

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

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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.

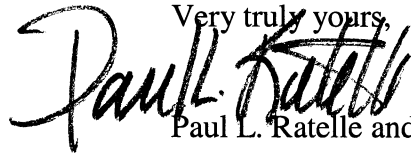
There are other clear alternatives to placing a bike trail through the backyards of Edina residents. Those other alternatives should be the only ones considered by the Edina City Council and the Commissioners of the Three Rivers Park District to satisfy the objectives and goals of the proposed plan, 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.

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul L. Ratelle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "R".

Paul L. Ratelle and Constance B. Ratelle

PLR/abm