

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 a resident on 70<sup>th</sup> street, the use of the front yard as a place for kids to play or as a 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

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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