

Thank you Mary (Pattock) and ALL of YOU who are here this morning.

100 Years ago, Theodore Wirth, described the Kenilworth Channel and these woods as the most fragile and sensitive area in our park system.

Today, these trees connect the Grand Rounds to Bassett's Creek Valley in north Minneapolis and to The Midtown Greenway to the south. Over 600,000 people bike, walk, jog and paddle around these trees each year.

We speak for the trees because they give us

Natural beauty

A canopy and habitat for wildlife. Look and you will see soaring eagles, a hidden fox den and slow moving turtles.

Trees clean the air and give us oxygen.

They save water and cool our streets.

Trees help our city breathe.

What will this greenway look like without these 5,000 trees?

Now, because of poor planning and co-location of LRT and hazardous rail cargo, we'll be left with a concrete and steel corridor.

Raise your hand if you've heard of James Corner? I'm sure our friends in the media have. A world-renown landscape architect, Mr. Corner designed the world famous High Line in New York City and is designing the NEW NICOLLET MALL in Minneapolis.

The core of the project—PLANTING TREES.

Mr. Corner and his design team biked this greenway. He told me, "we biked the trail out of downtown and passed between those two lakes, then came across more lakes. And immediately my entire design team wanted to move to Minneapolis."

Many cities have light rail.

But no city has the natural resources of lakes, parks, and greenways like Minneapolis.

How can we destroy these trees and this world-class urban greenspace?

WE CAN DO BETTER!