The year 2005 brought the vision of an off-road connection to the Mississippi River much closer to reality. The U.S. government, in the omnibus transportation bill, appropriated $3 million for the Cedar Lake Regional Trail. We are grateful to our elected federal representatives for providing these funds. The Minneapolis City Council, by unanimous vote, abandoned the on-road alternative, and declared the “in-the-trench” alignment to be the ONLY route to the river.

Presently, the funding action is at the state Capitol. Both the Minnesota House and Senate have approved $1.8 million for the trail in their respective bonding bills. The measure is now in conference committee. We are grateful for the support of our local state representatives, as well as other key legislators, for including the Cedar Lake Regional Trail.

The $1.8 million state money, added to $1.5 million city funds, $2.3 million TEA-21 and $3 million ISTEA federal monies, will allow the construction of the trail to go forward in 2007. The Northstar Commuter Rail station, and the proposed Twins Stadium, will directly impact the trail, so keep checking our website for updates.

Thanks to everyone for their support!

Board Retreat News

At the annual CLPA board retreat April 15 the board elected officers: Keith Prussing, President; Bob Day, Vice President; Neil Trembley, Treasurer; Jim McPherson, Secretary. The board also began to look at the design of the north shore of the park between the mound and the memorial Cedar Grove.
BY NEIL TREMBLEY, TREASURER

Cedar Lake Park Association gratefully acknowledges 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:

David Abrahamson
Ernst Abs
Mary Adair
Leah Albersheim
Gretchen and Bob Amis
Paul and Dell Askegaard
Fay Atchison
Audubon Society of Minneapolis
Edward Axt, Jr.
Lawrence Baker
Jennifer and Richard Bartholomew
Tom Becker
Carl and Lynn Beihl
John and Elaine Bergquist
Bob and Pam Berkwitz
Joan and John Bethiaume
Stacy Lynn Bettison
Melissa Blais
John and Mary Bond
Win and Mimi Bowron
Becca Brackett
David Braslaff
Frank Braun
Stephanie Brody
Helen Brooks

Data Recognition Corporation Volunteers
Michael Cisek
Nona Davis
Deb Gartner
Leslie Hunter-Larsen
Lorrie Insinmeyngay
Jennifer Johnson
Alison Lyder

Tom Bugbee
Bill and Connie Cameron
Bonnie Carlson-Green
Glenna Case
Dorothy Childers
Jeanette Colby
Mary Conway
Rick Cucci
Michael and Celia Davis
Bob Day and Terry Mayer
David D. Dayton
Curt Dederich
Charles and Elizabeth Lee Dolan
Elizabeth Lee Dolan
Anna Draviniks, M.D.
John Duffy
Steve Durrant
Pete Dworsky
EcoTrust
Charlie and Ardis Elowson
Michael and Betty Elson
Nancy Entwhistle
Thomas Erickson
John Erickson
Larry Falk
Lorene Falk

Lawrence Nelson
Ann Payne
David Payne
Norma Reyes
Kelly Sim
Neil Trembley
Maria Ugarta

Arnold and Joan Feinberg
Charles and Anne Ferrell
John Finn
Mark Fischer
John Floberg
H. Robert Foerster
Ned Foster
Arlene Fried
Peg Galvin
Charles Geach
James Gehrey
Lisa Genis
Jim Gerlich
Nancy Gibson and Ron Sternal
William Gilbreath
Doug and Gretchen Gludner
Melvin Goldsobogen
Dr. Mace Goldfarb
Lisa Goodman
Martin Green
Ronald and Linda Griffith
Seymour Gross
Dave Gutzke
Tom Hackenberry
Roger Hale and Nor Hall
Charles Hall
David and Christine Hansen
Bob Harding
Kit Healy
Beth Henty
Mark Hickner
Arthur Higginbotham
Dr. Earl and Shirley Hill

Michael and Michelle Hu
Stephen Huey
Jerome and Judith Inger
Sol and Penny Jacobs
Susi Jeffrey
Clifford and Thelma Johnson
Clarence Johnson
Ruth Jones
Gerald Jorgenson
Phyllis Just
Phyllis Kahn
Shirley and Arnold Kaplan
Delver Kaufman
Robert Keen
Miriam Kelen
Ross and Janet Kimmerle
James Kirkam
David Klapp
Paul Kloth
Edward Kossolek
Robert and Chris Kressel
Mary Alyce Krohnke
James Lander
Janet Larson
Wendy and Bob Lazear
Robert K. Leach
Greg Lecker
Marjorie Lee
Robert and Chris Kressel
Sarah Lehmann
Lawrence Levine
Michael Levy
Glora Linnell
Lisa Locken
Barbara Longfellow

Leland T. Lynch and Terry Saarino
Shelly Manette
Leonard and Lois Martinetto
Wally and Cathy May
Al Mayer
Jean and Marsh McBean
Karen and Jim McConkey
Mary McGee
Mark McHenry
James and Maryann McKenna
Jim McPherson
Donald Messery
Sandra Metzer
Chet Meyers
Pat and Don Moberg
Margaret Montgomery
Marion Moore
Maryanne Moren
Sandy and Bob Morris
Steve and Cynthia Mueller
William E. and Chonn Mullin
Patrick Murphy
Gwen S. Myers
Theodore Nagel
Bonnie Nelson
Kelly and Andrew Nelson
Michael Nystuen
Diane Orr
Beth Oschwald
Cheryl Pangler
Terry Pearson
Polly Penney

Jay Peterson
Conwin and Doris Peterson
Thomas Peyton
Ann and Felix Phillips
Walter Pickhardt
Liz Picking
Steve Pratt
Robert Premer
Nancy and James Proman
Keith Prussing
Ernest Reinsmith
Louise and Jerry Rubnick
Tom Rice
Martin Richmond
John and Martha Richter
Sandra Rieki
Kathy Riple
Dean Rizer
Jean Roberts
Kay Ronngren
Tim Russell
John Sandbo
Roy Sanford
Susan Sanger
Patricia Schaller
Joe Schmitz
Ruth Schneider
Lawrence and Mary Schwanke
Catherine Scott
Pat and Tom Scott
Skip and Dorene Scriver
Kathryn Sedo
Miriam Segall

continued on page 6

GIVE ONLINE AT www.cedarlakepark.org. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thanks to Volunteers

David Klopp (left) and Richard Thomas (right) for their leadership in obtaining funding to complete the Cedar Lake Regional Trail to the river.

Ruth Jones (left) for helping Mary, guiding young people and spreading the word. Mary Conway (right) for removing buckthorn from the South uplands near Burnham Bridge.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are a variety of ways to volunteer to keep CLPA moving forward:

• Database Management—experience needed with Excel and Access programs. Contact Bob Day for details.
• Plantings—taking place spring through fall. Contact Neil Trembley for dates.
• Leadership—a great way to leave a legacy. Contact Keith Prussing.
• Special Projects—watch our website, or contact us with your ideas.
• Media—contact Jim McPherson about the newsletter.
• Presentation/Tours—contact Keith.
• Political Activity—contact David Klopp or Richard Thomas.
• Group Activities—contact Ruth Jones.

Visit Our Website

Go to www.cedarlakepark.org for a wide variety of information on what the Cedar Lake Park Association is about. There you will find:

• This newsletter in colour.
• Photos taken throughout the park and trail.
• Stories about people enjoying and nurturing nature.
• History of the park.
• CLP Concept Master Plan.
• News of current events.
• Volunteer opportunities.
• Links and contacts with others.

If you would like to volunteer or contribute to your park, email us at info@cedarlakepark.org, call (612) 377-9522 or write to: Cedar Lake Park Association, 2000 Aldrich Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55405. Your funding can help us continue to maintain and expand our website.
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Active Living Storybank

The activities of CLPA are featured in the Active Living Storybank, a searchable database of citizen action projects throughout the country.

The story can be found at: www.activeliving.org

CLPA Receives Fitness Minnesota Award

These awards are given to organizations that promote health and fitness in Minnesota.

We were graciously nominated by a long-time trail supporter associated with www.beactivemn.org.

Look for and come to our celebration of this award Sunday, July 9, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., beneath the Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge.

Hula Hoops, Ambush Bugs & Kindergarten Teachers

“Another Aster”—Prairie Survey, 2005

BY JOE SCHMITZ

This past summer, my friends Steve Vadnais of Normandale Community College and Valerie Galajda of MnDOT and I conducted a plant species survey of the CLP Prairie. We observed many interesting sights and had encounters with the common and uncommon, and species both human and non-human.

We observed nearly 40 wildflower species, natives and aliens: insect pollinators and their insect predators; and even a few wildflowers we were unable to identify confidently.

“Another Damn Aster!” was a not uncommon cry when a specimen of this readily hybridizing plant family was found in a study plot.

Monarch and yellow swallowtail butterflies competed with bees and wasps, and bee mimics—hover flies for the nectar available from the many wildflowers. On goldenrod plants ambush bugs, a type of “true bug” with front legs like Popeye’s absurdly developed arms, lay in wait for any pollinator fooled by their pale yellow camouflage. When the moment was right they would jump on the backs of their prey and inject them with saliva, digesting a primordial soup of dissolved insect guts.

Bikers and walkers enjoying the trails through the prairie often stopped to gawk as Valerie side-armed our chosen tool of measurement (a peppermint striped hula-hoop encircling an area equivalent to one square meter) to select the next “random” study plot. All commented positively on the efforts of the CLPA to enhance the trails and prairie.

By chance, we met up with a kindergarten teacher from Golden Valley who planned to bring her students to the prairie for a “grass identification” class unit. She expressed a growing interest at her school for connecting students with the readily accessible educational resource of the prairie. Obviously, the prairie continues to grow, both as a natural and as a human “quality of life” resource.

It is hoped that this survey will serve as a baseline for future studies and evaluation of the prairie. The results were reported to the CLPA Board on 10/10/2005.

Volunteers Do Annual Wildflower Planting in the Cedar Lake Park Prairie

BY NEIL TREMBLEY

As the skies glowered and an early morning sprinkle came down, the project organizer despaired, “Can’t I ever catch a break?” For the last two years, an intrepid band of laborers from Data Recognition Corporation braved torrential downpours to work in the Cedar Lake Park prairie. Some of them had grown openly contemptuous of the organizer’s ability to pick a decent day to plant wildflowers.

But the weather gods relented this year, and Friday, September 16, turned warm and sunny. The diggers and planters toiled with gusto, and the 1,000 native-species plants were lovingly ensconced.

This was the sixth year of the program whereby employees of DRC were paid by their company to perform community service in the Cedar Lake Park prairie. Each year the organizer’s task gets easier as a core group of experienced hands return to mentor the new bloods. These veterans know the routine; they pitch right in from start to the clean up. Thanks to one and all.

This planting was done September 16, 2005. The prairie plantings were purchased by CLPA from Prairie Restoration, Inc.
The 2006 City of Lakes Loppet cross country ski weekend was a great success, due to the efforts of more than 700 volunteers. Our Association staffed and ran the end-of-race refreshment stand in Calhoun Square, serving hundreds of tired, happy racers. During the previous autumn, we designed and implemented a new leg of the course in Cedar Lake Park in partnership with MPRB and the Loppet (www.cityoflakesloppet.com).

This new section winds north-south, through the woods, parallel to the Upton Avenue service corridor, close to the railroad tracks in the Kenilworth corridor. We used the design principles contained in the Concept Master Plan (see CLPA website) in creating this trail. Lots of buckthorn, trash and illegal bikeways were removed, eroded hillsides were stabilized, a new low-impact recreational amenity was created, and the ongoing work of converting, restoring and enhancing degraded landscapes was furthered. New stakeholders were enlisted in working in the park. The future will see native plantings and exotics removal. Finally, in consultation with organized off-road cyclists (MORC, www.morcmtb.org) we are preserving a narrow, little-used corridor along the tracks for potential responsible, single-track riding, with the aim of restricting and policing the “ride everywhere” philosophy of biking that exists presently throughout the park.

The Southwest Corridor Transit Study has been ongoing, and is expected to be released in the late summer. It is likely to recommend light rail, and will either travel along the Midtown Greenway corridor through Uptown to Nicollet Ave. and into downtown, or will run up the Kenilworth Corridor along the east side of Cedar Lake Park, with a potential station at Penn Ave. The far suburbs of Eden Prairie and Minnetonka appear to favor the quicker Kenilworth route, while Minneapolis and Saint Louis Park like the Greenway alignment, as it will offer much more local service. Complex calculations of ridership, cost and transit times will go into the recommendations. CLPA continues to support the bigger picture of greenways and non-motorized transit corridors, with a light rail mix. We are a stakeholder in this process, and receive regular presentations from the study group. (More at www.southwesttransitway.org.)

Work at the Prairie/Woodland restoration site at W. 21st St. and Thomas Ave S. is ongoing. Last autumn saw a new prairie installed at the south end of the site along Thomas. First, the area was burned, then plowed, and then seeded and planted with native forbs. There was good growth, and we look forward to the emergence of greenery in the spring. We continue to work with Hennepin County in this area. Volunteers have marked exotics for removal, as well as native plants for preservation. Tree Trust, contracted with the county, has removed extensive stands of buckthorn and other non-native species, such as Siberian Elm. They also have committed to removing the female, fruit-bearing buckthorns north of 21st all the way to the Cedar Lake Trail. We also have been exploring, with the Kenwood Isles Area Association (KIAA), the possibility of NRP funding for this restoration project. There continue to be numerous volunteer opportunities for this project, including school kids coming on Earth Day this spring, as well as planting and landscaping. Please contact us if you are interested.

The east side of Brownie Lake has seen the removal of most of the buckthorn along the lakeshore and up the hillside. Hardworking volunteers, along with the assistance of MPRB Forestry, have done a tremendous job, and the area looks beautiful. The west side of Brownie is a hilly, old wood landscape between the lake and the Target property at the top of the hill. There are drainage and erosion problems in the area, due to the runoff from the Target parking lots. Also, there is an extensive network of environmentally unfriendly bike trails through these woods. MORC, fresh from the success of the off-road trail area (which is quite nicely done) in Wirth Park near the par 3 golf course, has plans to restore and remove many of these trails. This will be done in coordination with MPRB. These kinds of trails are designated for both pedestrians and cyclists, and are much more harmonious and responsive to the natural and human environment.

Remember Ewing Wetland? In the mid ’90s, this area along France Ave. and Ewing Ave. north to the trail was fought over in a nature-versus-development conflict that resulted in an agreement that allowed building several town homes on five acres, and the preservation of the remaining seven acres. The homes sometimes get wet feet.

In 2005, the County came to improve the corridor in conjunction with the reconstruction of the Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge. At the time, there was a five-foot paved path from the curb to the wetlands. The county, and bicycle advocates, wanted to increase it to more than 12 feet. With little notice, the neighbors collected signatures for a petition to protect the remaining wetlands, and slow the traffic. They reminded city and county officials of the agreement. And they were heard, the plan for the path was revisited, and no further encroachment was allowed.
Please contribute to preserve your favorite places in the park!

Donate financial resources, such as cash, stocks, or bonds.
Transformation from 1991 to 2004

Note the emptiness in this 1991 aerial photo of the northeast part of Cedar Lake Park.

Luce Line Trail Connecting Across Golden Valley

BY DICK ADAIR

The City of Golden Valley and the Three Rivers Park District signed a formal agreement on February 21 to construct the Luce Line Trail across Golden Valley. Construction will begin this summer. The trail will run east-west from Wirth Parkway, near the par 3 golf course, to Medicine Lake.

When this last missing link is complete, the Luce Line Trail will run more than 100 miles from downtown Minneapolis to central Minnesota. Bicyclists in Minneapolis will be able to pedal from the Cedar Lake Trail to Medicine Lake and Plymouth entirely off road. Suburban commuters will have a safe way to get downtown.

The Minneapolis segment of this trail, from the Cedar Lake Trail to Wirth Parkway, was completed in 2002. Initially named the Bassett’s Creek Trail, the name was changed to Luce Line recognizing that this segment would eventually be part of this major state trail. Last fall, signage with the new name was placed along the trail, helping guide users from the junction with the Cedar Lake Trail over the spiral bridge, through Bryn Mawr Meadows to Bassett’s Creek Park and Wirth Park.

Nothing this complicated happens easily. A decade ago, stimulated by the success of the new Cedar Lake Trail, folks from Bryn Mawr and Harrison came together to advise the Minneapolis Park Board on how a trail could traverse the railroad lines and major roads in their neighborhood, and to lobby for funding of the segment built in 2002.

Then a group of bicyclists from Minneapolis, Golden Valley, and Plymouth met with the Golden Valley City Council to advocate for construction of the segment. In 2005, local citizens chose trails as a top quality-of-life priority in a process to envision the city’s future.

The Cedar Lake Trail is a goose that keeps laying golden eggs.

Gifts continued from page 2

Robert Share
Grace Sheely
Pat and David Shirley
Cheryl Simer
Al Singer
Kristine Smith
Katherine Solomonson
Kathleen and Jerry Sovell
Paisley Svensson
Bruce Tait
Bob Taylor
Richard Thomas
Pat Thompson
Jean Thomson
Jean Thornton
D’Ann Topuluk
Neil Trembley
Albert O. Trostel
Allan Valgemae
Ken Valley
Mary W. Vaughan
Myrtle Vikla
Michael Vitale
Kim Waldof
Kurt Waltonbaugh
Joyce Warshawsky
David Weissbrodt
Mark Wernick
Bob Wheeler
Jessica Wiley
Sylvia Wilson
Sandy and Rich Worthing
Joseph Zetah
Clement Zotta
Celebrating Wildlife Habitat

It’s Bluebird Season

BY MARY McGEE

Last summer, the eastern bluebirds showed up again and settled in the same old nest boxes along the Cedar Lake Trail and at Brownie Lake. Three pairs successfully fledged a total of 13 young—in spite of the weird weather—at first too cold and wet; then too hot. The tree swallows were fewer then in the past. Piliated woodpeckers were seen and heard in the park this winter.

Dorene Scriven indicates that 425 reports were received by the Bluebird Recovery Program of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, listing a total of 12,700 young bluebirds raised this year in Minnesota.

Many thanks go to volunteers Kurt and Barb Klussendorf, assisted by Joel and Lisa Swanstrom, who have been on the job of caring for the 12 nest boxes for five years now. That is a weekly task that involves ejecting sparrows and dealing with wasps, ants and blow-fly larva. However, they get to see and count those beautiful blue eggs and newborn young. The public is grateful for their devotion to the birds.

In March, the Chain of Lakes, including Cedar Lake, were designated an Important Birding Area (IBA) by the Minneapolis Audubon Society.

Access Ramp Completed

BY DAN STEINBERG

The city of St. Louis Park, working with the Minneapolis Park Board, has completed an ADA-compliant ramp from Cedar Lake Road to the Cedar Lake Regional Trail. Already, this has had a positive effect on all of SLP and the businesses that surround the area. People are ecstatic about the ramp and how they are able to get to the park to walk, run and visit friends around the area without getting muddy.

Photo by Dan Steinberg

Lake of the Isles Work to Be Done in 2006 When the Money Is Found

- Restore pedestrian trails and repair benches
- Plant trees on the north arm, west bay and south shore
- Naturalize shoreline on the northwest and south shore
- Renovate Kenilworth Bridge and South Bridge
- Improve and naturalize the south lagoon
- Restore islands’ native wildlife habitat
- Repair Lake of the Isles Parkway

For further information, or to contribute, write to: Lake of the Isles Advocates, P.O. Box 300007, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Annual Meeting Celebrates Many Accomplishments in 2005

The 2006 annual meeting, held on January 25 at Jones-Harrison Residence, was a celebration of our 2005 accomplishments. A great time was had by all who attended. Business included the president’s and treasurer’s reports, as well as reports on trail and park activities.

Elections were held for the Board of Directors, and retiring board members Ned Foster, D’Ann Topuluk, Dan Dailey and Denver Kaufman were honored. Plan on attending the next annual meeting, January 24, 2007.

MPRB Commissioners Mason and Nordstrom Appreciated

We want to express our appreciation to recently retired Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner Vivian Mason for her many years of service to our city’s parks and, in particular, for her long-standing support for CLPA and the Regional Trail. We also welcome Tracy Nordstrom, newly elected in November, to Vivian’s District 4 seat on the Board.

Leave a legacy by including a bequest in your estate planning, or purchase a memorial or honorarium for a loved one.

Send us your news or photos of wildlife in Cedar Lake Park.
Cedar Lake Park Update, Spring 2006

If you’re seeing this CLPA Update for the first time, contact us if you want to be added to our mailing list. Or if you would like an electronic version of this newsletter instead of paper, drop us an email at info@cedarlakepark.org.

Goodbye to Winter!

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.

CALENDAR

CLPA Steering Committee
Second Monday of each month, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Kenwood Recreation Center. You’re invited to participate.

Ice Out of the Lake
Friday, April 7, 2006

Girl Scouts Work in the Park
Saturday, May 6, 2006

Justice Squared Clean-up
Sunday, May 28, 2006, 4:00 p.m.

Summer Solstice
On or about June 21

Bryn Mawr/CLP Bike Tour
Saturday, June 24, 2006. Contact us FFI.

Award Celebration
Sunday, July 9, 2:00–4:00 p.m., beneath the Cedar Lake Parkway bridge, along the Cedar Lake Regional Trail.

Photo by Meredith Montgomery