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## St. Paul rededicates a refurbished Como Park monument to poet who wrote 'Trees'

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Pioneer Press

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The Rededication of Como Park's Kilmer Memorial Fireplace took place Thursday afternoon, May 19, 2011, 75 years after the fireplace's original dedication. The Kilmer Fireplace (aka: "Dutch Oven") is near the southwestern corner of Como Park. (Pioneer Press: Chris Polydoroff)

Seventy-five years ago, the city of St. Paul dedicated the Alfred Joyce Kilmer Arboretum Monument in the woodlands of Como Park to honor the poet who wrote "Trees."

The fireplace monument, in an 18-acre woodlot near the southwest corner of the park, quickly earned the nickname "Dutch Oven." Then came decades of neglect and disrepair.

Resurrecting the memorial fireplace and surrounding woodland has been a decade-long affair.

On Thursday, city officials and Kilmer biographer John Covell rededicated the memorial in front of

students from Chelsea Heights and Como Park elementary schools. The students read poetry they had written and planted trees.

The Como Woodland Advisory Committee, working with school and community groups, is turning the woodlot into the Como Woodlands Outdoor Classroom, a poetry and natural history teaching area for students. The woodlot will eventually contain educational kiosks, signage and some 4,000 feet of trails.

The effort received a \$218,000 state grant in February. For more information, go to [comowoodland.org](http://comowoodland.org).



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