

A few of the MANY quotes from friends, colleagues, neighbors, and city staff about Ed's work.

When	Where	Who	Theme	Quote
2007	TLNA newsletter	Bob Shaw	Ed advocating for more trees in Tenney	Due to the constant efforts and initiative of Ed Jepsen from TLNA and Si Widstrand of the Parks Division, there will be a significant number of new trees and shrubs planted in Tenney Park this spring. The plants Ed selected will significantly improve the appearance of this area, and provide much better habitat for birds and other creatures.
2021	Obit comment	Steven Ugoretz, worked with Ed at the DNR		Ed's passing is a great loss, personally and to the environment and society he cared for.
	Obit comment	Stephen Webster, worked with Ed on Long-Range planning subcommittee with City Parks	Passionate about parks	Ed was passionate about Madison's Parks. For each project he led, e.g. memorials and volunteers, he had a keen sense of where he thought the City should go and how far the policies he put forward could be taken. He was both wry and sly and he approached every task with an elfish sense of humor. I enjoyed every time I was with him whether it was at a meeting, movie of the Film Festival, the Tenney Park celebration, or just out in the community on a bike. He brought light into every opportunity.
	Obit comment	Bert Zipperer, friend	Ed was involved planning through implementation.	Ed was so dynamic and wonderful. I was a member of the city committee in 1995-96 that first planned out the removal of nearly all Thornton Avenue (along the Yahara) and creating more greenspace and a bike/ped path. That plan was great...but it's the easy part. Ed did the hard part...following up, going to meetings, raising the issues, advocating, questioning and pushing...and today's path... which is exactly as we planned it -- it there only because of Ed's leadership and tireless advocacy.
	Obit comment	Mary Lang Sollinger	Ed's work style	There are some people who you think will live on forever, and wish they would still be here on planet earth. That is Ed. I lived just a half

				<p>block from his first home on North Few Street. Ed always saw the good in life and what could be. He was charismatic, sincere and dedicated advocate and leader for the Yahara River Parkway. I was always amazed how happy the volunteers were with Ed as their guide for the task at hand. He was always working shoulder to shoulder with them. You knew that they gave their best. Ed also was an inspiration for making the John Wall Family Pavilion a reality. His keen insight and encouragement was a catalyst for the volunteer group to accomplish this gift to our neighborhood and city. I and I think many others, feel we are a bit better because we knew and worked with Ed.</p>
2021	Obit comment	Anne Urbanski, WI DNR co-worker in air management		<p>Ed and I were co-workers in Wisconsin's Air Management program for more than 15 years. I always enjoyed talking with him and appreciated his knowledge of and passion for the environment.</p>
2021	Obit comment	Jean Goffard, relative of Kristin	Ed got his hands dirty	<p>Ed didn't just love nature, he actually got his hands dirty and worked at improving our environment and natural resources.</p>
2021	Obit comment on TLNA listserve	Michael Barrett, neighborhood advocate	Betterment of parkway and neighborhood Ed's work/people style	<p>Oh. Man.</p> <p>The betterment of the once-neglected Yahara River, the betterment of Tenney-Lapham way back when it was the place real estate agents steered you away from, his wonderful, open-spirited professional—yes, I used “open-spirited” & “professional” together, an extreme rarity—work toward bringing people & nature together...and...a great neighbor, a wonderful human being...and...and...so much more, no doubt.</p> <p>One of the few people of, shall we say, stature, who, for whatever reason—quirk of personality?—could put up with my crazy with good humor whether in neighborhood forums or in his professional capacity.</p>
2021	Obit comment on TLNA listserve	Dave Walner, Few Street	Ed's work style Ed as a public	<p>He will be missed by so many. I first met Ed years ago when he was our next-door neighbor on Few St.. Ed was a leader in the Tenney-</p>

neighbor,
friend and
Madison
Parks
Commission
Member,
former alder

servant
All Ed did for the
parks and
neighborhood

Lapham neighborhood for many years. Our relationship deepened when I was alder for the 2nd District. I remember going to Mayor Soglin and his staff person Ann Monks in 1995 and suggesting a Yahara Parkway planning committee to redevelop that corridor. Ed jumped in right at the start and volunteered to serve on that new committee. We met for almost two years and finally came up with our vision. Ed again grabbed the reins and put together a corps of volunteers to begin the laborious, sweaty task of replanting the corridor with native species. I remember seeing him and his crew out on weekends, working away to put in new plantings.

After several years and the construction of new bridges over the Yahara, the new pedestrian/bike path was ready for public use. And of course Ed was there for the grand ribbon-cutting ceremony. Although he eventually remarried and moved out of our neighborhood, our paths crossed again through the Madison Parks Commission. Ed and I worked together for many years on the commission's Long-range Parks Planning Committee. When you worked with Ed, there were things you could always count on: He seldom missed a meeting; he came well prepared with good tough questions; he was a thoughtful, considerate listener, especially in dealing with people he might disagree with; and he had a fine dry wit that kept meetings from ever getting too contentious.

In essence, Steady Ed was a wonderful example of a "public servant" who didn't really care about the glory or the praise. He just wanted to get good things done, for his neighborhood and for his city. Let's hope that we all carry on his strong example.

2021 Obit comment on TLNA
listserve

Teena
Browder,
neighborhood
resident

Volunteered
beyond the
parkway

He was such a nice guy and stayed connected to the neighborhood after moving. I ran into him at the grocery store right before the last pre-pandemic Thanksgiving. He had two shopping carts filled with Turkeys for the Goodman Community Center. The obituary is a wonderful tribute.

Quotes from Ed

1996 TLNA newsletter

Ed

Ad hoc
committee to
create plan for

The Mayor's office the city planning department and adjacent neighborhoods have identified the Yahara River parkway as an area with significant potential for improvement. To facilitate the planning

			Yahara River Parkway corridor	process and encourage public input, an ad hoc committee has been established by the city to discuss the recreational, aesthetic, historic and redevelopment issues along this corridor. The committee will meet over the next 8 months to develop a plan which will guide recreational improvements and redevelopment along the parkway for the next 5-10 years.
1996	TLNA newsletter	Ed	Ed takes the baton to continue work that started at the turn of the century.	The river way has been the focus of numerous planning efforts since the turn of the century. Some elements of these plans have been implemented while most have not. The current effort will consider these past plans and provide broad guidance on redevelopment questions, but will focus on issues related to a cross isthmus bike/ped path(s), improving pedestrian access and enhancing the aesthetics of the river way.
2001	TLNA newsletter	Ed	Advocating for underpasses	One of the greatest frustrations involved with the parkway project has been the slippage in the timetables for getting these underpasses constructed. In fairness, these activities are influenced by the state DOT decisions.
2001	TLNA newsletter	Ed	Educate and inspire kids	Katie Nekola, a resource coordinator at O'Keeffe Middle School, secured a \$10,000 grant to conduct educational activities and possibly some wetland and river's edge restoration along the Yahara River next year. This has exciting possibilities for getting the kids involved and increasing their knowledge and appreciation of the river.