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 16 foot wide swath of pavement and shoulder 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.