

*October 12, 1978 "Treasure to Trash"*

*I have been a resident of St. Louis Park for 36 years. Since our two sons were old enough to trap muskrats at Bass Lake. I have been fascinated by the potential of this area as a unique recreational, nature, and wildlife opportunity. Some of the real old-timers told of fishing at Bass Lake. Wild pheasants, ducks, and flowers abounded there in the 60's.*

*We became deeply concerned in the late 60's when steady deterioration of the area became increasingly evident. Meetings to discuss the situation were held at the City Hall. We were greatly encouraged when a plan for development of Bass Lake was drawn up. Elaborate, detailed drawings were exhibited. Our group of concerned citizens was relieved in the belief that the encroachment and deterioration processes were to be turned around. To our great dismay, the 'project' ended right there.*

*We who have so closely followed the Bass Lake situation theses past 10 years were recently shook up, or more accurately enraged by a recent article in Sun Newspaper quoting a councilman as follows: "The City should consider developing playing fields on the site instead of the proposed open space."*

*What do we who pray for the preservation and improvement of a priceless and unreplaceable treasure have to show for our concern and efforts: 1. Eleven years of frustration. 2. An ugly dumping grounds. 3. A badly scarred lake. 4. Wildlife exiting before encroachment. 5. Still no concrete viable plan for the best and most sensible development of this unique treasure. God forbid burying it under a totally unnecessary ball diamond.*

*Signed: Otis Dypwick, Martin Fowler, Lee Humphrys, Jeffrey Dypwick*