



Minnesota's 4th District
E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



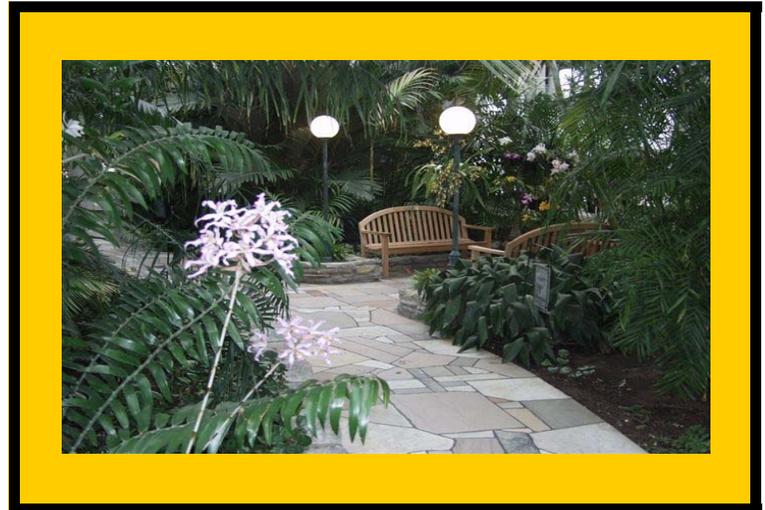
APRIL 25, 2003

Earth Day Update

The 33rd annual celebration of Earth Day draws attention to the status of protection of our precious natural resources. Unfortunately, the Bush administration continues to pursue policies that set back thirty years of progress on cleaning up our air and water, preserving public lands, and protecting forests and wildlife, including:

- Pushing to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling;
- Proposing exemptions for the Department of Defense from key environmental protection laws;
- Weakening the Clean Air Act's new source review provisions, repealing rules requiring older factories to cut pollution emissions;
- Working to remove millions of acres of wetlands from the protection of the Clean Water Act;
- Exempting the oil and gas industry from water pollution rules;
- Undercutting the National Environmental Protection Act, which requires public participation in key environmental decisions and mandates the preparation of environmental impact statements on federal action with potential environmental impact;
- Giving only token support to developing our renewable energy resources and promoting energy efficiency; and
- Failing to fully address the threat of global warming.

In addition, the Bush budget starves federal agencies of needed resources for enforcement of environmental protection laws and eliminates funds for the urban parks program and significantly reduces funds for the clean water revolving loan program. President Bush has claimed a desire to preserve and protect the environment; however, his budget request for the environment is slated for a \$1.6 billion reduction compared to fiscal year 2002, falling from \$29.6 billion to \$28 billion.



The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in St. Paul's historic Como Park

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