



Larry Holmberg receives award

Join the Friends

Holmberg played an important role in finding funding for the county park system. He identified park and openspace sites for acquisition by the county, developed the open space system plans and regional park and trail master plans which qualified Ramsey County to receive over \$39 million in State and Metropolitan Council grants.

Holmberg regularly attended Friends' board meetings at 7:15 in the morning and would end his day at a community meeting that evening. His institutional knowledge is encyclopedic and his commitment and historical perspective have been invaluable.

The Friends congratulate Larry on his well earned retirement. We will miss him.

If you are reading this newsletter and you are not yet a member of the Friends of the Parks of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, please visit our website at www.friendsoftheparks.org and join today or call 651-698-4543 to request a membership brochure or complete the form below and mail it to Friends of the Parks 1621 Beechwood Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55116

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in Saint Paul & Ramsey County
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is the largest undeveloped land mass in Ramsey County and it just happens to have wildlife, a creek, a variety of topography, flora and fauna. Sounds perfect for housing and commercial development. Sounds perfect for a park. Under the current plan there will be some of everything.

TCAAP is 2370 acres at the edge of Ramsey County. Some years ago it became clear that the US Army, which owned the land, no longer needed it and wanted to dispose of it. Years of planning and maneuvering followed. Not all of the site was available to be transferred for nonmilitary purposes. The Arden Hills Army Training Site is operated by the Minnesota National Guard, which controls about 1500 acres of rolling hills and lakes. This area supports many forms of wildlife. The National Guard has allowed groups to use the area for recreational purposes when it is not in use by the Guard.

As part of the surplusing process Ramsey County received title to 113 acres of land in the northwest portion of the site from the National Park Service under their Public Lands to Parks Program. (Yes, it is hard to follow. The land went from the Army to the National Park Service to Ramsey County.) The area encompasses Rice Creek and completes a critical segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail. Construction of the trail through this section is scheduled to begin in September of this year and it will be open for public use early next year. Long range infrastructure planning for the segment is ongoing with Ramsey County Parks and Public Works, MNDOT, Arden Hills and a consulting firm to design the intersection of County H, I-35W and Rice Creek. This is a major intersection which will cross Rice Creek.

Canoe travel will be accommodated through this stretch of the creek, including navigation through the box culverts under I-35E. The planning focus is on safely moving pedestrians and bicyclists through that intersection and mitigating the roadway's impact on the trail corridor.

The City of Arden Hills is purchasing 545 acres of TCAAP property to be developed on the southwest portion of the site. They have held several public meetings to get community input. The site plan now being supported by Arden Hills shows athletic fields, the 49 acre wildlife corridor which is scheduled to be transferred to Ramsey County, a central park, storm water ponds with trails adjacent to the ponds and trails throughout the site. For more information about Arden Hill's plans, consult their website at www.ci.arden-hills.mn.us Which includes a map which clearly shows the proposed natural and park areas.

Larry Holmberg honored

Larry Holmberg began his career as a landscape architect with the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department in 1972 and served the citizens of the county quietly and effectively for the next thirty-two years. Holmberg was recognized for his commitment and leadership by the County Board and at the Friends' annual meeting in June.

Critical Area to get critical look

few private donors, it was maintained by Parks. The step-sister relationship will finally end this fall. The land will be transferred from the HRA to Parks making the Playspace at Fourth and Sibley Saint Paul's newest park.

Under legislation carried by Representative Rick Hansen, the Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the Environmental Quality Board will do a program analysis of the Mississippi River Critical Area protection of the Mississippi River corridor. The report is due to be completed in time to report back during the 2008 legislative session.

The Hanson bill started out with a more bold mission than a study, but, as often happens, controversy derailed the bill. Adapting the bill to make it a study provides the benefit of turning attention to the issue.

The Critical Area was created under an Executive Order in the 1970's by Governor Wendell Anderson and was subsequently reinforced by Governor Al Quie. The Order led to a planning and zoning process for the cities with river front. Saint Paul's river corridor owes much to the resulting planning and zoning.

With the passage of time and more and different challenges, the city and its river face more threats and opportunities than ever before. However, with cutbacks and changes in personnel and policies, the program has dropped on the State's priority list. The Friends supported the original bill as well as the study. The Friend's goal was to improve program staffing, administration, definitions and analysis of effectiveness.

The Friends will monitor the study results and continue work with Hansen, environmental advocates and the legislature to improve the program.

World Wide Day of Play

Mark your calendars for the Lilydale Park fall celebration on Saturday morning, September 29. The Friends of Lilydale Park and Saint Paul Parks & Recreation and other park partners invite you to celebrate and experience several park and trail improvements. Activities include: early morning birding; ribbon cutting ceremony with local and national dignitaries who assisted with improvements to the Brickyard Trail that connects the bluff top to Pickerel Lake; a guided trail hike from Vento's View to the lower part of the park; fossil dig. For details on time and exact location check at <http://www.lilydalepark.org/> or e-mail or call grit@oldmanriver.com 651-227-2264. Fossils are not just for kids. Finding them is still mighty fun.

TCAAP inches toward park status

After years of hopeful wrangling, the redevelopment of the TCAAP site is moving forward. The Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant, (TCAAP)

Tom Kelley Remembering a dear friend

Tom Kelley, former Ramsey County Administrator, Saint Paul City Administrator, Community services Director for Saint Paul and passionate advocate for the Mississippi River died July 19. Kelley leaves a legacy that is all around us.

When Kelley was County Administrator he persuaded the county board to purchase the land along the Mississippi River in Lilydale, Dakota County, for a park (see Jon Kerr award). Without his vision, Lilydale might well have become condo-row instead of the gem of a park it has become.

Kelley played a crucial role in having the Mississippi River designated a national park. He worked with Representative Bruce Vento and Senator Dave Durenberger to create the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) in 1982. The seventy-two miles of river-way from Hastings to Dayton help protect and preserve the River corridor.

Memorial in remembrance of Tom Kelley

Those who would like to contribute to a memorial in remembrance of Tom Kelley may send a contribution of any size to the Friends at 1621 Beechwood Ave, St. Paul 55116. Note on the check that it is to go the Kelley Memorial Fund.

Task force to study stables

The Saint Paul City Council voted to appoint a task force to identify possible sites for new police horse stable. The task force will look at potential cost savings of stabling the horses within the city.

The issue of where to keep the equestrian officers became highly controversial when several proposals surfaced to put the stables in one of the city's parks. Those supporting that notion felt it might provide some added security to the parks by having police and ponies coming and going. Opponents pointed out that the City Charter would only allow such a move if there was full payment for the park land and the money was used to purchase replacement park land. The value of land in any of the city parks would make this type of transaction a pricey one.

The Task Force concept seems to have the support of all concerned. Members have not yet been appointed and it will be several months before their work is complete.

Downtown playground

A tiny Children's Playspace in the heart of downtown Saint Paul will finally join the Saint Paul Park system as a full fledged park. Graduating from temporary play area to permanent city park was a long time in coming. It started on land leased from the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) in 1990. Built with \$400,000 in city funds and additional funds from the Capitol River Council, Lowertown Redevelopment Association and a

Volunteers honored

Anderson also worked to pass legislation that funds the Clean Water Legacy Act, provided stronger protection for wetlands in the 11 county metro area, provided additional funds for Metropolitan Parks and state parks and trails, provided added funding to promote wind energy and funding to prevent the spread of invasive species.

The work Anderson has done at the legislature will have a positive impact on natural resources and the environment for generations to come.

Parks need volunteers to thrive nearly as much as they need rain. The parks in Ramsey County are particularly blessed with dedicated citizen volunteers. Each year the Friends honor just a few of the men, women and teens who contribute time and talent to make the parks safe and enjoyable.

Gary Bobb devotes his energy to making the Swede Hollow Park a safer and cleaner place as a Park Steward and as a member of the Friends of Swede Hollow Park. Bobb constantly monitors the park and thanks to his 'keeping tabs' the area is a safer place to walk or bike. He does daily clean up rounds as he walks his dog and participates in the bi-annual park cleanups. He is a one man ambassador for the park and has demonstrated that it is possible for just one person to make a big difference.

Sue Moyer's beat is Battle Creek Park where for four years she has coordinated the spring cleanup. Each of the last three years she has led the largest effort in the county. Moyer is an excellent recruiter and has successfully involved adult and youth organizations in the annual event. Given that Battle Creek comprises 840 acres, many willing hands and feet are needed to get the job done. The good news is also the bad news. In 2007 they collected 2.3 tons of trash and waste.

Realizing that one cleanup per year is simply not enough, Moyer also has coordinated two additional events this year.

Debra Falkowski calls Vadnais Heights home where she helps with park planting projects and cleanups. She has served on the Ramsey County Park and Recreation Commission for five years where she is willing to help on any project and leads by example.

Mona Frey lives near Hansen Park in new Brighton, and, like Bobb, she considers it to be her special project. On daily walks through the park she gathers litter and encourages others to help by creating less of it. Her quiet persistence has "encouraged" some previously careless park users to join her in her crusade. Frey has become a one person "adopt a park" committee, and she has photos to prove her results.

ParkNotes

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Annual awards featured at annual meeting

Kerr named Park Citizen of the Year



Anderson receives Public
Service Award



Ellen Anderson and Andrea Vento

Jon Kerr was named Park Citizen of the year in recognition of Kerr's tireless work to protect and enhance Lilydale Park. Kerr's involvement with Lilydale Park runs the gamut from visioning and working on a mission statement with the Friends of Lilydale Park to developing creative ways to involve the community with this emerging river front jewel. Lilydale was once a small village which, because it lies in the flood way, regularly fell victim to Mississippi River floods. When it became clear in the late 1960's that living in Lilydale was dangerous for both the residents and the river because of the pollution resulting from flooding of sewer systems and living areas, the residents were bought out, a process that was complete by 1971. Gradually the area is being developed as one of the most unique parks in the Saint Paul system.

Kerr has taken a special interest and leadership role with the Friends of Lilydale on trail improvements, Vento's View wildlife viewing platform overlooking Pickerel Lake; the Brickyard Trail improvements for pedestrians and developing promotional materials for the park including a brochure and website: <http://www.lilydalepark.org/>

Senator Ellen Anderson received the Friends' Public Service Award for her outstanding stewardship of the environment and natural resources. As Chair of the Minnesota Senate Environment, Energy & Natural Resource Budget Division Anderson is in a unique position to shape public environmental policy. With both the House and the Senate under control of one party, it was easier this year to reach agreement on important environmental policy initiatives. Anderson skillfully worked to win passage of and the Governor's signature on the landmark 2007 Renewable Energy Standard. This law is said to be the strongest in the nation and puts Minnesota in the forefront on renewable energy. It makes Minnesota one of the first states to commit to significant binding action to reduce global warming. Utilities will have to get at least 25% of their energy from renewable sources by 2025.