

# Public Service Award goes to Dave Thune



Jeanne Weigum, Friends' President, and Dave Thune, St. Paul City Council. Photo by Shirley Erstad

**Dave Thune**, St. Paul City Council Member, was awarded the 2015 Public Service Award. This award is given to an elected or appointed official who has done an outstanding job promoting, protecting, and supporting parks and trails.

Dave was the driving force behind the current revision of St. Paul's Parkland Dedication ordinance. The Friends are grateful for his leadership on this very important issue. The ordinance assures land and money is set aside for parks as the City continues future development.

Council Member Thune represents Ward 2 which includes the neighborhoods of West 7th Street, the West Side, Summit Hill, Lowertown, and the Downtown business district. The Ward is shaped by its proximity to the Mississippi River. Harriet Island Regional Park, Lilydale Park, and the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area are located on the banks of the river in Ward 2.

Council member Thune was first elected to the St. Paul City Council in 1990 and retired in 1997. He returned for a second stint in 2004 but is not seeking re-election. His tenure will come to a close at the end of 2015.

## Rich, the Walker, Who Aspires to be a Biker, and the 5 W's of Trails

by Rich Straumann

**Who is involved:** The residents of the City of Arden Hills are the primary volunteers and the staff of Arden Hills and Ramsey County parks, trails, and recreation programs, plus the Metropolitan Council Transportation and Parks and Open Space Programs, and the Metro District of MNDOT. Bike/Ped programs are ultimately concerned with providing access to trails. If any of these parties do not take it seriously, it can delay and even prevent implementation of new, improved, or greatly enhanced trail (or pathway) plans.

**What is needed:** It is my hope that Arden Hills neighborhoods would have walking and biking pathways connected to nearby parks and that those trails further connect to Regional Parks via regional trails.

**Why they are needed:** These pathways will promote a better mental outlook and provide needed recreational amenities to foster physical activities. This connection may be to family, friends, or to new friends we have yet

to meet who have the same passion for walking and biking and recognize the importance of implementing such plans for connections.

**Where they are needed:** While I have been walking (mostly) over the years, I have almost always chosen to try new pathways that are circular or loop around, for an adventure that takes me there and back via a route. I would suggest that we develop in the Northwest corner of Ramsey County in such a way that will give us our own circular or loop-around adventure pathway that will even connect, like a hub in a wheel, the spokes of trails that exit or radiate from the cities of Arden Hills, Mounds View, and New Brighton. Currently, the Rice Creek Regional Trail (RCRT) Westerly Segment leaves New Brighton and travels all the way to the Mississippi River at its end point. The RCRT Northerly Segment leaves New Brighton and travels through SE Mounds View and NW Arden Hills and up into the Chain of Lakes in Lino Lakes and beyond. The proposed, and very soon to be built, RCRT Southerly Segment will connect that NW Arden

Hills location to the Highway 96 Regional Trail, next the intersection with North Snelling Avenue and allow Arden Hills residents to connect to the RCRT. It is my personal vision that I hope others share, to finally see in 2015 the Highway 96 Regional Trail connection over I-35W, into the trails of Long Lake Regional Park in New Brighton. When that is all implemented we can then secure our very own loop-around trail that not only connects three cities but provides that trail hub for trails to the west, north and even as far east on the Highway 96 Regional Trail to the St. Croix River—if you would enjoy such a longer bike trip.

**When are they needed:** As always, we wish for them now, however it is my estimation that we can enjoy that circular or loop-around trail (that I proposed be named the NW Ramsey County Tri-City Mini-Round) in the not too distant future and I personally would like to impose a needed deadline of on or before 2020.