in the woods and along the shore and on the paths and trails of Cedar Lake Park.
CLPA Update, Spring/Summer 2003
If you’re seeing this CLPA Update for the first time, contact us if you want to be added to our mailing list.

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.

National Trails Day
June 7

Summer Solstice
June 21

Parade of Bikes
July 4, 12:30 p.m. Benefiting Habitat for Humanity. Ride from 5th Avenue on the Midtown Greenway, out to St. Louis Park and back on the Cedar Lake Trail.
www.paradeofbikes.org

Prairie Wildflower Walk
July—TBA

Stroll and Roll
September 13

Prairie Planting
September—TBA

Trail Chipping, Buckthorn Removal and Spring Plantings
Call for dates

Cedar Lake Park Association Mission

1. Create and nurture a park at Cedar Lake with a thriving nature preserve and connecting trails and greenways.

2. Provide opportunities for people to learn to live in community with nature and one another.

3. Continue to foster citizen leadership and private involvement in the development and management of the park and trails.

4. Support similar efforts throughout the metro area and beyond.

Your support is important—
All donations are tax-deductible.*

* To the extent allowed by law.