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**From:** DONALD AND GEORGIA HELLENDRUNG [mailto:dghellendrung@q.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 1:43 PM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Nine Mile Creek

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I'm writting in regards to the Nine Mile Creek regional plan for a bike path. My primary concern is flooding, since the proximity of my house on the south side from the creek, is about ten feet. A few years ago the city did some drenching on the East side of the house and since that, the water has been diverted to the proposed area. When it rains the proposed area is flooded.

Prior to drenching the water would creep up very close to the house and in 1987 and 2001 the lower level of the house was flooded causing \$85,000.00 worth with the damages. Any changes to the elevation, as proposed, would create flooding conditions. I'm asking you, would you be responsible for any damages?

Why would the City of Edina and the Three Rivers create such devastating conditions for its residents??

Why destroy such a pristine area? The streets in the City of Edina are not as busy as Hennepin Ave., University Ave. etc.and these streets have bike lanes running along side of them.

Another concern I have is the budget. All Cities and States in recent years have problems with their budgets. Is the City of Edina prepared for an additional expense for the up-keep of the bike path? Is it fair for the City of Edina and ThreeRivers to pass such an additional expense to its residents, in such dire economic times?

We can have a bike path that connects to the rest of the system without risking residents houses to flooding, destroying pristine areas and without putting residents in a financial bind.

I am asking you to reconsider your decision in regards to the route of the bike path and please hold public hearings instead of informational public meetings. You owe that much to the residents of the City of Edina.

Respectfully,

Donald and Georgia Hellendrung  
6725 Cahill Road

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**From:** Ron Way [mailto:ron-way@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 4:29 PM  
**To:** NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Support River Bike Trail

*Please direct this to Commissioners and Planners at Three Rivers Park District, AND to the Edina Mayor and City Council Members, AND Edina Parks Director John Keprios.*

I am writing in strong support of the Edina portion of the regional trail to generally follow Nine Mile Creek. Actually, a trail along Tracy Ave would be much closer to our home, but for reasons stated below both my wife and I strongly support the creek option.

First, a trail through Edina would be a genuine community asset. Our daughter lives near the St. Louis Park portion of the trail; she and her family use the trail for hiking, biking, jogging, and in-line skating. They and their neighbors consider the trail an asset, and feel the value of homes increase based on proximity to the trail. Our son and his family live near a trail in their community of Leawood, KS, and likewise see high value in the trail.

We note that in naming Eden Prairie one of the most livable communities in the U.S., Money, Inc., cited the value of trails -- including the regional trail in that neighboring community.

I attended one of the informational sessions, and was impressed by the exhaustive planning effort that has surrounded the trail. I learned from Three Rivers officials that safety concerns are addressed both by regular patrols of trails and by the fact that emergency equipment -- including ambulance -- can provide any needed services. Crime along the trails is rare (there are some incidents in parts of trail in St. Louis Park and Minneapolis, but I was told that is rare).

Reasons for our strong support of the creek option is because of safety (away from vehicle traffic), beauty of the river, and (importantly) the grade changes would be slight. My wife has difficulty with hills due to the condition of her knees.

Also importantly, bringing people to Nine Mile Creek may enhance support for creek protection. We all know that the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities gained support as people occupied condos and apartments along the river, and as trails and open spaces were developed. Demand has now increased for improving water quality of the river.

It seems that as people spend time hiking and biking along a creek-based their interest in protecting Nine Mile Creek would be increased. Just perhaps fewer people would dump grass clippings and other debris (including dog feces) on our streets, perhaps they would use less chemical on their lawns, and maybe even they would install rainwater gardens -- all of which would benefit Nine Mile Creek.

Currently, the creek is so surrounded by residential development that it's difficult for the public to even know the creek exists. Nine Mile Creek is a community asset that should be available to the public...much more so than it currently is.

To my wife and me, the right thing to do here is to develop a hiking/biking trail along the Nine Mile Creek alignment.

Thank you for your attention. My wife and I look forward to biking to Centennial Lakes!  
Ron Way  
5708 Lois Ln  
Edina MN 55439  
6120986-5158

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**From:** Lisa Johnson [mailto:[lisaj222@gmail.com](mailto:lisaj222@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 4:30 PM  
**To:** [NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org](mailto:NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org); Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** I Support the Regional Trail Along the Creek and by EHS

Dear leaders/decision makers for our community:

Please approve the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail. Also I strongly encourage you to ensure it goes along the creek as much as possible and passes near the Edina High School. This will be a great resource for students and teachers alike. Our community needs a regional trail and having it go near the creek, forests, and parks is the best option. Do not spend money on detours through city streets! I have seen some of the street-based detours and they do not look wise. We have other tools and options for making our streets walk- and bike-friendly. For the regional trail please keep it along the creek because people that want to use the trail want to walk, bike, job, etc. in a nice natural settings. I would definitely not want to see any side-paths alongside the roads. This resource can help make EHS into an even higher-rated school because of the numerous benefits it brings for athletics, environmental studies, and commuting options.

The residents that feel personal and restrictive ownership for the public land might where the creek flows come around and enjoy it. Please remember they are a tiny minority of the overall population that can and should benefit from a good off-road trail system. I appreciate your hard work to consider what is best. Keep it along the creek and join up with the Edina High School!

Thank you,

Lisa Johnson  
5844 Saint Johns Ave  
Edina, MN 55424

Please direct this email to:

Edina Mayor and City Council Members, Edina Parks Director John Keprios, Three Rivers Park District Commissioners, Three Rivers Park District Senior Planner Kelly Grissman

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Lisa Johnson  
[Lisa@LoganLogic.com](mailto:Lisa@LoganLogic.com)

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**From:** St. Pierre Associates [mailto:john@stpierreassociates.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 12:01 PM  
**To:** ninemiletrail@threeiversparkdistrict.org  
**Cc:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** FW: Regional Trail

Design comments:

Option 5F along Countryside Park was never assigned a neighborhood representative. This option was added without neighborhood input and apparently without a physical review of the location. Option 5F is not feasible, an off-street version encroaches on the seating area for the baseball games and the on-street version removes the only parking along the north side of the park. Option 5F also requires either a dedicated bridge at Tracey or the construction of a wider bridge at Tracey. There may also be an issue with the parking lot adjacent to Colonial Church being listed as a trailhead. I didn't see that statement but I heard about it second hand. This lot is already too small and adding to the parking load would negatively impact the park.

Please reconsider the Gleason crossing of Hwy 62 per the original proposal. It appears that the Gleason bridge is large enough to accommodate the trail traffic. Crossing Hwy 62 over a shared bridge with motor vehicles may be a feature that the design team was attempting to prevent but if the dedicated bridge between Gleason and Tracey is no longer an option the only choice available is Option 5F, which per the above argument is not a good choice.

I'm unclear why the dedicated bridge between Gleason and Tracey has been removed as an option. It would seem that although it would be expensive it would also prevent numerous conflicts in the neighborhoods.

I prefer route 5 be developed as an off-street option from Gleason Ave, across the open spaces south of Hwy 62 and transition to either routes 7 or 9 at Valleyview Road near Nine Mile Creek. This route needs to be adjusted from the proposed layout in consideration to the residents, school and park property. My second choice would be the dedicated bridge between Gleason and Tracey.

I request approval of the Regional Trail based upon the above comments.

John & Jeanne St. Pierre  
[jst.pierre@comcast.net](mailto:jst.pierre@comcast.net)  
952 929 0175

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**From:** Judith Martin [mailto:judith@martinandassociates.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 11:48 PM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** proposed bike path

To Mayor Hovland, and Council Members Bennett, Brindle, Housh and Swenson:

I'm writing to express great concern over the possibility that the proposed new bike path might follow the Nine Mile Creek route and implore you, as our elected representatives, to provide more time for citizens of Edina to weigh in – both on the advisability of spending that much money to build another bike path now, and also, if the citizens decide that a path should be built, where it should be built.

My personal opinion is that there are more important ways to spend any extra money we have in these economic times. Yes, even in Edina we have neighbors who have lost their jobs, may be hungry and without health insurance, who are losing their homes and suddenly unable to send their children to college. Borrowing money and increasing taxes to build the fanciest segment of the regional bike trail at this time seems a little like Tony Hayward going yachting in England while the oil spill threatens people's livelihoods in the Gulf of Mexico. I'm not opposed to biking, but the timing of this project is bad.

If the bike trail has to be built now, building it along the natural wetlands route that follows Nine Mile Creek is an irreversible insult to one of the only remaining natural wildlife habitats in the city. Those of us who live along the creek are concerned about the negative impact on our properties but, more importantly, do not want to see the natural wilderness compromised in order to provide the most scenic alternative for bike and skateboard enthusiasts.

The creek should be enjoyed by Edina residents in its natural state and preserved for the creekbed's real residents – deer, wading birds, an eagle, an occasional fox, numerous varieties of turtles and ducks. Yes, I have photos of various species of turtles that lay eggs in my yard. And even if the creek route is now to be built on a raised boardwalk rather than a paved route, I'm concerned about the long-term environmental impact, the continuing maintenance costs and safety issues. I recently discussed this route with a Three Rivers Park district patrolman. At the time, the route was still being proposed as a paved route, but he mentioned that the path would have to be built wide enough to permit access by all types of emergency vehicles. How will that be done with a raised boardwalk?

This issue is too big for a group of 5 to decide with so little public input. It should be put to a vote. If that's not possible, the decision should at least be postponed until all factors can be considered by all residents of Edina.

Thank you!

Judith Martin

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**From:** marieforce@aol.com [mailto:marieforce@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 8:41 PM  
**To:** NineMileTrail@threeriversparkdistrict.org; Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Edina regional Park Trail

Please direct this email to:  
Edina Mayor and City Council Members  
Edina Parks Director John Keprios  
Three Rivers Park District Commissioners  
Three Rivers Park District Senior Planner Kelly Grissman

Hello,  
I am writing to voice my support for the regional trail through Edina. While I recognize the current economic conditions make this task difficult, starting the process now will make it easier when the economics change.

My husband and I enjoy the Park District's exceptional trail system. Since we like to save our legs for the trail itself, we generally put our bikes onto a car rack and drive to an access point for one of the trails. When looking around at the abundance of trails in the surrounding communities, I hope Edina will join in by adding this exceptional community benefit right here in our own city.

I ask you to support moving forward on this project to add this important recreational amenity to our city.  
Sincerely,

Marie LaForce  
5901 Tingdale Avenue  
Edina, MN 55436

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**From:** Mark Manfred [mailto:juliemark44@msn.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 8:00 PM

**To:** Lynette Biunno

**Subject:** Support for nine mile creek bike trail

I'm a 33-year Edina resident who strongly supports a bike trail along nine mile creek. This will be a strong asset to Edina and nearby communities, similar to the popular bike trail along Minnehaha creek which is such an asset to Minneapolis. Edina needs good bike trails, especially those that offer the safety and beauty of an offstreet natural setting. It will be cherished by thousands of people over the decades. It will be an amenity that will continue to make Edina a desirable community for living. I'm anxious to ride this trail myself and expect to do so hundreds of times.

Mark Manfred  
4445 Dunham Drive  
Edina, MN 55435

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**From:** Mary Lilja [mailto:mcl@lilja.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 12:05 PM  
**To:** NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno  
**Cc:** Mike Lilja  
**Subject:** Support for creek-side route of Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

Dear Edina Mayor and City Council Members,  
Edina Parks Director John Keprios,  
Three Rivers Park District Commissioners,  
Three Rivers Park District Senior Planner Kelly Grissman,  
Edina Mayor, City Council, Parks Director, and TRPD Commissioners:

I grew up in Edina, raised my three children here, and continue to enjoy living here.

I am writing to express my strong support for the creek-side route of the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Edina. I believe it represents the safest and best option for our citizens. This will create a new park that will link together many of our existing parklands, and open up public land for the public to enjoy.

Here are the key benefits, as I see them, for the creek-side trail route.

**It will create a new park.** By constructing the creek-side trail through Edina, Three Rivers Park District will create a beautiful new park that links together many of our existing parks in Edina. It will be a wonderful amenity for all Edina residents to enjoy, and a superior addition to the Three Rivers regional trail system.

**It is the safest route.** The creek route is the safest route for children and families to enjoy. The street routes are much less safe for children, given the driveways and busy intersections the trail would follow.

**It will help restore Nine Mile Creek.** Nine Mile Creek is not a pristine natural resource it once was, long ago. Today it's on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's impaired waters list, given the years of agricultural and yard waste (including today's fertilizer runoff from surrounding yards). It is full of invasive, non-native species of plants. Construction of the new park will add in native plants, and I believe will actually help improve water quality.

**It will open up public land for the public to enjoy.** The multi-use regional trail will be built on public land – areas that previously have only been enjoyed by the property owners whose yards adjoin that property. It will become a beautiful park that can be enjoyed by everyone!

**It will promote a healthy lifestyle.** A regional trail encourages healthy outdoor aerobic activities such as walking, jogging and biking by people of all ages and skill levels in an enjoyable parkland setting.

Some people have expressed concerns about the cost of the Edina trail. I do not share those concerns. The trail will be underwritten by the Three Rivers Park District – not by increased taxes. Like all of the cities that surround us, Edina has been paying a \$3.5 million annual fee to Three Rivers Park District for years. Other communities, such as Hopkins, Minnetonka and Bloomington, have benefited from construction of trails through their communities; now it's Edina's turn!

I encourage you to do the right thing for the greatest number of people by ensuring the creek-side route of the trail is selected. This trail will be a tremendous asset to the community. We want Edina to stay young and vibrant. A world-class recreational trail will attract young families to Edina.

As Steve Brandt wrote in today's *Star Tribune*, like the Minnehaha Creek Trail in Minneapolis, the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in Edina will be a centerpiece of recreation and beauty in our community that

will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

Sincerely,

Mary Lilja  
5809 McGuire Road  
Edina, MN 55439  
952.942.5389  
[mcl@lilja.com](mailto:mcl@lilja.com)

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**From:** Liebman, Kenneth A. [mailto:KLiebman@faegre.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 12:00 PM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Support for Regional Trail Through Edina

Dear Mayor Hovland, City Council Members Bennett, Brindle, Housh, and Swenson, and Parks Director Keprios:

I enthusiastically support the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Edina. To me, this is the most important issue before the City Council.

As an avid and regular rider, I have biked the trails throughout the southwest suburbs for years. Edina is a blank space on a beautiful canvass of trails that form one of the most beneficial parts of the infrastructure of this area of Minnesota. When I leave my house to ride, I am always struck by how isolated Edina is from the trail system.

I believe the regional trail should run through parks and green areas to the extent possible to enhance the experience and provide maximum safety. While there may be various routes that are possible, to me the most important thing is that the trail gets built. Edina is the least bike-friendly community in the southwest suburbs. There can be reasonable disagreements about the best route, but the need for a trail is evident. The last survey of Edina residents shows that the bike trail is a priority, perhaps the highest priority for the community as a whole.

While the opposition to particular routes is based on the concerns of some of the residents who are nearest to the trail and who do not perceive the benefits for themselves or their neighborhoods, I believe that the public good of the entire community outweighs these concerns. Moreover, from personal experience riding the trails, I think that concerns about crime or unwanted guests is way overstated. Indeed, at least as good an argument can be made that property values will go up near a trail as they will go down. Also, I really do not think that residents whose property abuts public land should have any more say in what happens to that land as any other residents. Public land is public land, not a private preserve for people who live next to it and who take the inherent risk that the public land will be used for purposes other than what they envisaged when they moved in.

In summary, I urge you to approve the proposed regional trail and select a route through public parks and green areas to the extent feasible.

By the way, since my address is in the far southwest corner of Edina, I will still have to use the roads to bike to any trail that is built. While I have personal preferences, since this letter is about the trail itself rather than any particular route, I will refrain from commenting on any particular route.

If you have the foresight to support the trail, present and future residents of Edina and its surrounding communities will have you to thank for a wonderful new resource that is way overdue. Build the trail.

Sincerely,

Ken Liebman

7709 Stonewood Court

Edina, MN 55439

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**From:** Kate Lilja [mailto:kfreya@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 6:55 PM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Nine Miles Creek Trail

I am writing to express my strong support for the creek-side route of the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Edina. I believe it represents the safest and best option for our citizens. This will create a new park that will link together many of Edina's existing parklands, and open up public land for the public to enjoy.

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Kate Freya Lilja  
(612) 718-4477  
[www.twitter.com/kfreya](http://www.twitter.com/kfreya)  
[www.linkedin.com/in/katelilja](http://www.linkedin.com/in/katelilja)

July 14, 2010

312 Harrison Ave S  
Edina 55343

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Dear John Keprios, Mayor Hovland and members of Council:

Please represent my concerns re: proposed Regional Trail.

- (1) Do an environmental impact study. None has been done. The environmental assessment is misleading as fulfilling this need. The role of toxic asphalt in a wetland needs to be spelled out especially with repeated application. The other study was speciesistic in minimizing species present and with offhand remarks of "usual deer and rabbits, birds" treated them as disposable. I moved to Edina 10 years ago as homeowner as it DID have green space. Trails make open areas islands where many species can't live. City promo boasts "16 sq miles dotted with glacial ponds,,,oasis like atmosphere" which treats enviroment as a commodity, but shows lack of comprehension of respect for other species.
- (2) Focus on other residents. Affected land owners are primary; Edi;na is so tiny, everyone is affected.
- (3)As a naturalist, I believe a nature center bricks and mortar is unessessary.. Money would be better spent on educational programs and encouraging more variation of species. Soon we'll just have crows laughing at stupid decisions of 2010.
- (4) Most vociferous supporters of bike trails are racing bikers, many likely non residents. Trails already abound. We don't need to sacrifice wetlands for people moving 30-40 mph who only peripherally take in enviroment as they run over amphibians confused by pavement in their home.
- (5) I challenge 3 Rivers (& Park Bd ?) to reconsider decisions if they did not stand to profit from large amounts of money to admi;nistrate, and to spend time in nature. Our earth is demanding attention. Development is not "Green"  
Leave it alone.

CC: Edina City Council members  
Mayor Hovland

Mary Ross, RN, Naturalist, Herbalist, CPhT

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

From: Wendy Morris [mailto:wlmorris@mac.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 4:20 PM

To: NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno

Subject: Support for Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Parkland

I support the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Edina. My family has used the Three Rivers Parks trails, which required transporting our family and bikes. While the trail would require a significant investment, I believe the many recreational and practical benefits of a regional trail to Edina residents would outweigh the cost. Edina is renowned as a very high quality community. A safe, comfortable, and inviting trail for walkers, joggers, and riders of all ages and skill levels would serve to promote our unique healthy Edina lifestyle and enjoyment of Edina's parks.

A wise investment in a regional trail would be an asset to the community. Recreational facilities are a decision factor for many prospective homeowners and a trail would be a selling point for Edina home sellers.

I believe the regional trail should run through parks to enhance the walking and riding experience, versus existing roadways which have increased levels of car exhaust and noise.

In summary, I urge you to approve the proposed regional trail and select routes through parks.

Sincerely,

Wendy L. Morris

5524 Mirror Lakes Dr.

Edina, MN 55436

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**From:** Vasanti Mudkanna [mailto:vasantim@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 3:23 PM  
**To:** NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org; Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Support for creek-side route of Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

Please direct this email to:

- Edina Mayor and City Council Members
- Edina Parks Director John Keprios
- Three Rivers Park District Commissioners
- Three Rivers Park District Senior Planner Kelly Grissman

Re: Support for creek-side route of Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

I have been a resident of Edina for five years, own a home, and paid \$9,801 in Edina property taxes. Our City has a reputation for meeting the needs of our residents with services of the highest quality. Our Park system provides outstanding facilities for many activities including hockey and skating, golf, baseball, soccer, football, swimming, basketball, and many others. However, we have been lagging behind our neighboring cities in one area: trails.

A wonderful and nationally known trail system has been evolving around us and we haven't had an opportunity to be a part of it. Whether you bike, walk, or run for recreation or commute, access to the trail system is tremendously important. The proposed Nine Mile Creek Trail routed through the creek area (not the road segments) will provide Edina residents of all ages a safe and enjoyable route for exercise or commuting.

The road segments will be busy and noisy with cars and will not attract cyclists, let alone walkers. The Three Rivers Park District Environmental Assessment Worksheet states there is no serious environmental reason to oppose the creek-based trail.

The trail will be a huge benefit to the residents of Edina. Count me in favor of the Nine Mile Creek trail, through the natural spaces.

Vasanti Mudkanna  
5717 Deville Dr  
Edina, MN 55436

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

From: thsmcr@earthlink.net [mailto:thsmcr@earthlink.net]

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 2:53 PM

To: Lynette Biunno

Subject: Nine Mile Creek Trail

Mayor Hovland

Council Member Bennett

Council Member Brindle

Council Member Housh

Council Member Swenson

I am writing hoping that there can be an alternate route found that does not destroy some of the limited natural wetlands in Edina. Instead of looking out our front windows and see trees and natural wetlands we may be looking at a 16' asphalt road or boardwalk elevated 12' above ground. To make matters worse there is talk about a parking lot which will add considerable traffic to our neighborhood, loss of security, privacy and greater upkeep from the added usage.

The largest issue is the cost of approx. \$30 million plus the ongoing and future maintenance of this trail. In a time of economic problems it would seem that there is a better use of that money than on a bike trail while increasing the debt of TRPD by 41% that we will all be paying off along with our National debt.

Edina needs to look for an alternative to spending this much money, destroying natural habitat and disrupting neighborhoods and parks.

Thank you

Thanks

Tom

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**From:** Tom LaForce [mailto:laforcet@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 2:41 PM  
**To:** Commissioners and Planners; Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Support 9-Mile Creek Bike Trail

Please direct this email to:

Edina Mayor and City Council Members  
Edina Parks Director John Keprios  
Three Rivers Park District Commissioners  
Three Rivers Park District Senior Planner Kelly Grissman

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for the regional trail through Edina. While I recognize the current economic conditions make this task difficult, starting the process now will make it easier when the economics change.

My wife and I enjoy both the safety and beauty of the Park District's exceptional trail system. Since we like to save our legs for the trail itself, we always have to put our bikes onto a car rack and drive to an access point for one of the trails. When I look around at the abundance of trails in the surrounding communities, I'm usually left wondering why Edina is so far behind in this regard. The other day I imagined how lucky the folks living in Hopkins had it with all the trails that converge in their city.

I ask you to support moving forward on this project to add this important recreational amenity to our city.

Sincerely,

Tom LaForce  
5901 Tingdale Ave  
Edina, MN 55436

Join me on the web at...

[www.tomlaforce.com](http://www.tomlaforce.com)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/tomlaforce](http://www.linkedin.com/in/tomlaforce)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/tomlaforce](http://www.twitter.com/tomlaforce)

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/bYXLIY>

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**From:** MELISSA SCHMIDT [mailto:schmidt311@q.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 7:01 PM  
**To:** ninemiletrail@threeriversparkdistrict.org; Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Nine Mile Creek Bike Trail Support

It frustrates me to have to send a comment in support of the trail; this is one instance that I believe support should be taken for granted. Those opposed to the trail for unfounded reasons such as increased crime and increased environmental impacts are most likely the same people that use our public parks for biking, walking, soccer, football, picnics, etc, and many of them probably purchased homes within close proximity to a park because a park is an amenity, not a breeding ground for crime.

I am embarrassed that Edina is a holdout in supporting the Nine Mile Creek Bike Trail. The trail will surely be another amenity to already wonderful community. It will promote exercise and safe biking for all and allow us to boast of having a trail system comparable to those already found in neighborhood cities such as Eden Prairie and Bloomington.

Once the trail is approved my only question will be why did it take so long?

Sincerely,

Melissa Schmidt  
5205 Birchcrest Dr., Edina, 55436  
952-928-8445

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**From:** Michael Lilja [mailto:mlilja@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 3:30 PM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Preferred route of Edina trail

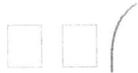
Dear  
Three Rivers Park District Commissioners,  
Three Rivers Park District Senior Planner Kelly Grissman,  
Edina Mayor, City Council, Parks Director, and TRPD Commissioners

I am strongly in support of a new trail following the creekside route through Edina. Having lived in Edina most of my life, I am excited by the great opportunity this park like route through Edina offers our community! A safe and beautiful trail through Edina that will link our community together in a new way and provide a safe and beautiful walking and biking trail. I cannot imagine why we would want to select a hazardous roadside route, past driveways and intersections and up one of the biggest hills in Edina, when we have a wonderful route on previously uncared for and unused public land. The opportunity to install a premier trail through Edina will come only once and our obligation to the greater community, and to future generations, is far more important than the concerns of a small group of vocal homeowners who currently oppose this option. I've used the regional trail system and to be honest I think in the end those concerned homeowners will be delighted with the new trail and their very convenient access to it.

Let's build a great trail through Edina. The creek side route of the the nine mile regional trail!



Michael Lilja  
5809 McGuire Road  
Edina, MN 55439  
[mlilja@comcast.net](mailto:mlilja@comcast.net)  
952-942-5389



Michael Lilja  
[mlilja@comcast.net](mailto:mlilja@comcast.net)  
cell 612-709-3359

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

From: H Havir [mailto:hhavir@nbs-inc.com]  
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 1:41 PM  
To: ninemiletrail@threeriversparkdistrict.org  
Cc: Lynette Biunno  
Subject: Three Rivers Bike Trail -- Option 5F

To: Three Rivers Park District  
Re: Nine Mile Bike Trail  
CC: Edina Mayor and CityCouncil

I am writing about the Three Rivers Bike Trail as it applies to the City of Edina. I attended the presentation at City Hall in June and spoke to several of the park district representatives who were very helpful.

Option 5F is not a feasible alternative. I was told by staff that it was significantly less expensive than other options. My point is that this is a false assumption. It is penny wise and dollar foolish. What it is saying is to "Kick the can down the road" and let somebody else worry about it later. I have already written to the Edina Parks Director and the City Council to warn them of this pending dilemma. It will end up being a huge expense to the Edina taxpayers in future years. The planning for this trail has, at this point, been for "now" and not for the next 15 to 20 years. I realize that "getting it done" is important, but but short-sighted planning is never cost effective.

The conflicts around Countryside Park are enormous! When I asked how two way bike traffic would be routed on Tracy Avenue between Olinger and Colonial Way, I was told that the bike path would be built on Park Property on the West side of Tracy Avenue! WOW! Several trees taken out there! That also means that the Flower Garden on the corner of Tracy and Olinger will be replaced by asphalt, destroying the beauty of our residential neighborhood! No more trees, no more flowers.

More conflicts on Olinger Boulevard! I did not ask, but the bike trail would have to be either on the street outside of the parking lane for the ball diamonds or on the narrow space along side of the ball field parking, most likely the latter. That presents a conflict for little kids running back and forth from the field to their cars. Are you aware that the second ball diamond (full size, not junior league) is going to be upgraded with dugouts and facilities similar to the one on the corner of the park? That this will increase the parking pressure on what is now inadequate parking space for the ball diamonds. This route will become obsolete by the time it is completed and the pressure from the parents of the ball players, who did not know what was happening, will build a demand to re-locate the bike trail. Sort of a repeat of the #169- #494 intersection by the State Highway department; obsolete before it was even completed. Penny wise and dollar foolish!

From the the bike riding family perspective, coming down Olinger, the park traffic and parking congestion, running small children close to the curb along the fast traffic of Tracy Avenue, crossing Tracy by the fire station and the intersections with the Crosstown access, is an invitation

to major and minor tragedies. There will be LOTS of pressures for a safer routing. Again, penny wise and dollar foolish! Kicking the can down the road!

What to do? The obvious crossing of Tracy Ave (Valley View Road) is just South of the Baptist Church. There is an open corner on the South side of the road and the brush can be cleared on the North side making a (seasonal) crossing with flashing lights or whatever is necessary to alert motorists and protect children. There is even adequate space on both sides to ramp up and down to a bridge which would be the ultimate long range planning solution to build for the future safety of children and families enjoying the bike trail.

Now is the time to make the right decision.

Harvey Havir  
6108 Tracy Ave  
Edina, 55436

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**From:** James Landberg [mailto:jimlandberg@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 15, 2010 10:02 AM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Nine Mile Creek Trail proposal

July 14, 2010

TO:

Edina City Council

Edina Park Board

To whom it may concern:

RE: The draft EAW for the Edina portion of the proposed Nine-Mile Creek Regional Trail

I don't want Three Rivers' tall, ugly boardwalks.

I don't want the floodplains filled.

I don't want the creek's water quality further impaired.

I don't want the wildlife and its habitat disturbed.

I don't want the (noise, air and water) pollution from construction and, later, users of the trail.

What I want is for you folks to please keep the trail off the creek.

Respectfully,

Jim Landberg

5408 Creek View Lane

Edina MN 55439

952 828-9619

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**From:** Chappy6420@aol.com [mailto:Chappy6420@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 16, 2010 9:25 PM  
**To:** Chappy6420@aol.com  
**Subject:** BIKE TRAIL: LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT THE BIKE TRAIL

I have followed the opinion letters from proponents of the regional trail with interest.

Who doesn't want a shiny new toy, in this case a recreational bike trail? Before we spend money on toys most of us ask ourselves a couple of questions: Do we really need the new toy, or do we just want it? Can we get along without it? How much does it cost? Can we afford it? Is it a good buy at that price? Is there a another toy that will do just as well at a better price? Lets ask these questions about the trail.

Do we really need a bike trail? We already have 91 miles of bike trails in Three Rivers Park District and 11 miles of trail in Edina. Minnesota has more miles of bike trails than any other state. Is a new trail really a need, or just a want?

Can we get along without it?

How much will it cost? Initial construction of the trail will cost \$20 million dollars, because the money is borrowed, financing will cost an additional \$10 million dollars. Yearly operation and maintenance will start at \$200,000 per year and go up every year after that. All these costs will be paid for by the taxpayers.

Can we afford it? Our nation is in debt, Our state is in debt, Our county is in debt, Our schools have had to cut services, and Three Rivers Parks District already owes \$85 million dollars and has had to deny cost of living increases to its employees.

Is the trail a good buy at those prices? The trail will only be operational 8 months/year, there will be no services (police, maintenance, etc) from November 15-March 15. The trail will not be lighted making it dangerous for early morning and evening bicycle commuting. Because of multiple users the trail is not suitable for high speed exercise bikers.

Are there better alternatives? We don't know because we haven't looked. Three Rivers presented our Edina citizens representatives with a narrow range of alternatives which Three Rivers had predetermined using Three Rivers criteria. Our citizen representatives were not allowed to explore other alternative routes. The routes Three Rivers presented were not even shown in the 2007 Edina Comprehensive Bicycle Plan.

If you feel, as I do, that the decision on the trail needs a lot more study, then write the Edina City Council and let them know your feelings.

LAURIE CHAPMAN  
6420 ASPEN ROAD  
EDINA, MN 55436

612-210-9686

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**From:** Margaret Joas [mailto:mjoas@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2010 9:42 AM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Margaret Joas sent you an article from startribune.com

Margaret Joas wrote these comments: Mayor of Edina and City Council Members, I am e-mailing you a copy of a story in the Star Tribune from today's paper regarding a restroom on the Dakota Rail Regional Trail which Three River Park System oversees. As a resident near Walnut Ridge Park this article escalates my concern of the true intent of why Three River Park System wants to build a trail through the wetland of Walnut Ridge Park. Is the actual reason because of the restroom facilities that exist at Walnut Ridge Park? Not only am I opposed to the trail system through the wetlands of Walnut Ridge Park. Now I am doubly concerned of Walnut Ridge Park being slated a "rest area" for the 500,000+ bikers that are slated to use the bike trails. Plus the cost associated with maintaining a restroom for such a large number of people can not be ignored. If the bike trail goes through Walnut Ridge Park our small neighborhood park will be forever changed due to non Edina residents accessing the restrooms at Walnut Ridge Park.  
Margaret Joas 6409 Biscayne Blvd. Edina, MN 55436 952.935.1081

This Article from [StarTribune.com](http://StarTribune.com) has been sent to you by MargaretJoas.

**\*Please note, the sender's identity has not been verified.**

The full Article, with any associated images and links can be viewed [here](#).

**How do trail users spell relief? R-E-S-T-R-O-O-M**  
LAURIE BLAKE, Star Tribune

Despite its fast-growing popularity, the Dakota Rail Regional Trail -- offering scenic views from wetlands to stylish homes on Lake Minnetonka -- still is missing one important attribute.

A place to go.

Unless trail users venture off-trail into the weeds or find an accommodating business along the way, the lack of a public bathroom on the 13-mile trail between downtown Wayzata and St. Bonifacius can turn a relaxing walk or bike ride into a bladder-holding race for relief.

Coming to the rescue is the city of Mound. The city at the trail's midpoint plans to convert a 1934 municipal pump house into a trail restroom by fall. Three Rivers Park District, which oversees the trail, has chipped in \$45,000 to help make it happen.

Opened less than two years ago, the paved trail quickly became a hot spot for bicyclists, runners and walkers. Last summer, an estimated

255,000 people traveled along the trail. Use this year is expected to reach 350,000, which would make it one of Minnesota's busiest trails.

The structure has historic value in Mound, and the restroom project fills a void, said City Manager Kandis Hanson.

"There are a lot of businesses being called upon to offer up their bathrooms to trail users when their bathrooms are not intended for public use," she said.

Although Three Rivers does not provide public restrooms on regional trails, the park district agreed to contribute \$45,000 toward the Mound restroom because of the trail's popularity and Mound's willingness to maintain it, said Don DeVeau, director of planning and development. The park district also has budgeted \$90,000 for more signs and parking for the trail.

The pump house will have a single-stall men's and women's restroom, changing tables, vending machines and possibly drinking water.

The original estimate for the project was \$100,000 -- "which sounds absurd," Hanson said. "We are making efforts to pare it way back and keep it basic."

The city has placed the pump house on the north side of the trail just outside its transit station, which has a parking ramp open to trail users. The restroom would serve the transit station, the trail and the city's new farmer's market on the south side of the trail. The market is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Trail-side business owners like the idea of a public restroom.

The Mound True Value Hardware gets a constant stream of trail users in the store looking for a bathroom, said co-owner Patti Dodds. She's all for a Mound bathroom stop and wishes someone would open a new eatery to make Mound an even more welcoming point for trail traffic.

The restroom also sounds good to Bob Dobihal, owner of the St. Boni Bistro in St. Bonifacius. The small restaurant, which serves organic and local foods, sits adjacent to the trail endpoint and has become a destination for trail bikers.

To welcome them, Dobihal set out bike racks and patio tables. But an unending stream of bathroom seekers prompted him to post a sign on the front door limiting his bathrooms to patrons.

"I actually had a problem where I had 15 bikers sneak in to use the restroom and the son of one of our patrons had an accident" while waiting, Dobihal said. "I love the bikers, don't get me wrong, but I really have to take care of my patrons first."

Laurie Blake • 612-673-1711

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**From:** Linda Coulter [mailto:lindabcoulter@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010 6:24 PM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** NINE MILE CREEK BIKE TRAIL

To: Edina City Council,

My name is Donald Coulter and I live in Minnesota in the summer time. I, too, am appalled that the City of Edina is considering a bike trail along Nine Mile Creek. The 30 million dollar cost of this trail is unthinkable in this economic environment. Spending that kind of money on a trail that is open only 8 months of the year falls right into "out of control spending." How can you consider this trail a priority when Edina is in debt, the state of Minnesota is in debt and our federal government is in debt and Three Rivers Park states they will need funding from all three: Federal, State and local levels? There is no question in my mind that 30 million dollars could be spent in a more productive way. A few examples are: roads, teachers, fix the parks and trails already in existence in Minnesota or, how about, not spending it at all? This very, very expensive project only benefits a few, destroys valuable wetlands, animal habitat, parkland, property values and contributes to the federal, state and local debt. Please be responsible council members and table this bike trail project! Please enter my views in the public record.

Donald Coulter  
Backus, MN

[Lindabcoulter@gmail.com](mailto:Lindabcoulter@gmail.com)

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**From:** Linda Coulter [mailto:lindabcoulter@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010 5:43 PM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Nine Mile Creek Bike Trail

Dear Edina City Council Members,

My name is Linda Coulter and I live in Minnesota in the summer time. I have been following this proposed bike trail in the Star Tribune and I am appalled that you, as city council members, would even consider spending up to 30 million dollars on a bike trail in these economic times. I know that Minnesota has more bike trails than any other state in the union and certainly does not need to spend that kind of money on a trail that will destroy the wetlands, displace the animals who call that home, lower property values and is only open 8 months of the year, I think it is outrageous that a city council would consider spending that kind of money to benefit only a few!!! The state of Minnesota is in debt, teachers are losing their jobs, roads need to be fixed and the list goes on! What are you thinking? 30 Million dollars for a bike trail????  
I would like this letter entered into the public record. Thank you.

Linda Coulter  
Backus, Minnesota

[Lindabcoulter@gmail.com](mailto:lindabcoulter@gmail.com)

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

From: Eva Chapman [mailto:[evachapman@comcast.net](mailto:evachapman@comcast.net)]

Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2010 12:11 AM

To: Lynette Biunno

Cc: [NINEMILETRAIL@THREERIVERSPARKDISTRICT.ORG](mailto:NINEMILETRAIL@THREERIVERSPARKDISTRICT.ORG)

Subject: Nine Mile Creek Bike Trail

To: Edina City Council,

I would like to speak out against the Nine Mile Creek Bike Trail for several reasons. First and foremost, I believe that we are in extremely difficult economic times and adding ANOTHER place to recreate in Edina is a cost that is not worth the result. We have beautiful Bredesen Park, many neighborhood parks and the lakes right across our border into Minneapolis. I recreate outdoors everyday here in Edina, all it encompasses is going out your front door and walking. I believe that money should be spent in maintaining the roads, bridges and facilities that we already have in place and that can be used 12 months of the year. (for example, there is a wonderful path/track around Walnut Ridge Park that is in desperate need of attention, i.e.: leveling and new asphalt). Secondly, I see the installation of this path as destructive to much wildlife in our area. We have lived in this neighborhood (Parkwood Knolls) since 1999, and in that time, the Carl Hansen neighborhood expansion phase has uprooted many different wild life. They have no where to go over here. Many of them have settled into the wetlands behind Walnut Ridge Park. Now we are going to bring backhoes and bulldozers in there and eliminate even more of their habitat, and even the wild life themselves may not survive. Thirdly, it is a huge safety concern. 1.) 500,000 complete strangers a year coming through private neighborhoods where there are children playing on playgrounds 5 Ft. from the path. 2.) Many people are under the impression that EDINA has all the park facilities that it needs and that those facilities are state of the art. As we know, this is not the case. There are thousands of children annually that NEED to use our parks for LaCrosse, soccer and hockey in order to accommodate the explosion of adding girls to all sports. Therefore, having a busy bike path running through Walnut Ridge Park, right where there are children crossing to attend their sporting practices is extremely dangerous. There are only 12 parking spaces in that lot as it is. Many evenings there are cars parked all the way up Londonderry Rd just for parents to get their kids to practice or a game. The space that the proposed bike path is on goes right behind houses and in between the rink. Children and parents lives are in danger with the bike traffic that is proposed to be going through that facility.

I appreciate your time in reading my concerns.

Eva Chapman

[evachapman@comcast.net](mailto:evachapman@comcast.net)

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**From:** Thomas Hoffmann [mailto:tomhoff@umn.edu]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 07, 2010 5:09 PM

**To:** Lynette Biunno

**Subject:** Bike mtrail

To city council:

I think the cost of the new trail is outrageous. Spending that kind of money for the limited benefit of a few is just wrong.

Thomas Hoffmann  
4501 Sedum Lane

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**From:** Linda Dornbach [mailto:ldornbach@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, August 08, 2010 5:09 PM

**To:** Lynette Biunno

**Subject:** Please Pass On to City Council Members - Alternate trail route avoiding Walnut Ridge Park

To: Edina City Council

We are concerned with the Regional Bicycle Trail going through Walnut Ridge Park and having the park become a staging area for trail users. We feel there is a route for the trail which does not pass through Walnut Ridge Park and incorporates parts of Route 2 (the creek route) and route 3 (the street route). This alternative route is outlined in the attached map. In addition, other routes utilizing the Opus trail system are being studied.

We want to note that we continue to be opposed to building a trail at this time because of: 1. cost \$20-\$30 million dollars; 2. Uncertainty of Three River Park funding for maintenance, as they are approaching their taxing limit; 3. Potential environmental damage, as routes contain Natural Open Space Areas, high value wetlands, floodways and flood plains.

Best,

Linda

*Linda & Greg Dornbach*

*6213 S. Knoll Drive*

*Edina, MN 55436*

*952.936.0187*



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**From:** Elaine Murphy [mailto:emurphy1@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, August 08, 2010 12:42 PM

**To:** Lynette Biunno; Lynette Biunno

**Subject:** edina bike trail

I just want to register my input on the location of the trail. Of the routes being discussed, the most logical to me is the route behind United Health Care to Walnut Ridge Park. The route along Lincoln drive is fraught with problems. I regularly use the bike trail through St. Louis Park. There are only a few stop signs there and it is not always easy to get across traffic. It is my understanding there would be 19 stop signs along the Lincoln Drive trail up to Vernon. Cars will have to cross the trail going into UCH, Edina West Condos, Manor Homes of Edina etc. in addition to all the stops. It seems too dangerous and just a law suit waiting to happen.

It just doesn't make sense to cause the disruption this route will cause to the neighborhood when other, less disruptive and more scenic routes are available.

While I support a trail, the Lincoln Drive route is not one I support.

Thank you

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**From:** GRAL70@aol.com [mailto:GRAL70@aol.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2010 9:35 AM

**To:** Lynette Biunno

**Subject:** Save our sidewalk

How can we even consider a single trail for bicycles and walkers after experiencing the Malkerson tragedy? In case you DON'T remember, she was a walker around Lake Calhoun when she was hit and killed by a biker. Fortunately for all of us walkers, the Malkerson family paid for the separate trails we now have the pleasure of using around both lake Harriet and Calhoun. Since I don't walk lake of the Isles, I can't say about that. So, please vote no.

Virginia L. Ralston

6942 Langford Drive

55436

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**From:** Sue Kaiser [mailto:suekaiser2@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2010 6:08 PM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** 3 Rivers Bike Trail - Sec. 3 (Lincoln Drive)

Please forward to all who have interest or work on the Three Rivers Bike Trail. Thank you.

I have long supported the bike trail running through Edina. My exercise is walking with a dog now, but I used to cycle perhaps 12 miles per day in and around Edina. I have recently moved from the 55439 zip code to the 55436 zip code, on Langford Drive, just south of United Healthcare on Hwy 169.

I support putting the bike trail through the natural area behind United Healthcare. The sidewalk that travels along Lincoln Drive is heavily used by walkers. When I walk in the evening, I easily pass 1/2 dozen other walkers as I work toward Walnut Park.

If we add cyclists to this sidewalk, I feel that someone will get seriously injured. **My concern is two fold: the age of the walkers and the curves on Lincoln Drive.** Without exaggeration, I think the average age of the walkers is about 70 years old. Mixing cyclists with these older folks seems very dangerous to me. Of equal importance is the curves on the road. Cars and cyclists now come around the curves very fast and can surprise a pedestrian/walker who may stray from the path. I frequently see persons straying from the sidewalk to pick up trash, etc., while on their walks.

And, this area is rather restricted...if a walker is discouraged by the bicycles, there is no other place to walk. We are forced to walk along Lincoln Drive, period.

Finally, there are not many families with young children in this area. I feel the bike trail will be used by those who travel farther/faster as a matter of course. These faster cyclists should not be traveling so close to walkers.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sue Kaiser  
6915 Langford Drive, Edina  
952-944-9080

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**From:** Lynn Cardwell [mailto:lcardwell36@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2010 4:55 PM

**To:** Lynette Biunno

**Subject:** Three Riversw Park District

I totally would love to see a bike trail along Lincoln/Vernon Drive from the Caribou stop sign. (SECTION 3).

Lincoln/Vernon Drive along Nine Mile Creek. (SECTION 2).

Either one would be fine.

I live in Edina West Condos. There are many people within this area that I'm sure would like a bike trail.

I ride to Bredesen now on the street. A bike trail would be great.

My vote is Yes, as a 38 year resident of Edina.

Lynn Cardwell