

'Where the biggies leave off...'

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Parks historian David Smith speaks on 'CIDNA's rich park history' on February 25

By Michael Wilson

Did you know that Cedar-Isles-Dean is the only Minneapolis neighborhood to include parts of *three* lakes? Or that Cedar Lake used to be *five feet higher* than it is today? Do you know how Park Siding Park got its name? Who was the Dean in Dean Parkway and in our neighborhood's name?

All Minneapolis neighborhoods cherish their parks. But more than most, Cedar-Isles-Dean was largely shaped by its parks. And no one knows the stories better than Minneapolis Parks historian David C. Smith, who will regale us with stories about Cedar-Isles-Dean's rich park history on Sunday, February 25, at 3 pm in the Centrum Room at Jones-Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Avenue.

Smith has named his talk "Linking Shrinking Lakes, a Deadly Railroad Crossing, and the Northwest Passage: CIDNA's Rich Park History" — three teasers intended to pique our curiosity. What's he referring to, you might ask. Come on February 25 and find out.

Smith has literally "written the book" about the history of Minneapolis parks. His beautifully illustrated book *City of Parks: The Story of Minneapolis Parks* covers the first 125 years of our park system. Smith blogs on the history of our parks (<minneapolisparkhistory.com>) and contributes the

historical descriptions for the Park Board's website. His talks about the parks always serve to bring their history alive.

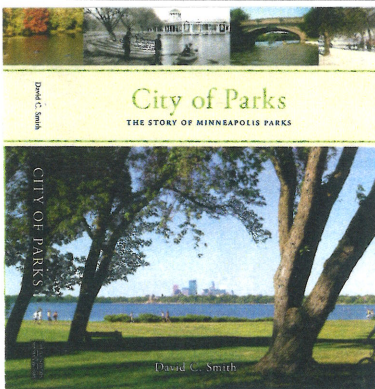
The legendary Theodore Wirth, superintendent from 1906 to 1935, published a magnificent history in 1945 of the first 62 years of our park system, writing with the authority and understanding that came from having led the park system for almost half of those 62 years. Smith's book, commissioned by the Minneapolis Parks Foundation in 2008 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the park system, brings the history up to date in a most readable and informative way.

Smith's book will be available for purchase and autographing at the event on February 25. Cost is \$40 (cash or check), all of which goes to the Parks Foundation.

The CIDNA Speaker Series is a project of the Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association board. The programs are free and open to all. Ideas for future programs and speakers are welcome! Send your ideas to Monica Smith at <info@cidna.org>.

One more thing. Do you know the names and locations of all four of Cedar-Isles-Dean's four Park Board-owned "triangles"? Tell us on February 25 and win a free one-year subscription to Hill & Lake Press.

CIDNA Speaker Series



Linking Shrinking Lakes,
a Deadly Railroad Crossing,
and the Northwest Passage:
CIDNA'S RICH PARK HISTORY

with Minneapolis Parks historian David C. Smith

Everyone welcome!

Sunday, February 25 @ 3:00 pm
Jones-Harrison Residence
3700 Cedar Lake Avenue



Presented by your Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association board

www.cidna.org