

# REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



**To:** Park Board

**Agenda Item #:** VI.A.

**From:** Ann Kattreh  
Parks & Recreation Director

**Action**

**Discussion**

**Date:** April 8, 2014

**Information**

**Subject:** Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail Update

## Action Requested:

Receive presentation from Three Rivers Park District staff regarding the status of the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail.

## Information / Background:

The Three Rivers Park District team would like to provide an update on the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail.

Three Rivers Park District has the following timeline for this project:

Engineering Evaluation	Now – April
Screening Meetings	Now – May
Update to Edina Park Board/Transportation Commission	April 2014
Identification of Final Trail Alignment	June 2014
Joint Park Board/Transp. Comm. Review of Design/Alignment	June 19, 2014
City Council Review/Approval of Final Trail Design/Alignment	July 1, 2014
Preliminary Engineering Complete	September 2014
Construction Documents	December 2014
Regional Trail Agreement with City	Fall 2014
Out to Bid	January 2015
Construction Begins	Early 2015
Construction Completed	Early 2017
Trail Opens	Spring 2017

The Park District has secured \$6 million in Federal and State Legacy Grants for the East Segment and is currently seeking federal funds for the West Segment. The district has decided to design and construct the trail as one project instead of independently. This approach will save over 10% in project costs. The entire project is expected to cost \$22 million.

## Attachments:

Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail Update – Edina City Council Work Session March 4, 2014



## Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail Update

Edina City Council Workshop

March 4, 2014

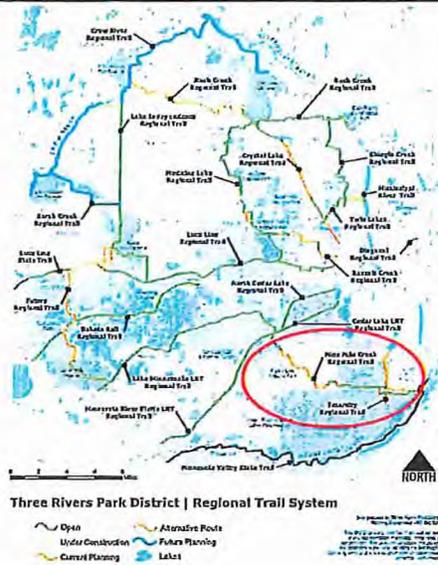
### Presentation Outline:

- Where we've been...
  - Recap of route assessment process and approved route
- Where we are now...
  - Summary of preliminary engineering
  - Description of public participation process
- Where we are going...
  - Anticipated design and construction timeline
- Questions

## Nine Mile Creek RT: Critical link in the Regional Trail Network

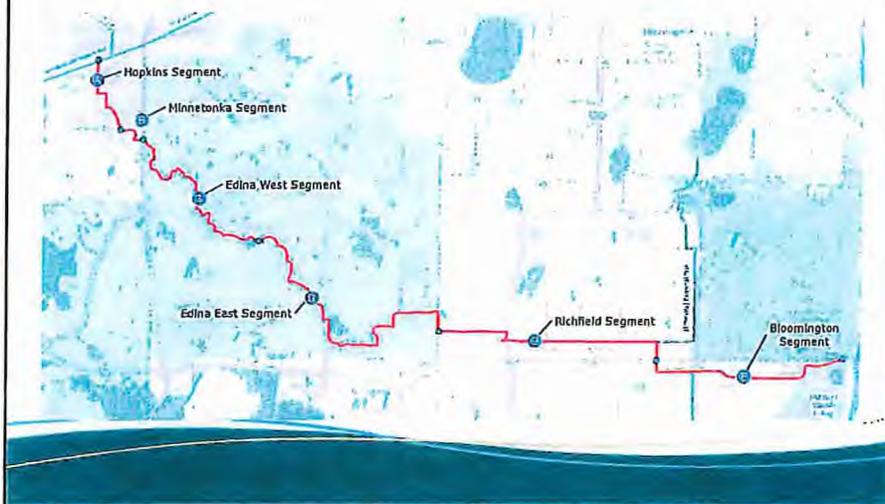
Links Edina to:

- Minnesota River Bluffs RT
- Lake Minnetonka RT
- Cedar Lake RT
- North Cedar Lake RT
- Intercity RT
- MN River Valley State Trail
- SW LRT
- MOA
- MSP
- Edina HS



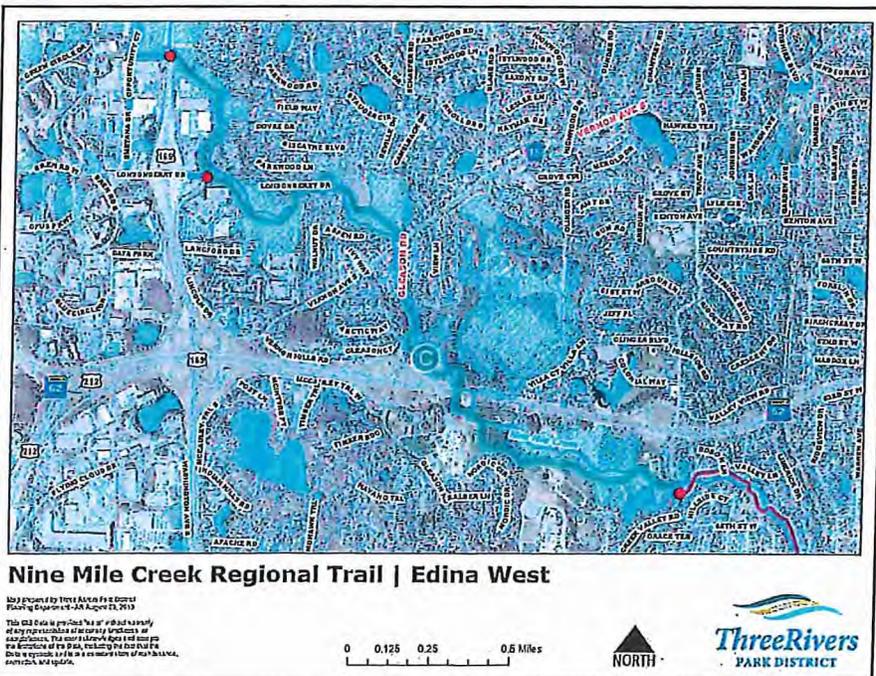
## Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

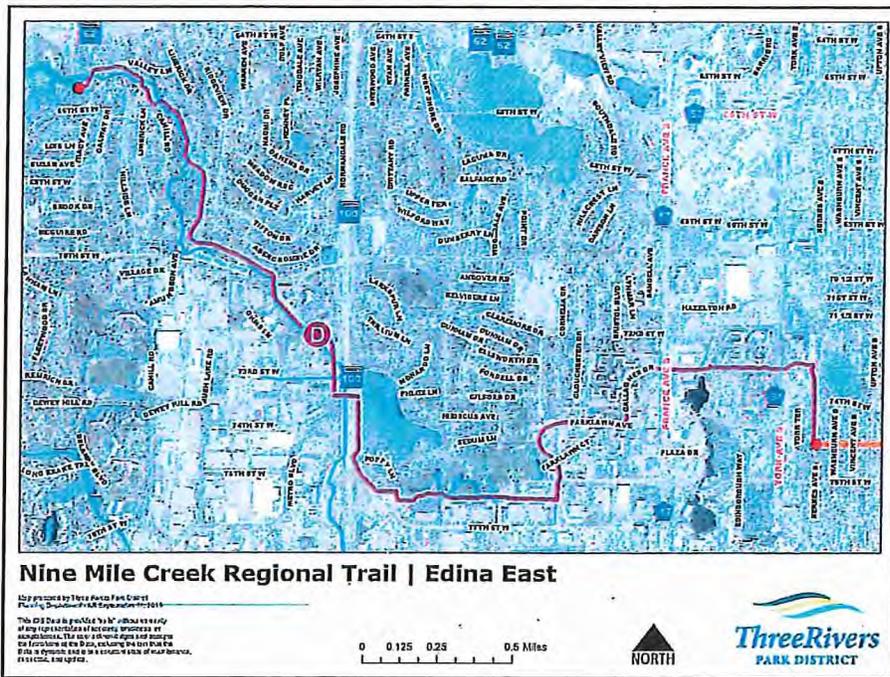
15-mile shared use path from Hopkins to Bloomington



## Initial Route Identification

- **Extensive Public Engagement Process: (2008 – 2010)**
  - Focused on choosing between road-adjacent and park land segments.
  - Five open houses
  - Community Assessment Team
  - Joint Three Rivers Board/City Council Workshop
  
- **Environmental Assessment Worksheet: (2008 – 2010)**
  - Voluntary EAW conducted By Three Rivers
  - Negative declaration of the Need for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
  
- **Route Approval by City of Edina**
  - Edina Park Board Review & Recommendation – Oct 2010
  - City Council Review & Approval of Route – Dec 2010





### City Council Approval: Restrictions & Conditions

1. Keep the trail on the south side of Walnut Ridge Park.
2. That Three Rivers Park District makes all reasonable efforts in the engineering/design phase to minimize boardwalk noise and height.
3. That Three Rivers Park District offers to provide homeowners with principle residences adjacent to the proposed regional trail edge the option to have buffers where reasonable and at Three River's expense. Buffer options are fencing or vegetative screening (trees, shrubs).

### City Council Approval: Conditions

4. That Three Rivers Park District take reasonable steps to minimize the amount of boardwalks in the complex balancing act that also attempts to minimize the impact on the environment (wetlands, water quality, and vegetation).
5. Place a time limit deadline on the easements offered to Three Rivers Park District to complete the project within a reasonable time frame. A reasonable time limit should be negotiated with Three Rivers Park District and that language should be included in the final agreement.
6. That the final design shall minimize property impacts and be subject to Council approval.
7. That a reasonable sound wall be constructed for Segment 19 that was satisfactory to the City.

### Since 2010

- Obtained approval from Edina School Board, to locate the trail on their property.
- Obtained Metropolitan Council approval of the official Master Plan for the trail.
- Secured \$6 million in Federal grants for East Segment construction in 2015/16, along with MN State Legacy Grants to help pay for the project.
- Currently seeking additional Federal funds for construction of West Segment.

## Preliminary Engineering

- Technical evaluation and refinement of the preferred route
  - External agency coordination and permitting
  - Public participation
  - Easement acquisition process
  - 60% plans and engineer's estimate of probable cost
- 

## External agency coordination and permitting

- TRPD and SEH have already begun coordination:
    - Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
    - City of Edina
    - MnDOT
    - Edina School District
    - Board of Water and Soil Resources
    - US Army Corps of Engineers
    - Minnesota DNR
- 

## Preliminary Engineering: Public Participation

- The trail will be located to maximize distance from adjacent residences and to minimize the length and height of boardwalks within the confines of engineering and regulatory constraints.
- Public participation will focus on what the City Council directed:  
*"to provide homeowners with principle residences adjacent to the proposed regional trail edge the option to have buffers where reasonable and at Three River's expense. Buffer options are fencing or vegetative screening (trees, shrubs)."*

## Preliminary Engineering: Public Participation

### Screening:

- Logical trail segments identified based on natural groupings of adjacent residents.
- One or two meetings with the adjacent neighbors for each trail segment to identify preferred screening options.
- Three Rivers will provide a choice of three types of fence (Privacy, split rail & chain link) or vegetative screening (typically conifers).
- Selected screening will be installed on adjacent resident's property and will become the responsibility of the property owner once installed.
- Consistency among neighbors on selected screening preferred but not required.

## Communication During Design

- **TRPD website: [ninemilecreektrail.org](http://ninemilecreektrail.org)**
  - Post all engineering documents as they are produced
  - FAQ page based on questions received as this stage moves forward.
  - Contact information
  - Upcoming public meetings
  - Invitation to receive email alerts of when the site is updated
- Monthly updates to City Council via City Manager's Friday Report
- Direct communication with adjacent neighbors as part of the screening discussions.
- Scheduled Edina Park Board, Transportation Commission/City Council meetings (see timeline)

## Communication During Construction

Similar to Design phase, with the following additions:

- Website will post construction schedule and updates to that schedule.
- Website will include information on what to expect during construction.
- Direct mailings (postcards) to adjacent neighbors prior to active construction in a specific area.
- Consistent and dependable on-site presence by Three Rivers and consultants.

**Timeline:** 2014 Design Schedule

- Engineering evaluation: Now - April
- Screening meetings: Now - May
- Update to Edina Park Board/Tspt Committee: April
- Identification of final trail alignment: June
- Joint Park Board/Tspt Com. review of design/alignment: 6/19/14
- City Council review/approval of final trail design/alignment: 7/01/14
- Preliminary engineering complete: Sept
- Construction Documents: Dec
- Regional Trail Agreement with the City: Fall
- Out to bid: Jan 2015

**Timeline:** Construction Schedule

- Construction begins: Early 2015
- Construction completed: Early 2017
- Trail opens for use: Spring 2017

Primary Contact

For complex projects, Three Rivers has a point person for all questions and comments. Please direct all inquiries and comments to:

Jason McGrew-King  
763-559-6779  
JMcGrew-King@threeriversparkdistrict.org



Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail Update

Edina City Council Workshop

March 4, 2014