

Dear Mayor Hovland, and members of the Edina City Council,

I am writing this letter in opposition to proposed route 5F of the Three Rivers Park District (hereafter, "the District") recreational bike route project. The city cannot not consider proposed route 5F as an option. Its introduction and consideration is an exercise in subterfuge, and casts doubt onto the legitimacy of the District's route proposal process.

By way of background, the last time I sent you and the council a letter, I protested the summary dismissal of senior members of the Human Rights and Relations Commission, as the then Chair of the commission. In defense of the councils' approach, the word "transparency" was used by a current councilmember both during the council meeting, as well as with me, on the phone, while we discussed my grievance.

Transparency is exactly what's missing on the surreptitious inclusion of 5F for consideration. Without a neighborhood representative present, and in the absence of anyone able to countervail an off-handed remark by an attendee, 5F became an option that the city is actually considering. Where is the transparency in that? The council was concerned about transparency for commission appointments. This project is permanent, and unlike a commission appointment, it has real consequences to your constituents.

Don't give consideration to an ill-proposed, ill-conceived and poorly thought out "option". 5F creates obvious safety and privacy problems. On January of 2009, Jonathan Vlaming, senior manager of planning for the District, said that, "crossing Tracy Avenue at grade would be dangerous and unacceptable."<sup>1</sup> Mr. Vlaming's comment is obviated to anyone who has attempted to cross Tracy Avenue at Nine Mile Creek on any weekday afternoon

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<sup>1</sup> Mary Jane Smetanka and Laurie Blake, Nine Mile Creek pedestrian/bike trail takes shape in Edina, Star Tribune, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

and after services at Saint Patrick's church. If the District acknowledges the danger of implementing a crossing at grade level, picture what would happen if the trail crossed two highway entrance ramps, carrying the same traffic that rightfully concerns Mr. Vlaming. The council is on notice of the danger that 5F presents.

5F would also place the bike route at the perfect vantage point for ANYONE to peer into my 70 year old mother-in-law's bedroom and living areas, from a second story perspective. Please take the time to imagine YOUR privacy compromised like that. Visualize a suspect lurking about your yard, equipped with a quiet get away route. Please take the time to examine the number of cases of indecent exposure and harassment that involve the Minneapolis bike trails. Consider what you will do to us when you choose to negatively impact private land for the sake of a bike trail that the city *does not need*.

The city's contemplation to go forward with the long-considered bike trails is in part, fueled by the 2006 survey voicing some residents' desire to increase the number of trails within Edina. Query whether the survey followed up with some pertinent questions such as, "Would you like to have a trail adjacent to your back yard?" Along with, "If so, how would you like to give up your privacy and your quiet enjoyment of your property, along with some of your family's safety in exchange?" Or, "Would you like to have Nine Mile Creek "re-meandered" and altered in order to have your trail?" And of course, "Are you willing to tie up city tax revenue for the maintenance of those and other District trails for the indefinite future?" Maybe the answers to those questions would better articulate what you, the District, and the city council consider to be a "politically palatable conclusion"<sup>2</sup>.

Sincerely,

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<sup>2</sup> ibid.

Luis Bartolomei, Esq.

2

5517 Valley Lane  
Edina, MN 55439  
(952) 942-3384

E-mail: thompson\_davidj@yahoo.com

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## DAVID & TAMI THOMPSON

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February 11, 2009

### Edina City Council

Mayor James Hovland  
Councilman Joni Bennett  
Councilwoman Mary Brindle  
Councilman Scott Housh  
Councilwoman Ann Swenson  
Edina City Hall, 4801 W. 50th Street, Edina, MN 55424

### Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners

Larry Blackstad, Marilyn Corcoran, Mark Haggerty,  
Sara Wyatt, Dale Woodbeck, Rosemary Franzese, Joan Peters  
3000 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441-1299

Dear Council Members and Commissioners:

We are writing to express our strong objection to the proposed routing of the regional bike trail between Nine Mile Creek and adjacent landowners such as ourselves. Specifically these are sections 9 and 11 on the map that was provided to us. We have many objections to this route, but these are some of the more significant:

- 1) Safety and Security of the Neighborhood: Our children have been raised with the understanding they could not play in the front yard unaccompanied by an adult due to the busy thoroughfare street and busy public sidewalk (Valley Lane). For the past 45 years, the backyards in our neighborhood have provided a safe, secure area for children.....separate and private from the busy car and pedestrian traffic in the front. The safety and security that we have come to expect and appreciate would be forever lost with the addition of a public regional trail through our back yards.

There have been several incidents at nearby Heights Park including reports of young people with a gun, a man fleeing police in clothes taken from a nearby house, an intoxicated man approaching children. Edina is a wonderful place with some lovely parks. But it is not immune to the safety challenges that hidden park areas present. Most parents would never allow young children to play in parks unattended. Must we now have the same concerns about our own back yards?

- 2) Habitat and Wetland Destruction: Unlike Minnehaha Creek through Edina, most of Nine Mile Creek has remained undeveloped in the midst of the asphalt and manicured lawns of the city. Despite its narrow swath, most adjacent landowners have left the creek banks wild in order to enjoy the beauty of the habitat and the wildlife it supports including Wood Ducks, Deer, Egrets, Herons, Beaver, Muskrat, Fox, and Coyotes. Paving a 10 foot public trail through the narrow flood plain would essentially eliminate much of the last undeveloped wetland and wildlife habitat in Edina.

- 3) Loss of Privacy and Loss of Property Values: Our street, Valley Lane, has become a very busy thoroughfare between the High School and the Southdale Shopping district. In addition, we have a public sidewalk in front of our homes that has become one of the most popular walking and jogging routes in the city. The addition of a public regional trail immediately behind our homes would turn the houses on Valley Lane into virtual "Fish Bowls".....homes without privacy. Our quality of life would be dramatically compromised and our property values would be significantly impaired. We understand why paths through natural areas are popular. Our family frequently bikes on metro trails. But we would never expect to have a trail built that is so intrusive to homeowners. Trails that are mere feet from backyard decks and swingsets are uncomfortable for both the homeowner and the trail user.
  
- 4) Many Good Alternatives Exist: The maps produced by the task force indicate that there are a number of route alternatives that do not negatively impact homeowners and neighborhoods. Creating bicycle routes on city streets is less expensive, less invasive, and has the advantage of slowing auto traffic. Valley Lane is a good candidate for bike lanes. It has a separate sidewalk for pedestrians and it has few cross streets to compromise rider safety. We urge the city to more closely examine such alternatives.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our objections. We are confident that your careful consideration will result in alternative routing of the bike trail that will be acceptable to residents and trail users alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "DAVID THOMPSON". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Thompson

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tami Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing initial "T" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tami Thompson

February 11, 2009

**Edina City Council**

Mayor James Hovland  
Council Member Joni Bennett  
Council Member Mary Brindle  
Council Member Scott Housh  
Council Member Ann Swenson  
Edina City Hall  
4801 W. 50th St.  
Edina, MN 55424

**Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners**

(Larry Blackstad, Marilyn Corcoran  
Mark Haggerty, Sara Wyatt  
Dale Woodbeck, Rosemary Franzese  
Joan Peters)  
3000 Xenium Lane North  
Plymouth, MN 55441-1299

**Re: Proposed Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail—Edina Segments**

Dear Sirs/Madams:

This letter is sent to inform you that as long time residents of the City of Edina, we strongly object to any proposed regional bike trail that would run by Nine Mile Creek and behind our home.

We reside at 5521 Valley Lane, Edina, Minnesota. We have resided at this address for 16 years where we have been happily raising our four children. As long time residents of Edina (Paul has lived here his entire life), we have come to expect from the city a fair hearing regarding the issues that would greatly effect our property and the quality of life in the community for which we have great affection and have made our permanent home.

As you may know, Valley Lane is used by many motorists as a thoroughfare between Tracy Avenue and France Avenue. In addition, our home, as well as those of our neighbors on Valley Lane, is situated in close proximity to the street. As such, the only respite from the interference caused by this traffic to the quiet enjoyment of our property, as well as to others who reside adjacent to Nine Mile Creek, is to conduct such activities as are normal for any resident of the City of Edina in our backyards. A proposed regional bike trail through our backyard would leave us with no reasonable means for the quiet enjoyment of our property. The activities we

February 11, 2009

Page 2

have conducted in our backyards for many years without interference or disruption would come to a complete end.

A regional bike trail running through our backyard would, essentially, force us to endure a public thoroughway in close proximity to our home, not only across the front of our home but also across the back, leaving us with no privacy. This situation is unacceptable and cannot be justified by any general needs of the public. The consequences of the placement of this regional bike path through our backyard and that of our neighbors would be a disruption to our privacy and the right we have to the quiet enjoyment of our property. We should not be expected to accept or endure this burden.

During our residency, our children and our neighbors' children have played in and explored the area surrounding Nine Mile Creek. This tremendous amenity which contributes to the quality of life for all residents will be destroyed and substantially diminished by any bike trail, particularly of the type proposed. Such a trail running along Nine Mile Creek through the backyards of the residents of the City of Edina whose properties lie on Valley Lane and adjacent streets would be detrimental not only to our properties but to this natural amenity.

We should also comment that we are unaware of any Environmental Impact Study ("EIS") that has been conducted confirming that the wetlands, wildlife, plant life and natural habitat along this portion of the Creek will not be harmed, destroyed or otherwise compromised by a bike path being built along this portion of the Creek.

For anyone who has lived in this area long enough, it is well known that this natural habitat adds greatly to the quality of life for those residing on Nine Mile Creek as well as the quality of life for all residents of Edina. Those who own residences directly on Nine Mile Creek have consistently paid higher real estate taxes compared to similar residences in the area that are not located on the Creek. Moreover, there is little doubt that placing such a trail in proximity to the backyards of the residents who live on Nine Mile Creek will have a significantly negative impact on property values. This, too, during a time when in relation to other communities in Minnesota the City of Edina is one of the few communities that, so far, has been able to maintain property values and, therefore, a strong property tax base. All of that is jeopardized by the placement of the proposed bike path.

There are other clear alternatives to placing a bike trail through the backyards of Edina residents. Those other alternatives should be the only ones considered by the Edina City Council and the Commissioners of the Three Rivers Park District to satisfy the objectives and goals of the proposed plan, as well as to safeguard the natural habitat, and the right of privacy and personal enjoyment of property and the property values of those residing on Nine Mile Creek.

February 11, 2009  
Page 3

As long time residents of this community, we therefore strongly appeal to the Edina City Council and the Commissioners of the Three Rivers Park District not to force upon us this unwanted and unneeded bike trail along Nine Mile Creek, but to pursue the other more reasonable alternatives to address the objectives of such a trail.

Very truly yours,  
  
Paul L. Ratelle and Constance B. Ratelle

PLR/abm

4

H. Jed Hepworth & Lee H. Schubert  
5509 Valley Lane  
Edina, MN 55439

February 11, 2009

Ms. Kelly Grissman  
Planner, Three Rivers Park District.

Mr. John Keprios  
Park & Recreation Director, City of Edina

**RE: NINE MILE CREEK REGIONAL TRAIL ROUTING**

Dear Ms Grissman & Mr. Keprios:

We are long-time Edina residents and parties potentially directly-affected by the routing of Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail as presented in the recent Star Tribune article.

We want to express our concerns about the routing, and not only in respect of its impact on our home and our neighborhood:

1. **WILDLIFE & HABITAT** – Much of the Nine Mile Creek watershed is a narrow ribbon of wild-life habitat and relative wilderness that is home to wood-ducks, egrets, deer, owls, wild turkeys, etc. A 10 foot wide paved path through the middle of that narrow ribbon and the resulting traffic will eliminate the wildlife that so enrich our community.
2. **FLOODING** - Much of Nine Mile Creek floods at least 2 or 3 times per year. If the path isn't raised at least 3 feet in our area, it will flood. Even if it is raised (an eyesore and further degradation of the habitat), all the banks and berms will have to be maintained.
3. **BUDGET PRIORITIES** - the State and Edina confront years of budget shortfalls. How can anyone justify the investment in and maintenance of a special and high cost route for the trail through the watershed? There are numerous street-based routings available that will take advantage of existing resources.
4. **MISPLACED FOCUS** – in the 20 years we have lived in Edina, we have never seen any investment in the Nine Mile Creek Watershed in our area. Now the Park District and Edina are talking about cutting down mature trees and paving land which will increase run-off and erosion?
5. **SECURITY and SAFETY** - we already have occasional problems along Nine Mile Creek with kids setting off fireworks, smoking marijuana and littering. Opening up the course of Nine Mile Creek through residential areas will only add to those problems.

Harvey & Pam Johnson  
5505 Valley Lane  
Edina, MN 55439  
952-941-6076

5

February 11, 2009

Edina Park & Recreation Department, John Keprios  
Three Rivers Park District, Kelly Grissman

We have lived in Edina for over 18 years and if implemented, stand to be directly affected by the proposed Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail. We would like to express our concern with the proposed bike path along 9 Mile Creek in Edina. The issues below apply to property along Nine Mile Creek generally, but we would like to address specifically the section along Valley Lane, Hillside Lane, and Creek Drive as we have first hand knowledge about this area. The following are the issues we would like to bring to your attention:

**Wetlands, Animal Habitat and Environment** – Edina does not have an overabundance of natural areas - especially wetlands. In the area along the Creek behind Valley Lane the wetlands host Owls, Egrets, Fox, Loons, returning families of Wood Ducks, Deer, and countless species of birds that continue to thrive in this setting. It is difficult to imagine any of these habitats thriving by paving a thoroughfare for biking along the Creek. Pollution feeding the creek including road salt, fertilizer, and trash continue to be issues we struggle with while trying to keep the Creek healthy. In the paper this week there are concerns about road salt finding its way into 9 Mile Creek already found to be well above safe levels for wildlife. It is difficult to envision a solution providing the same protection of the Creek after a 10' wide path is added. Since the Nine Mile Creek area is already rather narrow adding this path would mean that this amazing wildlife would no longer be able to travel freely up and down the Creek because of the increased usage. We would like to see the environmental impact study for this project.

**9 Mile Creek Watershed** – this area of the Creek often overflows the banks and floods into the yards of the neighboring homes. In our yard alone after a day of heavy rainfall the creek floods into our yard by more than 30 feet. If this path is to have 24 x 7 access, we assume the path would have to be built up above the yearly flood level. It is hard to see how a path could be built up 3' to 4' above the existing grade and allow for proper drainage and still be environmentally friendly.

**Safety** – Many areas of Nine Mile Creek are secluded and relatively remote. On Valley Lane - particularly in the front of our homes, traffic is heavy and known to be an off freeway thoroughfare when traffic is heavy on Highway 62. Many of us choose to send our children to the safety of the back yard for play. If a path is built along the Creek that allows for biking, walking, during any hour of the day or night, we question the safety for homes and children at play that remain close (within 100 feet specifically) to the Creek boundaries. We understand that this path will be lit but we wonder about police supervision as it can be far from any street they currently patrol. In some areas homes are fairly close to the creek, under 100', this could be a concern.

**Budget and Priorities** – It is extremely difficult to hear as constituents of Edina that we have unknowingly funded money to The Three Rivers Park District for a project that if completed we will be responsible as taxpayers to continue and sustain the upkeep of. Most importantly this is a project that clearly jeopardizes the environment of one of the most beautiful wildlife areas we host in Edina, and stands to change directly both the people and wildlife along its path. We look forward to hearing your comments and solutions to these issues.

Sincerely,

Harvey & Pam Johnson

6

Jim and Anne Hildebrand  
6808 Brook Drive  
Edina, MN 55439

February 12, 2009

**Subject: Proposed Nine Mile Creek Bike Path**

Dear Mr. Vleming ,

My wife Anne and I have lived in Edina for twenty five years at 6808 Brook Drive. It is our home. It has wetlands where wildlife such as herons, fox, owls, deer and mink live. It is secluded and quiet. To me it would be a nightmare to see this destroyed by an asphalt bike path running along the creek or on a long boardwalk over the creek (a solution described at the meeting as a way to avoid destroying the wetlands.)

We see the following issues:

**The Environment:** The Three Rivers Park District states that it has the mission of environmental stewardship. But a bike path through numerous back yards that goes through wetlands and increases the traffic in these areas will have the effect of destroying the environment and natural habitat. Has the US Core of Engineers been consulted on the proposed path along the creek? There is a wetlands protection act. I believe that increased traffic will drive away the wildlife that currently lives there. Also, I currently clean out the creek each spring of stuff that floats down from somewhere. Who will be responsible for cleaning up after a multitude of hikers and bikers who may not all have the motto of "no trace left behind?" I believe the second issue noted on their survey was concern for the environment.

**Traffic and Safety:** Mostly Edina citizens use our street, but the stated purpose of the bike path is "from Hopkins through Edina and Richfield perhaps with trails splitting off there to link with trails in Minneapolis and Bloomington." (Star Tribune). This is the purpose of streets and more specifically highway 100. I personally would not feel safe night or day with the possibility of anyone wandering through my back yard and looking in my windows. What we would be going from is a secluded but relatively inaccessible area to a secluded and highly accessible area by anyone in the twin cities area.

**Changing the rules:** Edina is a developed suburb. While Minneapolis has Lake Harriet with a walk around path this decision was made when development occurred. When Edina was developed and our lots were platted, I am told the developer specifically extended the lots to the center of the creek to prevent a horse or bike path going through the back yards. This was a covenant between the city and the homeowners, and I do not believe it should be broken.

**The Process:** I would very much like to understand the process for the selection of and approval of an Edina bike path. At the information session on February 11<sup>th</sup> which was held at the Edina City hall, I received conflicting information. John Keprios, the Edina

Park and Recreation Director, indicated that the Edina City Council had the final say on whether a bike path would be approved and if so, what the route would be. That the city council would hold a meeting/ information session for Edina residents before deciding anything. Is this correct?

**Uncompensated and unable to sell:** My lot runs to the middle of the creek, and in the paper and from the Three Rivers representative the idea was stated that an easement could be gotten from the courts for "pinch points.", or in other words, my back yard.

This would severely impact the value of my property. It was also stated at the information session that I needn't worry, that the bike path wouldn't be put in for two or three years. My question is when would I be reimbursed for my loss if the route through my back yard is approved? Who and how would the size of the devaluation be decided. Since part of my yard often floods, do you intend to take our entire property? Once the route is approved, and the devaluation of my property has occurred, I would not be able to sell the house for what it is currently worth. We do not think it fair to be asked to wait years for reimbursement.

**In summary**, we strongly oppose routing a bike path along nine mile creek and through ours and our neighbors back yards. It jeopardizes the environment and our safety. With an easement, our home and the environment as we know it will be destroyed. We respectfully ask you to reconsider the direction this is taking.

Sincerely,

  
Jim and Anne Hildebrand

952-941-0586

7

## John Keprios

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From: Jed\_Hepworth@cargill.com  
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:59 PM  
To: John Keprios  
Cc: cschwinghammer@techfluent.com  
Subject: FW: Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail Open Houses Feb 11 & Mar 9 - follow up questions.

Importance: High

Dear Mr Keprios -

I'm resending as our system said the first attempt failed... and I forgot to cc. Chad.

It was nice to meet you last night. Thanks for all you and your staff do to make Heights Park and the other parks such an asset for Edina.

We think the current mix of wonderful people-friendly parks and a little bit of wildness with animals and birds and burrs and bushes is what Edina needs.

jed hepworth

-----Original Message-----

From: Hepworth, Jed H. - Jed\_Hepworth@cargill.com  
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:19 PM  
To: jvlaming@threeriversparkdistrict.org  
Cc: John Keprios; 'PamJ@chenillemagic.com'; HarveyJ@actgroup.com; thompson\_davidj@yahoo.com; Lee.Schubert@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US; edinamail@ci.edina.mn.us  
Subject: Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail Open Houses Feb 11 & Mar 9 - follow up questions.  
Importance: High

Mr. Jonathan Vlaming  
Senior Manager of Planning  
Three Rivers Park District

cc. John Keprios/Park & Rec Director/Edina  
Joni Bennett/City Council  
Mayor James Hovland  
Mary Brindle/City Council  
Ann Swenson/City Council  
Scott Housh/City Council

Dear Mr. Vlaming:

We thought the open house last night was a good first step in helping Edina residents understand the impact of the proposed trail routings.

Thank you.

We had some questions that didn't get answered last night and I hope you will help us.

1. DECISION RIGHTS - There was a lot of residual confusion about decision rights that I hope you can help us clarify.

In discussions with Joni Bennett and Kelly Grissman, we heard variously that:

- a) the decision on routing is a joint City of Edina/Three Rivers Park District decision;
- b) that the decision is a Three Rivers Park District decision; and
- c) that the decision is a joint Three Rivers Park District/Nine Mile Creek Watershed District decision.

Can you please clarify for us who will make the decision on the routing of the proposed trail?

I think it would be very helpful to have at the next open house some clarity on decision rights and also on the dates and locations at which the routing is going to be reviewed with the City Council and the Edina School District. The interests of all Edina residents on all sides of this issue should be represented at those meetings, not just the Edina Bike Task Force or other proponent of any particular route.

2. NEXT STEPS - Can you please advise us also:

i) when will the dates, times and locations of the next City Council and Board of Education meetings to discuss the routing be known and how we can find out well in advance?

ii) what kind of notification of the next open house and the public meetings regarding the trail will be sent and when and to whom?

As Edina residents whose residences are directly affected by the Three River Park District's preferred routing, it was very disappointing to not be advised about the open houses or the process by the the District or the City. We only found out about the issue from the Star Tribune article. The City and the Park District owe it to citizens directly affected to give them notice well in advance of these meetings.

3. COSTS - when is cost going to be put on the table?

One of the posters last night mentioned that cost will be estimated once the route is chosen, but cost must be one of the factors in the choice, not just a consequence of it.

With the US economy tanking and Governor Pawlenty announcing a US\$7 billion state deficit and slashing money for everything, how can cost be an afterthought to ANY routing of the trail? As taxpayers we want costs of maintenance as well as construction on the table when discussing routing.

4. OPEN MEETING - ATTENDEES

Finally, since people were asked to sign in as a condition of participation in the open house, I would like to have a copy of the sign in list, so that all sides of this issue can communicate with those who have demonstrated an interest in this issue. Heather would not commit to give me a copy, asserting "confidentiality". ???

While I certainly recognize Heather isn't making that decision, I would like your explanation for denying me a copy of what clearly is public information. If this information isn't going to be used to communicate with people by the Park District or EBTF or other proponents of the trail and particular routings, why did you collect email and other addresses? We are happy to have our information listed as persons interested in this issue.

I look forward to your prompt response.

H. Jed Hepworth

8

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Importance: High

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Senior Manager of Planning  
Three Rivers Park District

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I look forward to your prompt response.

H. Jed Hepworth

9

-----Original Message-----

From: Lorenzo Tunesi [mailto:[lorenzo.tunesi@gmail.com](mailto:lorenzo.tunesi@gmail.com)]  
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:50 AM  
To: [feedback@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:feedback@threeriversparkdistrict.org); Lynette Biunno  
Subject: Bike paths throught Edina

Please forward this to the appropriate person(s).  
Thank you.

Hi,

I would like to commend you for the work done to prepare various options for bike paths in Edina. As a resident I strongly prefer the path option that follows Nine Mile Creek as opposed to options that follow roads. From both scenic and safety perspectives it is much better to be away from cars. Think about bike paths in Minneapolis and how pleasant it is to be following Minnehaha creek, something like that would be a tremendous asset for Edina.

Best regards,  
Lorenzo Tunesi  
4413 Ellsworth Drive  
Edina, MN 55435

10

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**From:** Elaine Medlar [mailto:wmedlar06@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:45 PM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** A Comment on the Proposed Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

\*\*\* We prefer Section 2\*\*\*\*\*

My husband and I attended last night's meeting at City Hall. I would like to add our comment to the comments that were being collected. In particular, we feel that Section 2 would prove to be more desirable than Section 3. Our backyard is next to Gleason Road in Section 4, so we are very familiar with the layout of the area. Section 3 is along a highly travelled road and would be a much steeper grade to ride/walk. Section 3 also follows a highway ramp from Hwy 62 to 169 for almost half of the distance---not a very pleasant setting. Section 2 is preferable because it would follow the gradual incline of Nine Mile Creek, so it would be much easier to ride or walk. Section 2 would provide much easier access to the trail system for the families that live on the north side of Vernon. This would reduce the number of walkers and bikers that have to cross Vernon at the light at Olinger to use Bredesen Park. They could simply access the trail within the Parkwood Knolls subdivision and never interact with traffic, if the trail could be placed under the road at Vernon and Gleason. Section 2 would complete a very natural trail along Nine Mile Creek from Hopkins to Bredesen Park, safely crossing Hwy 62, running passed our schools all the way to Lake Edina. We want to encourage the City and Three Rivers Park District to choose Section 2. It would complete a great community trail! We can hardly wait!

Sincerely,  
Wade and Elaine Medlar



John Keprios

---

From: Lynette Biunno  
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:02 AM  
To: John Keprios  
Subject: FW: Bike paths throught Edina

-----Original Message-----

From: Lorenzo Tunesi [mailto:[lorenzo.tunesi@gmail.com](mailto:lorenzo.tunesi@gmail.com)]  
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:50 AM  
To: [feedback@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:feedback@threeriversparkdistrict.org); Lynette Biunno  
Subject: Bike paths throught Edina

Please forward this to the appropriate person(s).  
Thank you.

Hi,

I would like to commend you for the work done to prepare various options for bike paths in Edina. As a resident I strongly prefer the path option that follows Nine Mile Creek as opposed to options that follow roads. From both scenic and safety perspectives it is much better to be away from cars. Think about bike paths in Minneapolis and how pleasant it is to be following Minnehaha creek, something like that would be a tremendous asset for Edina.

Best regards,  
Lorenzo Tunesi  
4413 Ellsworth Drive  
Edina, MN 55435

12

**John Keprios**

**From:** John Ferrell [jjcferrell@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:36 PM  
**To:** jvlaming@threeriversparkdistrict.com; John Keprios  
**Subject:** Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

Feb. 13, 2009

Gentlemen,

Thank you for your presentation on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

I hope you consider the impact of the off-road bike trail proposal for segment 16. I am a homeowner of a suburban, 90' wide lot. As proposed, the trail would come within 40 feet of my front door. It would also remove a section of my concrete driveway. Increased, 24 hour lighting and the substantial loss of trees in the right of way are detrimental to the value of my property. This change of infrastructure to parkland would be an intrusion into the residential feel of my property.

The community's need for recreational biking would be better served on West 66<sup>th</sup> Street. A path there would provide access to the amenities around Lake Cornelia: the arts center, pool, Frisbee golf course and pavilions. Segment 15 is a safer roadway. The traffic count is only 3800 cars per day and has an overpass across Highway 100. Segment 15 is scenic and connects with preexisting bike paths in Rosland Park.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jan Ferrell

4704 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
Edina, Minn. 55435  
952-920-8822

13

Feb. 13, 2009

Gentlemen,

Thank you for your presentation on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

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Jan Ferrell

4704 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
Edina, Minn. 55435  
952-920-8822

14

**John Keprios**

**From:** Joanne Bolduc [jgbolduc@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 7:36 AM  
**To:** jvlaming@threeriversparkdistrict.org  
**Cc:** John Keprios  
**Subject:** Bike Trail segment 16

Dear Mr. Vlaming and Mr. Keprios,

We live at 7001 West Shore Drive (intersection of West Shore and 70th) and are writing to encourage you to use 66th Street in Edina as a bike trail path and not 70th street for Segment 16. There are several reasons for this idea.

First, 66th street is both a logical and aesthetic decision in that it would link with already existing trails. The trail would go by the pool and the park and enhance an already beautiful area. My sister, who lives in St. Louis Park and is an avid biker, was thrilled when she found out about the possibility of a link on 66th. She **will not** use a 70th street trail as 70th is too busy and not very pretty or relaxing. Auto exhaust also inhibits a fulfilling bike ride. If we want to encourage recreational biking and healthy family exercise, it makes sense to put a trail on a **safer site with already established links.**

Second, the study committee for 70th street concluded that parking was important on both sides!!! A bike trail would require the taking of land, blvds, tree canopies etc. And a loss of **all** parking for half of those on 70th. We are already dealing with possible other encroachments which would bring the street/trail extraordinarily close to the living room and bedrooms of many on 70th street.

Finally, I am concerned about the driveways of those on 70th. How would it impact those driveways- especially drainage?

I have always appreciated the biking and hiking trails **within the park systems.** A trail on 66th meets that criteria much better than 70th.

We appreciate your attention to our viewpoint.

Joanne and Al Bolduc

February 17, 2009

Three Rivers  
Park District  
Board of  
Commissioners

Mr. H. Jed Hepworth  
5509 Valley Lane  
Edina, MN 55439

Sara Wyatt  
District 1

Dear Mr. Hepworth:

Thank you for attending the first Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail Open House. The Open House serves as the first step in the public process for identifying a preferred route for the regional trail through the City of Edina.

Marilynn Corcoran,  
Vice Chair  
District 2

Regarding decision rights, several different alignments are in the process of being examined with regard to technical and social feasibility by an assessment team comprised of staff from the City of Edina, Three Rivers Park District, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Bike Edina, a citizens group, and the Edina Public Schools. Residents of Edina and of suburban Hennepin County are being asked to provide their input in this process and that input will be considered as part of the social feasibility assessment of the various trail alignments. The assessment team will provide the Edina City Council with their professional assessment of the alignments, along with a recommendation of one alignment for consideration for approval. The Edina School Board will be the first authority to consider approval of the recommended alignment if that alignment includes School District land. The Edina Park Board would then consider approval of the recommended alignment for consideration by the Edina City Council. The Edina City Council would then consider adoption of the recommended alignment of the regional trail through the City. After the City Council has identified and approved a recommended alignment, the Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners would consider adopting the recommended regional trail alignment forwarded by the Edina City Council.

Mark Haggerty  
District 3

Dale Woodbeck  
District 4

Rosemary Franzese  
District 5

At this time, it is not known when those decisions will occur. The Park District and City of Edina are working to develop a project information page on their web sites for the interested public to track progress on this project and to be made aware of upcoming meetings.

Larry Blackstad, Chair  
Appointed

Joan Peters,  
Appointed

The February 11<sup>th</sup> open house was very well publicized, as was evident by the strong turnout. The next open house is scheduled for Monday, March 9. Notice of that meeting will be posted in the local papers and on the City and Park District websites. In addition, all residents living adjacent to any trail segment under study will receive a direct mailing notice of the open house. Those attendees of the February 11 open house, who provided their name and mailing address, will also receive a direct invitation to attend the March 9 open house. Post card notices of the open house will be sent to residents living within the general vicinity of the trail segments under study. Notices of open houses are typically sent out two weeks prior to the open house date.

Cris Gears  
Superintendent

Cost of regional trail construction, operations, and maintenance is typically the responsibility of Three Rivers Park District. Costs will be part of the technical assessment of each of the potential trail alignments. At this time, costs have not been calculated due to the uncertainty in final trail alignment with characteristics specific to each alignment. The benefits and constraints, including expected costs of each trail segment, will be discussed with the Park District's Board of Commissioners prior to identification of a recommended alignment by the assessment team.

As previously stated, attendees of the February 11<sup>th</sup> open house were asked to sign in, providing their names and method for which they could be contacted. The Park District requested this information so that attendees could be sent an invitation to the second open house. Having received your written request for that information, I am now able to provide you with copies of the names and addresses found on the sign-in sheets (enclosed in PDF format).

Please contact me if you have further questions or concerns.

Respectfully,



Jonathan Vlaming  
Senior Manager of Planning  
763.694.7632  
[jvlaming@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:jvlaming@threeriversparkdistrict.org)

Enclosure

C: Mayor James B. Hovland, City of Edina  
John Keprios, Park & Recreation Director, City of Edina  
Joni Bennett, Edina City Council  
Mary Brindle, Edina City Council  
Ann Swenson, Edina City Council  
Scot Housh, Edina City Council  
Dale Woodbeck, Commissioner, Three Rivers Park District  
Cris Gears, Superintendent, Three Rivers Park District

16

**John Keprios**

From: lucky4317@aol.com  
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 1:22 PM  
To: John Keprios  
Subject: Re: Nine Mile Creek trail proposal

John,

FYI . . . The following is a copy of the email I sent to Three Rivers Park and it is also the same as the letter I sent directly to Kelly Grissman.

I am writing this letter regarding the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail proposals for Edina. I attended the open house on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> and both studied the map enlargements and chatted with Kelly Grissman. I was quite upset after learning that the trail #2 proposal runs literally through my backyard as well as the backyards of my neighbors. My home at 6621 Londonderry Drive is located on the wetland area.

I am opposed to this trail #2 proposal for several reasons. First, we purchased our home only 5 months ago and one of the reasons we bought this home was due to the privacy and location on the wetlands. We specifically asked about the possibility of any building or altering of the wetland area and were told this is a protected area and nothing of that sort would occur. Understandably, my family was very upset to learn about the Three Rivers proposal of a 10-ft. wide asphalt path for public access -day and night -- which would run through our property. We would never have purchased this home had we known something like this was a possibility. People make a conscious decision to live near an existing park, lake, playground, golf course or other area regularly accessed by the public. Clearly, those of us who live along the wetland area made this decision because we want to enjoy the privacy and the wildlife of this location.

Second, the wetland area is first and foremost a wildlife sanctuary. Public access with a multi-use trail would most certainly disrupt the wildlife habitat. We all know the wildlife habitat in the suburban areas is shrinking with the construction of housing, buildings and freeways. In particular, the area in our neighborhood along the creek is the only safe way for deer to travel between Hopkins and Edina without having to cross busy Highway 169. We often see deer grazing in our backyard in the early morning hours and at dinner time which would most likely be popular times for joggers, walkers and bikers to be on the trail. Obviously, deer would abandon their once quiet and safe environment. It is unconscionable to think that anyone or any group would seriously consider disruption of the wildlife habitat simply to provide a scenic ride or walk.

Third, the trail option #2 causes a security concern. Because the location of the trail would run either directly through or along property lines, this brings the public right

into our backyard and the yards of our neighbors where children play and pets are kept. There is also the concern for the security of our homes with the public having easy access to our properties. Unlike the city streets, this trail would be difficult for Edina Police to patrol.

Finally, Edina currently has almost 40 public parks and 7 walking paths for the enjoyment of its residents and visitors. Most, if not all, of these are easily accessible by existing roads. We would favor the option of the proposed trail #3 as a way to connect Hopkins to Edina via Lincoln Drive to Vernon Avenue to Bredesen Park walkway. Vernon Avenue already has an existing bike lane designated for bikers and joggers. This option uses existing roadways and walkways and costs nothing.

I appreciate this opportunity to express my concerns about the Nine Mile Creek proposed Edina trails. I also would love to have you visit our neighborhood and see for yourself how the proposed trail #2 would impact my family and my neighbors. Please call me and stop by. If I may make a suggestion, it would have been helpful to have had the map enlargements left at Edina City Hall for a period of a week so residents could come at their convenience and take their time to write feedback notes. This would be an improvement of only two hours on one evening.

Thank you,

Patricia Hasselstrom

6621 Londonderry Drive, Edina, MN

952-920-2101

-----Original Message-----

From: John Keprios <JKeprios@ci.edina.mn.us>

To: Lucky4317@aol.com

Sent: Thu, 20 Feb 2009 3:58 pm

Subject: Handout

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

John Keprios, Director

Edina Park & Recreation Department

4801 W. 50th St.

Edina, MN 55424

Voice: (952) 826-0430

Fax: (952) 826-0385

jkeprios@ci.edina.mn.us

2/18/2009

*"We Create Community through People, Parks and Programs"*

<<Handout Small Handout.pdf>>

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**A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!**

17

John Keprios

From: Cory Shubert [notification+hpzl=pcz@facebookmail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 2:35 PM  
To: John Keprios  
Subject: Edina residents opposing the nine mile creek bike path

facebook



Cory Shubert  
12:34pm Feb 19th

**Edina residents opposing the nine mile creek bike path**

To jkeprios@ci.edina.mn.us

Please pass on to the council members and mayor that I have created a Facebook group and will begin garnering support for this cause.

Anyone can check in and view what is being said and I will encourage members to post stories and photos of what nine mile creek means to them as it stands today and why they oppose this bike path plan.

Thank you,  
Cory Shubert

Cory has shared a link to a group with you. To view the group or to reply to the message, follow this link:

<http://www.facebook.com/p.php?i=573726007&k=42DXY5P6Q64M5BBEUCYTVS>

Are your friends bothering you? You can opt out of emails from friends on Facebook.

18

John Keprios

From: Cory Shubert [cory@pixelagogo.com]  
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 9:11 AM  
To: John Keprios  
Subject: Re: Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

Good morning John, funny you should reply. I just finished reading the part about the survey you sent out and the info next to your photo on the city of Edina's website...

I want to make sure my voice is one of concern and appreciation for what Edina has now and not one of selfishness or "what's best for me".

We live in a very large city, the Twin Cities, and Edina is just one part. My family moved to Edina and fell in love with our home due largely to the wooded acres behind it which are part of nine mile creek.

I am from northern MN. (Park Rapids) and I can tell you that when I walk out in my backyard on a Saturday morning in the summer and close my eyes, I could easily be up north in the middle of the forest. That is a very wonderful thing to be able to say while still being less than 5 minutes from Southdale or 20 minutes from the airport.

While I feel secluded and private with the natural barrier back there, it is not in the least cut off from anyone in the neighborhood to use and enjoy. There is rarely a day that goes by that there are not kids back there or people walking dogs. What makes it special is what also keeps it "real", the undeveloped quality that is has evolved into.

My neighbors to our west were the first home on the south side of Abercrombie Dr. 40+ years ago. They tell of the nine mile creek area back when there were no trees really, just an open space. They have watched it grow and mature to the natural beauty that it is today due largely to the cities policy of NOT developing parkland. I have a lot of footage of deer in our backyard that I am sure would disappear once the construction was completed and the highway (sorry, that is a dig) the bike path was open.

If you would like to see a short sample of one of our visitors, watch this short clip:

<http://vimeo.com/2197784>

I hope at the meeting on March 9 we can hear what studies have been done by the DNR or whomever and what impact to the ecosystem that is present there now this would have, as well as why as a community we think recreation is more important than basic city infrastructures like sidewalks? We would spend millions of dollars to create more bike and walking paths and destroy wildlife habitat but our kids have to walk to and from bus stops in the street? What or who thinks that is the better option?

Thank you again for taking the time to answer my email and I hope to get a chance to introduce myself in person on March 9th.

Thank you,

- > Cory,
- >
- > Thank you for your email.
- >
- > I will forward your email to the Edina City Council and Edina Park Board.
- >
- > Your input is greatly appreciated.
- >
- > John Keprios, Director
- > Edina Park & Recreation Department
- > 4801 W. 50th St.
- > Edina, MN 55424

> Voice: (952) 826-0430  
> Fax: (952) 826-0385  
> jkeprios@ci.edina.mn.us  
> "We Create Community through People, Parks and Programs"

>  
>  
>  
>  
>

> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Cory Shubert [mailto:cory@pixelagogo.com]  
> Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 6:46 PM  
> To: Lynette Biunno  
> Subject: The planned bike trail along Nine Mile Creek

>  
> Hello,

> I just became aware of this proposal and want to voice my opposition  
> to this idea.

>

> As a resident along the proposed path, 5209 Abercrombie Dr., this  
> would ruin one the main reasons we moved to Edina and purchased the  
> home we did, the natural, undeveloped area that sits right behind our home.

>

> I do not want to increase the traffic that this area already has...  
> kids from the neighborhood and people from the neighborhood walking  
> dogs or just enjoying the little bit of "nature" that this part of  
> Edina has, and has kept this way for over 40 years.

>

> I don't know who's idea it was to develop this as planned, but it  
> wasn't someone who lives here, that is very obvious.

>

> We will be at the Monday meeting at city hall and will be very happy  
> to debate this with whomever wishes to.

>

> Please DO NOT allow this to happen and let's find another way to spend  
> our cities money to enhance already developed areas to fulfill  
> whatever goal this ideas was supposed to do.

>

> Thank you,

>

>

> Cory, Susie, Vivian and Sullivan Shubert  
> 5209 Abercrombie Dr.  
> Edina, MN. 55439  
> 952-915-1952

>

>

>

Cory  
<http://www.coryshubertphotography.com>  
cory@pixelagogo.com  
952-334-4648

Good morning John, funny you should reply. I just finished reading the part about the survey you sent out and the info next to your photo on the city of Edina's website...

I want to make sure my voice is one of concern and appreciation for what Edina has now and not one of selfishness or "what's best for me".

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My neighbors to our west were the first home on the south side of Abercrombie Dr. 40+ years ago. They tell of the nine mile creek area back when there were no trees really, just an open space. They have watched it grow and mature to the natural beauty that it is today due largely to the cities policy of NOT developing parkland. I have a lot of footage of deer in our backyard that I am sure would disappear once the construction was completed and the highway (sorry, that is a dig) the bike path was open.

If you would like to see a short sample of one of our visitors, watch this short clip:

<http://vimeo.com/2197784>

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Thank you again for taking the time to answer my email and I hope to get a chance to introduce myself in person on March 9th.

Thank you,

Cory,

Thank you for your email.

I will forward your email to the Edina City Council and Edina Park Board. Your input is greatly appreciated.

John Keprios, Director  
> Edina Park & Recreation Department  
> 4801 W. 50th St.  
> Edina, MN 55424  
> Voice: (952) 826-0430  
> Fax: (952) 826-0385  
> [jkeprios@ci.edina.mn.us](mailto:jkeprios@ci.edina.mn.us)  
> "We Create Community through People, Parks and Programs"

> -----Original Message-----

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> Thank you,  
> Cory, Susie, Vivian and Sullivan Shubert  
> 5209 Abercrombie Dr.  
> Edina, MN. 55439  
> 952-915-1952

Cory  
<http://www.coryshubertphotography.com>  
[cory@pixelagogo.com](mailto:cory@pixelagogo.com)  
952-334-4648

19

**Anthony J. Pellegrin  
Amanda K. Williams  
6512 Creek Drive  
Edina, MN 55439  
952-941-1960**

February 22, 2009

Edina City Council Members: Mayor James Hovland, Joni Bennett, Mary Brindle, Scot Housh, Ann Swenson  
Edina City Engineer & Public Works Director: Wayne Houle  
Edina Park & Recreation Department: John Keprios

Three Rivers Park District: Kelly Grissman,  
Senior Manager of Planning with Three Rivers Park District: Jonathan Vlaming,

Dear Sirs and Madams:

We moved to Edina nearly nine years ago and chose to purchase our home in large part because of the wonderful stretch of Nine Mile Creek that runs behind our home. It is a natural habitat for a number of birds and animals and we enjoy the quiet privacy provided by living along the creek. We were both surprised and taken aback to read in the Star Tribune about the plans to put a bike path along Nine Mile Creek. Our concerns motivated us to attend the open house at the Edina City Hall on Wednesday, February 11 to learn more about the proposed route and design of the bike path.

One of the other things that attracted us to Edina was a sense that residents actively participated in community decisions based on open sharing of information. Unfortunately, in addition to the realization that the creek bike path plans had been quietly shepherded to their current state without meaningful visibility, nearly all of the information we learned at the February 11 open house served to raise serious concerns regarding the proposed bike path along Nine Mile Creek. These concerns include:

**1. Environmental Concerns:** Edina has few truly natural areas remaining – particularly wetlands. In the area along Nine Mile Creek behind Creek Drive, we have personally observed deer, owls, egrets, foxes, wild turkeys, returning families of mallard and wood ducks and many other species of birds as well as turtles, fish and frogs. The creek watershed provides a valuable corridor for wildlife to move along and is particularly narrow in the area behind Valley Lane and Creek Drive. It is difficult to imagine that the habitat and its animals can co-exist much less thrive with a paved thoroughfare for walking and biking along the

creek. Pollution of the creek is also a significant issue. Road salt, fertilizers, and trash continue to be issues we struggle with while trying to keep the creek healthy. The building of a sixteen foot path (10 feet for a paved path & 3 feet on each side for "shoulder") will do nothing to alleviate and will most likely add to the pollution burden on Nine Mile Creek. A project of this significance should have a thorough environmental study. We fully expect that no work will proceed on this proposed project absent acceptable, publicly available results of a detailed environmental impact study for the project. Anything less would fly in the face of responsible stewardship for the Nine Mile Creek Watershed.

2. **Nine Mile Creek Watershed/Flooding:** Nine Mile Creek in the area of Valley Lane and Creek Drive often overflows the banks and floods into the yards of the neighboring homes. After a day of heavy rainfall or snow run-off, we have often observed the creek bed rising several feet to a width of more than 40 feet. If this bike path is to have year-round access, we assume the path would have to be built up above the yearly flood level. It is hard to see how a path could be built up to four feet above the existing grade, allow for proper drainage and still be environmentally friendly. Ms. Grissman of Three Rivers Park District indicated that the bike path might be built on stilts in a boardwalk style, elevating it off the ground. Not only does that sound costly and environmentally invasive, it would also be an aesthetic eyesore. In addition to the predictable environmental degradation such a project would cause, building the path along the creek inevitably leads to impractical and expensive recurring repair and maintenance, extensive periods of path closures each year, significant and rapid deterioration of path conditions and/or significantly costly and aesthetically repugnant structural alternatives.

3. **Safety and Security:** Many areas of Nine Mile Creek running through Edina are secluded and relatively remote. If a path is built along the creek allows for biking or walking during any hour of the day or night, we question the safety for our home and our children at play given our proximity to the creek. We also question whether the bike path can be adequately supervised by the police since at many points the creek is far from any streets they currently patrol. We also question the proximity of the proposed trail to our schools - the proposed path will connect to the Three Rivers Park District's regional trail network, which currently has more than 90 miles of trail. This will bring a large number of people each day into close proximity to Creek Valley Elementary, Valley View Middle School and Edina High School, creating a safety concern for many of us who have children attending those schools. Building such a thoroughfare along the creek would significantly increase the burden on Edina's police force and impose significant safety burdens on those families and schools near the trail.

4. **Financial Concerns:** The proposed route along the creek is clearly the most costly alternative we have seen in terms of initial capital expenditure AND ongoing costs of policing, maintenance and repairs. Today's current financial climate hardly seems the appropriate time to be spending precious financial

resources on such an undertaking. The construction and ongoing maintenance of a bike trail does not fall into the “need-to-have” category as we face difficult financial and budgetary choices. Street-based routings would be more cost effective to build and to maintain in the long-run. On a related issue, we would also expect that the higher property tax rates paid year over year by residents with homes along the creek would be decreased immediately and substantially to reflect the degradation in property values brought about by the path running along the back yards. (These higher taxes are in addition to the acquisition price premium historically paid for homes along the creek.) Thus, in addition to an increased financial burden the City of Edina should expect decreased property tax revenues if the creekside bike path project is pursued. While there is never a good time to do so, the current economic environment clearly is not a time to pursue an alternative that imposes the highest possible near-term and long-term cost on taxpayers and increased pressure on the City’s budget.

**5. Apparent Lack of Oversight and Responsibility:** From what we have been able to ascertain, the proposed project is being run by a loose confederation of organizations, such that when we press for more information on the proposal and any details, every party seems to point toward another and no single organization or group seems to be in charge or have a comprehensive set of information. From what we can tell, each of the groups involved has input on what may happen but none holds the ultimate responsibility for the project. Beyond the frustration this brings in simply trying to receive a comprehensive set of facts regarding the proposed project, it also does not bode well for the future of the project in terms of execution – whether in design, environmental impacts, construction, monitoring or ongoing maintenance and repair.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our concerns. We look forward to learning of your thoughts and solutions to the issues we have raised.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Pellegrin and Amanda K. Williams

cc: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Managers: LuAnn Tolliver, Corrine Lynch, Steve Kloiber, Bob Kotejin, Geoffrey Nash

Nine Mile Creek Watershed Administrator: Kevin Bigalke

Senator Geoffrey Michel, R-Edina

State Representative, Keith Downey, R-Edina

Harvey & Pam Johnson  
5505 Valley Lane  
Edina, MN 55439  
952-941-6076

20

February 23, 2009

Edina Park & Recreation Department, John Keprios

Three Rivers Park District, Kelly Grissman

Senior Manager of Planning with Three Rivers Park District, Jonathan Vlaming

Edina City Council Members: Mayor James Hovland, Joni Bennett, Mary Brindle, Scot Housh, Ann Swenson

We have lived in Edina for over 18 years and if implemented, stand to be directly affected by the proposed Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail. We would like to express our concern with the proposed bike path along Nine Mile Creek in Edina. The issues below apply to property along Nine Mile Creek generally, but we would like also to address specifically the section along Valley Lane, Hillside Lane, and Creek Drive as we have first hand knowledge about this area. The following are the issues we would like to bring to your attention:

**Do the Residents of Edina really want this path? Edina has a population of approximately 47,425** yet we are very unclear how a survey of less than 10% of our population with a **response of less than 2% of our city's population (865 responses)** somehow represents a definitive desire that our community wants this path. We also question what wording was included in this survey. "Would you like to see more bike/walking trails in Edina" hardly notifies those asked that such a trail would run through their streets, backyards, schoolyards, and endanger the beauty of our Creek and Wetlands. Council Members and The Watershed District have veiled the presentation of the path to the public under a council agenda of "water quality projects". How any constituent reading the council agenda would know this to be actual plans for a bike trail is unknown to us, and a clear breach of public trust and also of the offices held by each of you.

**Wetlands, Animal Habitat and Environment** – Edina does not have an overabundance of natural areas – especially wetlands. In the area along the Creek behind Valley Lane the wetlands host Owls, Egrets, Fox, Loons, returning families of Wood Ducks, Deer, and countless species of birds that continue to thrive in this setting. It is difficult to imagine any of these habitats thriving by paving a thoroughfare for biking along the Creek. Pollution feeding the creek including road salt, fertilizer, and trash continue to be issues we struggle with while trying to keep the Creek healthy. In the paper this week there are concerns about road salt finding its way into 9 Mile Creek already found to be well above safe levels for wildlife. It is difficult to envision a solution providing the same protection of the Creek after a 16' wide path is added (10 feet for paved path & 3 feet on each side for "shoulder"). Since the Nine Mike Creek area is already rather narrow adding this path would mean that this amazing wildlife would no longer be able travel freely up and down the Creek because of the increased usage. We would like to see the environmental impact study for this project.

**9 Mile Creek Watershed/Flooding** – this area of the Creek often overflows the banks and floods into the yards of the neighboring homes. In our yard alone after a day of heavy rainfall the creek floods into our yard by more than 30 feet. If this path is to have 24 x 7 access, we assume the path would have to be built up above the yearly flood level. It is hard to see how a path could be built up three to four feet above the existing grade and allow for proper drainage and still be environmentally friendly, or aesthetically pleasing.

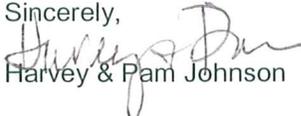
**Safety** – Many areas of Nine Mile Creek are secluded and relatively remote. On Valley Lane - particularly in the front of our homes, traffic is heavy and known to be an off freeway thoroughfare when traffic is heavy on Highway 62. Many of us choose to send our children to the safety of the back yard for play. If a path is built along the Creek that allows for biking, walking, during any hour of the day or night, we question the safety for homes and children at play that remain close (within 100 feet specifically) to the Creek boundaries. We understand that this path will be lit but we wonder about police supervision as it can be far from any street they currently patrol. In some areas homes are fairly close to the creek, under 100', this could be a concern. We also question the proximity to our schools - the proposed path will

connect to the Three Rivers Park District's regional trail network, which currently has more than 90 miles of trail. This brings a large number of people each day into close proximity to our schools creating a safety concern for many of us who have children attending those schools. Current mapping of connectivity to the Hopkins bike trail connects us directly with a level three sex offender living near the path as of one week ago.

**Budget and Priorities** – Today's current financial climate hardly seems the appropriate time to be spending precious financial resources. The State budget deficit stands at more than \$4.27 billion - much of that affecting our schools. Both Valley View Middle School and The Edina High School have called special meetings to discuss with the public the effects that budget cutbacks will be having on the education of our children. The construction and ongoing maintenance of a bike trail does not fall into an "absolute necessity" category as we face difficult financial and budgetary choices. It is extremely difficult to hear as constituents of Edina that we have unknowingly funded money to The Three Rivers Park District for a project that if completed we will be responsible as taxpayers to continue and sustain the upkeep of.

This is a project that clearly jeopardizes the environment of one of the most beautiful wildlife areas we host in Edina, and stands to change directly both the people and wildlife along its path. We look forward to hearing you comments and solutions to each of these issues.

Sincerely,

  
Harvey & Pam Johnson

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2009

21

Feb. 23, 2009

Mayor Hovland and Council Members,

The new Comprehensive Plan is built on the cornerstones that established our city, its land and zoning use, along with the matching of road design to land use. These cornerstones form our residential neighborhoods and protect them from the intrusion of commercial use. The two lane street lined with homes was built with on-street parking on both sides in front of homes. That is what our street looked like during the 1960's parade of homes that brought people here to live. Many of the homes face towards 70<sup>th</sup> Street and form the heart of the Cornelia Neighborhood. The 1980's brought change to the road with the construction of the interchange at Hwy 100 and the closure of 66<sup>th</sup> access to the highway. What followed in the 1980's study was a call for a safer road with less traffic; solve the impossible without closing the road. SRF succeeded in a safer road that has kept the traffic volumes level for over 20 years. The three left turn lane intersections reduced the dangerous rear end collision and retained some on-street parking on both sides that continues to calm traffic and provide transit bikers an 8' wide on-road area to ride if they wish to compete with our 13,000 cars per day. In this decade the road saw the completion of the missing link of state aid sidewalks on both north and south sides for safe passage for pedestrian and recreational bikers from Hwy 100 to France Ave. We also had the Arneson Park left turn lane added which in turn removed more on-street parking.

The perfect storm occurred when the New Comprehensive plan, the new BETF, the Energy committee and the Parks all converged on our 50 year old residential road that is in need of a new road bed and utility replacement. Now everyone is interested in the use of land in front of our homes that provides access to so many amenities. We have 13,000 cars but do we want to add more multi users to the mix? Only 112 (0.5%) of the 22,547 Edina residents who were asked on the census how they arrived at work stated that they "BIKED" to work. Three Rivers estimates that 500,000 walkers and bikers will use the Nine Mile Creek Regional trail through Edina and Richfield. There is no estimate of how many would utilize the trail that could be built just 40 feet from the front of my home.

The SAC and SRF did not have data on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to explain why they did not propose 10' traffic lanes because lanes are not built that narrow for safety reasons. MNDOT requires 12' opposing traffic lanes; 11' lanes would require a variance. MNDOT may or may not be receptive to grant and pay for 11' lanes. The 10' opposing traffic lane is not built or approved in MN for safety reasons. The 10' lane is reserved for construction lanes or when both lanes are proceeding in the same direction. Will MNDOT be receptive to 10' opposing traffic lanes to accommodate the three lanes at intersection with left turn lanes plus 2 (5') on-road bike lanes? It would fit in the 40' roadbed but is it safe? The 11' lane geometrics would require the "bubbling" (widening) of our street to 43' or 44' in front of approximately 24 homes to fit all the users on the road. The loss of green spaces and well established trees would remove our canopy that buffers our homes. We would look similar to the sunny area of France Ave. north of HWY 62.

A BETF representative spoke at the council meeting believing that 70<sup>th</sup> Street residents had requested "NO PARKING" signs in front of their home. She is mistaken. The 16 "NO PARKING" signs on the road delineate that it is a left turn area where parking is restricted due to geometrics.

The SAC heard from our city police that other areas of the city have greater concern with traffic than 70<sup>th</sup> Street. There is not a simple solution to this complex problem but the need for a "safer" solution is paramount. The posting of a 25 M.P.H. speed sign will not change the driving patterns of the drivers. Please do not install on-road bike lanes as a traffic calming method to supposedly lower speed on the corridor. Would the reduction from the current 38 M.P.H. average speed, down to 33 M.P.H. encourage anyone to safely bike on 70<sup>th</sup> Street? The BETF plans for primary and secondary routes would overlay our existing roadway. The Complete Street Model explained in the BETF Report protects on-street parking. The BETF places the bike user "on-road" at the exclusion of on-street parking. The BETF's primary and secondary bike route wish list needs to

meet the reality of how much is enough, and modify the excessive designations. Bikers' preference to avoid the roads with hills but require duplicate access to "on-road lanes" in addition to "off-road trails" on the same road is not a justifiable allocation of the limited land or funding that is available. It is without question that the continued loss of on-street parking causes safety issues for homeowners to access and enjoy their homes. Larger front yard turnarounds and off-street parking increases on driveways and parking pads do not reflect positively on home values. The question is not do we want bike lanes and bike trails? The answer is 57% do want something available. The question is how many miles do we need, what type and where. Should the routes remove parking and go through our front yards as if the park moved into our homes? If they need more park land please purchase the location like we did. Then they can build the trails and pay for it as we do as property owners to be assessed for this project along with MNDOT.

The SAC proposed a geometric design that is buildable now without hoping for variances that may or may not be approved. The safe 12' lanes, existing left turn lanes and 8' wide on-street parking, are all ready to go and in compliance with MNDOT. The plan also hopes to prevent cut through traffic onto other side streets. Their recommendation reflected the community's commitment to consider all of Edina while preserving beauty, function and livability in our residential Cornelia Neighborhood.

The Three Rivers Park District and Hennepin County have made commitments for plans that will serve our city and our connectivity to our neighboring communities. We need this broader perspective that considers the rights of both bikers and homeowners in planning a well designed, safe, comprehensive bike plan for the city.

Thank you for your considerations,

Jan Ferrell  
4704 west 70<sup>th</sup> Street

RECEIVED  
FEB 26 2009

22

February 23, 2009

Mayor James Hovland  
Edina City Hall  
4801 W.50<sup>th</sup> Street  
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Mayor Hovland:

We have lived at 6800 Brook Drive for 40 years. It has wetlands where wildlife such as herons, fox, owls, deer and mink live. It is secluded and quiet. To us it would be a nightmare to see this destroyed by an asphalt bike path running along the creek or on a long boardwalk over the creek (a solution described at the meeting as a way to avoid destroying the wetlands.)

We see the following issues:

**The Environment:** The Three Rivers Park District states that it has the mission of environmental stewardship, but a bike path through numerous back yards that goes through wetlands and increases the traffic in those areas will have the effect of destroying the environment and natural habitat. We believe that increased traffic will drive away the wildlife that currently lives there. While the highest area of interest expressed by the people of Edina in a Three Rivers Survey was for a bike path, we believe the second most important issue noted on their survey was concern for the environment.

**Traffic and Safety:** Mostly Edina citizens use our street, but the stated purpose of the bike path is "from Hopkins through Edina and Richfield perhaps

with trails splitting off there to link with trails in Minneapolis and Bloomington.”

(<http://www.startribune.com/local/west/38757467.html?elr=KArksUUUU>). We personally would not feel safe night or day with the possibility of anyone wandering through our back yard. What we would be going from is a secluded but relatively inaccessible area to a secluded and highly accessible area by anyone in the twin cities area.

**Changing the rules:** Edina is a developed suburb. While Minneapolis has Lake Harriet with a walk around path this decision was made when development occurred. When Edina was developed and our lots were platted, I am told our developer specifically extended our lots to the center of the creek to prevent a horse or bike path going through the back yards. This was a covenant between the city and the homeowners, and I do not believe the city should now consider reneging on the agreement. (Note: while only some of us own to the center of the creek, all the lots on the creek generally extend to where the wetlands begin, with no additional development or paths envisioned)

**The Process:** We do not understand the process for the selection of and approval of an Edina bike path. At the information session on February 11<sup>th</sup> which was held at the Edina City hall ,we received conflicting information. John Keprios, the Edina Park and Recreation Director, indicated that the Edina City Council had the final say on whether a bike path would be approved and if so, what the route would be. Also, that the city council would hold a meeting/ information session for Edina residents before deciding anything. Representatives of Three Rivers Park District who ran

the information session on February 11<sup>th</sup> implied that it was their decision and that they would select the route of the path and that the Edina City Council would pretty much rubber stamp the decision. Our impression was that Three Rivers had already made up their minds and that the route would run through our back yards on Nine Mile Creek. We would like this to be an issue for the Edina City Council to decide based on a hearing with Edina residents.

Cost and Maintenance: We feel that the money could be used for other projects that are already in place, i.e., Edina parks, walking paths, Braemar park or other neighborhood parks. The cost to initially do the proposed project would be very high, but the maintenance, clean up and patrolling costs would be expensive and ongoing for many years. If the money were not available in the future, the path would deteriorate and be a liability for the community.

**In summary**, we strongly oppose routing a bike path along Nine Mile Creek and through our and our neighbor's back yards. It jeopardizes the environment and our safety.

We are not willing to grant an easement through our property for the proposed bike path.

Sincerely,

*Kurt King*  
*Margo King*

Kurt and Margo King

23

Michael G. Wolff  
5300 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
Edina, MN 55439

February 23, 2009

District Board of Managers Nine Mile Creek Water Shed District  
(Kevin Bigalke, LuAnn Tolliver, Connie Lynch, Steve Kloiber,  
Bob Kojetin, Geoffrey Nash)  
7710 Computer Avenue, Suite 135  
Edina, MN 55435

Three Rivers Park Board of Commissioners  
(Larry Blacksted, Marilyn Corcoran, Mark Haggerty,  
Sara Wyatt, Dale Woodbeck, Rosemary Franzese,  
Joan Peters)  
3000 Xenium Lane North  
Plymouth, MN 5541-1299

Edina City Council  
(Mayor James Hovland, Council Members  
Joni Bennett, Mary Brindle, Scott Housh,  
Ann Swenson)  
Edina City Hall  
4801 W. 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
Edina, MN 55424

Re: Proposed Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

Dear Sirs/Madams:

It is with alarm and disgust that I write this letter regarding the proposed bike trail along Nine Mile Creek in Edina. While I can appreciate that people, including the residents of Edina, would like to be able to ride their bikes along the creek, not only is the proposal unjustified, it is an injustice to many property owners.

Much of the area surrounding the creek provides a unique habitat for wildlife that certainly would be destroyed by many of the proposed routes along the creek (apparently, this has not even been considered as no environmental impact studies have been offered by any of the entities involved with this project to date). Edina is an old suburb and these somewhat undisturbed tracks of land are precious to anyone who appreciates nature and the environment. To lose these places would be a travesty.

In addition to the habitat, the proposed bike path would irreparably harm the people's right to the quiet enjoyment of their property – a right Americans hold sacred. As resident on 70<sup>th</sup> street, the use of the front yard as a place for kids to play or as place for people to gather is not feasible. Despite the speed limit, the road is used as a highway much of the day. It is dangerous and noisy.

Our backyards are our only hope for privacy and peaceful enjoyment. Running a bike trail behind houses on this street and those across the creek would ruin any privacy we now are afforded. What is now an open, friendly community will become nothing but lot-after-lot of privacy fences (and who will pay for that?). Property owners should not be expected to endure such public nuisance and give up their right to the quiet enjoyment of their property.

As alarming are the potential problems associated with easy public access to somewhat remote areas. The potential for crime is incredible, not only to civilians in the area, but to home owners as well since most of these homes are walk-outs. There is no way the police will be able to patrol these areas adequately, leaving the home owners to deal with the problems (one home owner I talked with told me he was going to buy a gun for protection if the trail goes through – just what we need). As it is now, we experience problems on a fairly regular basis in our little neighborhood park and flood area. There is garbage around (we picked-up 33 trash bags fall this spring), kids drinking and taking drugs and even signs of gang activity (look under the railroad bridge). I am constantly picking up trash on my property and junk people throw in the creek. We certainly don't need to attract more people.

We have all paid a premium to live where we do and are taxed accordingly. The proposed bike trail would most certainly decrease housing values in a time were many people are paying-off loans that are higher than the current value of their homes. It is hard pill to swallow knowing you are paying taxes to make your property worth less and less enjoyable.

Finally, with all our other needs and lack of financial resources, it is perplexing that we choose to spend money this way.

Even the Mayor and City Council members are aware that the proposed bike path is unjustifiable and an injustice to home owners. They validated this statement through their own actions during the City Council meeting held January 6<sup>th</sup>, where it was clearly

Page 3  
February 23, 2009

evident that the goal was to get the proposed bike path through under the subterfuge of water quality. They even talked about the particular language they will need to use to get it past the Water Shed District Board as a water quality project.

The Mayor and city council members failed in their responsibility to those citizens impacted most by sending the petition to the Water Shed District without adequate public notice. As a citizen of Edina, I ask the Mayor and the Council Members to reconsider their actions and I ask those in charge of the related entities involved to recognize the situation and to rectify the failure of our Edina city officials to handle this matter appropriately. Please keep the bike trail out of our backyards.

Respectfully,



Michael G Wolff

cc: U. S. Senator Geoff Michel  
U. S. Senator Keith Downey  
John Keprios, Edina Park and Recreation  
Wayne Houle, Edina Public works

24

**From:** Dianne Plunkett Latham [mailto:Dianne.Plunkett.Latham@Comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2009 10:33 PM  
**To:** Dianne Plunkett Latham  
**Subject:** Three Rivers/9 Mile Creek Bike Trail Open House on March 9 at 6-8 pm City Hall

2-25-09

Dear EEC and RSW WG,

I am appalled by the inaccuracies and scare tactics employed by the opponents to the 9MC bike trail at their [www.9MileCreek.org](http://www.9MileCreek.org) web site. Please circulate the attached flier to supporters of the bike trail so that they can appear at the March 9 Open house at City Hall from 6 – 8 pm and show support for the trail. Perhaps Hailey can circulate the flier to Project Earth, Germana to LWVE's Action Line, Paul to MNA and any others of you who may know interested parties. The creek is not the private property of those who live along it, but is an amenity to be enjoyed by all residents. Dianne

**From:** alihul@aol.com [mailto:alihul@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2009 4:07 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Three Rivers Ad 9 Mile Creek Trail

This is the notice for the next open house. Opponents to the trail have asked for and been given contact info on everyone who was at the last open house. I would advise not signing in unless you would like to be contacted by this group. People who own property along the creek will be mailed info on the meeting, but possible user groups will not. So, it is up to us to spread the word, ask people to come and to comment on the route. Please email this flyer to people who would be interested, make copies and post around the City. It is important this be a well publicized event. Encourage people to comment on the route. 3 Rivers takes these comments very seriously. Opponents have set up a web site- [www.9MileCreek.org](http://www.9MileCreek.org) ( the watershed official site is [www.ninemilecreek.org](http://www.ninemilecreek.org).) We should all take a look at it.

Alice

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jonathan Vlaming <JVlaming@threeriversparkdistrict.org>  
**To:** alihul@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tue, 24 Feb 2009 9:52 am  
**Subject:** FW: Three Rivers Ad

Hi Alice - attached is the Ad for the open house that will be running in the Sun.

Jonathan Vlaming  
Senior Manager of Planning  
Three Rivers Park District  
3000 Xenium Ln N  
Plymouth, MN 55441  
(763) 694-7632  
Cell (612) 490-5220

25

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**From:** Dianne Plunkett Latham [mailto:Dianne.Plunkett.Latham@Comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2009 10:33 PM  
**To:** Dianne Plunkett Latham  
**Subject:** Three Rivers/9 Mile Creek Bike Trail Open House on March 9 at 6-8 pm City Hall

2-25-09

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Alice

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Jonathan Vlaming  
Senior Manager of Planning  
Three Rivers Park District  
3000 Xenium Ln N  
Plymouth, MN 55441  
(763) 694-7632  
Cell (612) 490-5220

FAX (763) 557-5248

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26

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**From:** Kevin Donlin [mailto:kmd@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2009 8:44 AM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Attn: Mayor James Hovland - re: new bike path construction

Dear Mayor Hovland,

I would like to register my concern about construction of a bike path in Edina that will affect Nine Mile Creek near 70th Street and Hwy 100.

I am strongly opposed to any bike path traveling along the residential properties along Nine Mile Creek for the budgetary and environmental reasons, which I will share when my neighbors and I attend the Open House on March 9.

But I am most opposed to this new bike trail for reasons of safety.

There have been numerous muggings along the similar Greenway path in Minneapolis, and a bike trail in our backyards would open access to people from far and wide, 24/7. There are no fences here to separate our young children from strangers entering the proposed bike trail.

Please reply at your earliest convenience to let me know your position on this.

It is my understanding that State Senator Geoff Michel and City Council Member Scot Housh share the views of most in our area, and oppose bike-trail construction along our backyards facing Nine Mile Creek.

Sincerely,

Kevin Donlin  
5185 Abercrombie Dr.  
952-996-9053

27

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**From:** Kevin Donlin [mailto:kmd@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2009 9:07 AM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Attn: Mayor James Hovland - CLARIFICATION re: new bike path construction

Dear Mayor Hovland,

In my last email, I mistakenly mentioned that City Council Member Scot Housh shared the views of most in our area, and opposed bike-trail construction along our backyards facing Nine Mile Creek.

This was a misunderstanding on my part -- Scot Housh has not made a decision on this matter and it was my error to ascribe an opinion to him.

Sincerely,

Kevin Donlin  
5185 Abercrombie Dr.  
952-996-9053

28

3-01-09

Three Rivers Park District  
Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail  
3000 Xenium Lane North  
Plymouth, MN 55441

**Regarding:** Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Edina

To whom it may concern,

I'm a resident of Edina next to the proposed trail locations. I have received your letter dated 2-25-09 with the attached map showing the proposed trail routes. I am NOT in favor of the following proposed trails (5), (5D) & (5E). Here are the following reasons why:

1. **Natural Landscape** - Current area contains a wetland which is frequently used by a large variety of animals. The increased pedestrian traffic thru this area would disrupt the natural wildlife & habitat of these animals. I recommend running the proposed trail to the north parallel to Hwy 62 or to the south along Tracy Avenue. Existing sidewalk already exists along the east side of Tracy Avenue, which could be utilized for a trail leading to the Edina High School.
2. **Safety** - Tracy Avenue is a very busy street. It's difficult to cross the street at the proposed trail crossing location (9) leading to (5D) or (5E). Safety concern for both children and adults. Underground tunnel or pedestrian bridge would be very expensive.
3. **Cost** - It does not appear to be feasible to construct a trail thru a low-lying wetland region. A trail in this area would require the installation of a number of bridges & thru an area where large mature trees would have to be removed. Map shows an alternate trail (7) adjacent to Tracy Avenue, which in my opinion would be more feasible & better money spent.

Thank you for taking the time to review my concerns. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

The Brandel Family  
5700 Creek Valley Road,  
Edina, MN. 55439

cc. Edina City Hall  
City Council  
4801 W. 50<sup>th</sup> St.  
Edina, MN 55424

29

Email from:

Safley, James R. [JRSafley@rkmc.com]

Sent 3/1/09

>>>> Please read the confidentiality statement below <<<<

Mr. Keprios:

I appreciate the time you recently spent with me discussing the proposed Nine Mile Creek regional trail system in Edina. My wife and I have lived in our home in the Parkwood Knolls area of Edina since 1985. While I cannot comment on all of the proposed trail segments, I would strongly endorse construction of the segment immediately adjacent to the Creek from the Londonderry Townhomes to Walnut Ridge Park.

From the time we moved to Edina, residents of the Londonderry Townhomes could walk through a path on the wetlands behind our property to Walnut Ridge Park. In addition, numerous employees of United Healthcare could follow that path during a lunch hour walk to the Park. However, a few years ago, the Edina Planning Commission approved construction of two very large homes in the wetlands behind our home. As a result, the most direct path to the Park was closed and we began to experience a lot of traffic through our yard (both pedestrians and bicycles) from Townhome residents and employees who wanted a more direct route to the Park.

This has created a difficult situation for us. While we like to see people walk and enjoy the outdoors, we do not want strangers walking and biking through our property throughout the day. Signs we have posted on our property have either been ignored or destroyed.

The proposed trail would resolve this problem. The map you provided to me shows two alternative routes from the Londonderry Townhome (and United Healthcare) area to the Park. By far the most convenient and direct route would be alternative 2 directly adjacent to Nine Mile Creek. Very few people from the Londonderry area would use alternative 3 to walk to the Park, as that alternative route is several times longer. Besides, there is already a sidewalk to accommodate those who have the time and inclination to take this more lengthy route.

I would ask that you and others involved in the trail planning process give this careful consideration. If I can provide further information, feel free to call me at my office number, 612-349-8274.

James R. Safley

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Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P.

<http://www.rkmc.com>

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30

Kelly (and John): Just informational...Sharing with you my invitation to talk with Senator G. Michel.

I am in the loop with Alice Hulbert and a few others with this too.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kirk Johnson** <Kirk.Johnson@loganlogic.com>

Date: Sun, Mar 1, 2009 at 7:55 AM

Subject: Request for Information Exchange Regarding Nine Mile Creek Project

To: "Sen.Geoff Michel" <Sen.Geoff.Michel@senate.mn>

Hello, Senator Michel. I am writing as a concerned Edina resident because I see that according to <http://www.9milecreek.com/Officials.htm>, you are **opposed** to the multi-purpose trail that Three Rivers Park District is designing with the City and many stakeholders.

As a community leader with environmental and active living concerns, father, and long-time Edina resident, I'm very interested in learning what concerns might exist so that I can explore workable solutions with you. I am helping with an information table for the March 9th Open House at the Edina City Hall and it would be meaningful to be able to understand your perspectives as we talk with residents about the best options. I serve on an active living-related Board of Directors and am on two committees related to transportation and bicycling for the Twin Cities, Hennepin County, and local Edina areas.

I see from your website that you also have school-age children (mine are similar ages). I believe that a well-designed multi-purpose trail combined with environmental care for creek restoration will benefit not only children but adults in Edina. The proximity to the high school and other key areas will be a vast treasure for Edina.

Would you be willing to talk or meet, perhaps as early as Monday, March 2nd? My phone is below and I look forward to speaking with you soon.

--

Kirk Logan Johnson  
Kirk.johnson@LoganLogic.com  
(612) 916-9966 (Cell)

On Sat, Feb 28, 2009 at 4:40 PM, <alihul@aol.com> wrote:  
FYI- we should try to have a meeting with him next week.

Alice

-----Original Message-----

From: Sen.Geoff Michel <[Sen.Geoff.Michel@senate.mn](mailto:Sen.Geoff.Michel@senate.mn)>

To: [alihul@aol.com](mailto:alihul@aol.com)

Sent: Sat, 28 Feb 2009 10:29 am

Subject: Re: 9 Mile Creek Trail

Thanks Alice. I will check the website later today - that is too strong a statement. I do not oppose all bike paths. And thanks for the background.

G

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**A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!**

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Kirk Logan Johnson  
[Kirk.johnson@LoganLogic.com](mailto:Kirk.johnson@LoganLogic.com)  
(612) 916-9966 (Cell)

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Kirk Logan Johnson  
[Kirk.johnson@LoganLogic.com](mailto:Kirk.johnson@LoganLogic.com)  
(612) 916-9966 (Cell)