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Foundation Announces \$200K for 2K in 2007 – the Campaign for Snowmaking in Wirth Park

In order to secure additional snowmaking in Wirth Park in 2007, the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation is embarking on a campaign to raise \$200,000 by April, 2007.

Currently Wirth Park has limited snowmaking capability available. By raising \$200,000 by April of 2007, snowmaking will be expanded to cover the entire two kilometer snowmaking loop that was installed in the fall of 2006. Foundation President Kate Ellis is excited about the effort: “Expanding snowmaking capability at Wirth will allow thousands of people, including high school kids, adults and seniors alike, to ski on reliable snow throughout the Minnesota winter.”

This is the last phase of the current campaign – which brings snowmaking capability to Wirth Park on a two-kilometer lighted loop. Much has already been achieved. Through the contributions of the ski community, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and the City of Minneapolis, Wirth Park has already achieved significantly upgraded snowmaking capability. Achievements to date include:

- Purchase of Pisten Bully brand snow-cat;
- Purchase of two new snow-guns (replacing outmoded snowguns from the 1950s);
- Installation of water lines and hydrants supplying the alpine area and limited cross country;
- Upgrading of electrical capabilities;
- Purchase of booster pump;
- Addition of two-kilometer loop in preparation for snowmaking

With the current capability, Park Board groomers expect to be able to make snow for the cross country practice area and, perhaps, an additional kilometer or so of trail. However, to make snow on a consistent basis for a two-kilometer loop additional equipment, including additional snow-guns, high pressure pumps, water lines and hydrants, and additional electrical will be necessary.

Fortunately, the project is almost complete – and the Park Board has agreed to match the first \$150,000 in funds raised by the organization. Because this is a significant project for both the ski community and the broader Minneapolis community the organization is confident that it will be able to raise the necessary funds in time to complete this project for the 2007-2008 ski season.

The City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation

The City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation is the non-profit organization that runs the City of Lakes Loppet. The Foundation also works to develop ski trails in the Minneapolis area and to provide opportunities for Minneapolis-area youth to enjoy skiing and other outdoor activities. Become a member by downloading the membership application from the Registration page of [cityoflakesloppet.com](http://www.cityoflakesloppet.com) (<http://www.cityoflakesloppet.com/COLNSFRegistration.pdf>).

Find out more about the Foundation by visiting www.loppet.org send email inquiries to director@cityoflakesloppet.com or call 612 604-5331 for more details.

To contribute to the snowmaking effort, visit www.wirthwinter.com or call 612 604-5330 for more information.