



Date: April 12, 2016

To: Park Board

From: Ann Kattreh
Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: Proposed Cross Country Ski Trails at Braemar Park

Information / Background:

On June 2, 2015 the City Council voted to approve Option 5 of the master plan of Braemar Golf Course. Option 5 includes a new 18-hole regulation course with minimal disturbance. Minimal disturbance in this case means that the hill on the east side of the golf course will not be removed either partially or totally. This option allows us to spread 18 holes over the existing 27-hole footprint to improve play and safety by widening fairways and eliminating forced carries. This also leaves some golf course property to convert to park land for all residents to utilize for a variety of recreational pursuits.

Staff will present a preliminary proposal to add cross country ski trails and snow tubing with man-made snow at Braemar Park. Braemar Park has the potential to be a popular winter recreation area with tubing, sledding, walking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, skijoring and fat tire biking on both man-made and natural snow while utilizing the beauty and varied terrain of the park. Braemar Park potentially has the ability to create a 1.25k loop of man-made snow for skiing with approximately 30% beginner, 20% intermediate and 50% advanced trails. The loop could be used by the high school cross country ski team and distances in multiples of 5k could be created. The trail could be used for practices and competition and could potentially be lighted. Due to the steep terrain and in order to construct the trail in the most cost effective manner, a 50' wide trail would be created up and on the top of the hill to create an out and back ski trail for skate and classic style nordic skiing. The man-made loop could also connect to a natural snow trail that could meander around the golf course, increasing the percentage of beginner level trails. As many as 10 – 12 snow tube lanes could be added on the hill on the east side of the golf course at the current location of hole 21 on the Clunie 9. These new areas could also be utilized during the non-snow months for walking, biking, running and scenic overlooks. The large, adjacent parking lot is a tremendous asset to a winter recreation destination as are the clubhouse and Tin Fish restaurant.

SEH's Statement of Qualifications is attached. The team would be led by Paul Pasko. Paul has worked on several projects that involved trail design and snow making, particularly in tight urban environments. The City of Edina has extensive positive experience working with SEH on a variety of projects. The city is currently working with SEH on the driving range and par 3 renovations and also the regulation course renovation projects, specifically on the wetland delineations and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and Army Corps of Engineers permitting processes and ecological enhancements.

Potential Project Timeline:

Park Board Review and Comment	April 2016
City Council Presentation	May 2016
Hire Design and Consulting Team	June 2016
Feasibility and Design	June – December 2016
Bid Project	January 2017
Construction	2017
Open	December 2017