10A  Resolutions pertaining to levying the 2019 Special Assessments
     Attached is updated information about a special assessment and the resolution

10D  Resolution approving the final plat of LEGACY OAKS 4th ADDITION
     A correction was made to page 2 of the resolution

14A  Resolution approving the preliminary plat of BIRD SONG, a 13-lot subdivision of
     the existing property at 2410 Oakland Road
     Attached is correspondence received after the packet was distributed

14B  Mountain bike study and concept plan
     Attached is correspondence received after the packet was distributed
Brief Description: Resolutions pertaining to levying the 2019 Special Assessments

Since publication of the council agenda packet, additional information has developed regarding one of the proposed special assessments, as indicated below:

The owner of 16610 Cottage Grove Ave made a payment of $249.70, to pay in full the unpaid fees for services. The special assessment and resolution for 2019 Unpaid Fees for Services should be deleted from the packet.

Submitted through:
Geralyn Barone, City Manager
Corrine Heine, City Attorney
Merrill King, Finance Director/Treasurer
Colin Schmidt, City Assessor
John Vance, Fire Chief

Originated by:
Denise Ostlund, Assessment Specialist
TO: City Council
FROM: Loren Gordon, AICP, City Planner
DATE: August 26, 2019
SUBJECT: Change Memo for August 26, 2019

ITEM 10D – Legacy Oaks 4th Addition

Page 2 of the resolution should be corrected to remove councilmember Happe as Absent.

ITEM 14A – Bird Song Preliminary Plat, 2410 Oakland Road.

The following correspondence was received after the packet was distributed:

To the Minnetonka City Council:
Regarding the Bird Song redevelopment application.

First I’d like to ask about the section of the applicant’s proposal that says: The developer will prepare restrictive covenants and standards that will apply to the entire neighborhood and HOA documents for the single family lots. A select group of builders will participate in “BIRD SONG” community. The restrictive covenants will be tailored to the developer’s vision of the project. Each builder will be required to meet the specifics of building types, landscaping, and overall goals of the development.”

1. Could the City Council please discuss the “developer's vision of the project” and the restrictive types of buildings, landscaping, etc. that will be required for this new street with 13 new homes?

Second, I’d like to point out that the applicant’s narrative included in the City Council packet contains some errors: The property was not re-guided in 2018; low density residential does not require 2.3 to 4 units per acre; the proposed gross density is not 2.15 units per acre; and the developer is not requesting to rezone to a planned unit development.

1. What is the proposed density of the development?
2. Are there other sections of the applicant’s narrative that are incorrect or that do not align with the formal application submitted to the city, and should therefore be brought to the attention of the community?

Thank you all very much!
Annette Bertelsen
13513 Larkin Drive
Minnetonka
ITEM 14B – Mountain Bike Study and Concept Plan

The attached emails were received after the packet was distributed.
Mountain Biking Email Feedback
(August 20, 2019, 4:30 pm – August 26, 2019, 2 pm)

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 7:14 PM
To: Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>; Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Fwd: Mountain Bike Trails in Minnetonka

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff McCachren
Date: August 20, 2019 at 12:40:30 PM CDT
To: bwiersum@eminnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com, bellingson@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Mountain Bike Trails in Minnetonka

Hello All,

I recently watched a video produced by those opposed to mountain bike trails at Lone Lake. I have to say it was pretty biased and not accurate. The use of bright flashing colors and rock music was a nice touch to scare people.

Some comments were that it would degrade the nature, yet then there was an image of paved asphalt. That to me degrades nature more. Mountain bike trails would actually help save the nature - no trees being cut down, no more cement being poured. It would actually HELP clean up vegetation that is overgrown and invasive.

Theodore Wirth has shown that hikers/walkers and bikers can co-exist.

I just moved to Minnetonka from South Minneapolis and no longer have a place I can go ride my mountain bike. I will be at the meeting on the 26th to vote yes to allowing trails. We can all work together to make sure the park stays a sanctuary for ALL.

Thank you

Jeff McCachren

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 7:14 PM
To: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Fwd: In Support of Mountain Bike Trails in Lone Lake Park

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sue Moerer"
Date: August 20, 2019 at 12:54:34 PM CDT
To: <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>, <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>, <scarter@eminnetonka.com>, <bellingson@eminnetonka.com>, <rschack@eminnetonka.com>, <mhappe@eminnetonka.com>, <tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: In Support of Mountain Bike Trails in Lone Lake Park

Dear Mayor Wiersum and City Council Members,

I am writing this to tell you that I support the Mountain Bike Trails being built in Lone Lake Park and let me tell you why. The foremost reason is that I care about our parks and I care about kids and families. Building these trails will be a way for kids and people of all ages to get out and enjoy a silent sport in one of our many parks. Parks are for the people and those needs change as our demographics change and the choices of activities change. Just as how this park property has changed over the years from farming to having a ski tow rope to now being a wooded park with many amenities. When I first moved here over 20 years ago there were no mountain bike teams for high school and junior high school aged kids. As their interest grew in this activity, teams were formed and every year the number of kids who participate grows. Biking, of all kinds including riding single track, has seen an increase in participation and is often a family activity.

I want every citizen to be able to enjoy the park as so many have said they do. That is one thing that I have to agree with those that oppose the trails. We all want to be able to enjoy nature in a quiet setting where it’s possible to walk, bike, and run. All of these activities are considered “silent sports” and I don’t believe that I get to choose how someone finds their enjoyment or serenity. Many that oppose the trails would have you believe that all of those characteristics would be lost if the trails would be built. That is just plain false. First of all these would be considered multi-use trails so no one is getting kicked out. Another thing is that if no one uses them or mountain biking becomes less popular in the future, these trails will become overgrown and revert back to what they were before. Unlike the deer trails that are used now, these trails will be built to mitigate erosion and be overall better for the park. If people quit playing pickleball you have a court that will always be a hard surface unless it’s removed at additional cost, not so with these 18-24” trails. Lastly, the feedback from the communities that the city staff contacted that have added single track trails was very positive on the impact to those cities. It’s an amenity that will draw families here as a community they want to be a part of.
Please don’t forget what brought us here in the first place 3 years ago and that’s the overwhelming interest in adding this activity to our parks when the Imagine Minnetonka Survey was done. Please don’t let the fears and selfishness of a few dictate who can use our parks in what capacity. The city staff has done a wonderful job studying this and found that Lone Lake Park is the best park for this activity. Every single park in this city belongs to every single resident and not those that live next to it or decide they like to walk through it. If we want the future generations to care about our parks let’s not let them feel like their city doesn’t care about how they choose to enjoy nature.

Sincerely,

Susan Moerer

3725 Elmwood Place

Minnetonka, MN 55345

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 8:10 PM
To: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Bike Trail

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: marlene wolk
Date: August 20, 2019 at 1:03:55 PM CDT
To: "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Proposed Bike Trail

I am writing to voice our opposition to the proposed Mountain Bike Trail. We have live at the Vista Town homes for almost 30 years.

In that time we have enjoyed the beauty and quiet of the park. The position of our home has perfect access to the park from Vista Dr.

It’s our concern that traffic will increase, and parking becomes a problem with lots of cars. Emergency Vehicles could be hampered.

Bikers could easily get on the hills and start their own paths from the back of our yard. It will certainly devalue our properties.

I am also opposed because I think a bike trail will endanger the wildlife that lives in the park. It will be less safe for those who walk their dogs and have children with them. Or those who just wish to walk and enjoy the solitude that the park offers.
The construction of the light rail has destroyed a lot of natural habitat and further disruption with display many animals.

We are also very concerned about the erosion of the hills. Who will close the trails in wet weather, who is responsible for litter left by bikers.

So we hope that this proposal will be voted down.

Thank you,
Marlene and Carl Wolk

11750 Vista DR

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 8:11 PM
To: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Fwd: Protect alone Lake Park

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sophie Gershone
Date: August 20, 2019 at 1:39:59 PM CDT
To: bwiersum@minntonka.com, tbergestd@eminnetonka.com, bellingaon@minnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Protect alone Lake Park

Dear Minnetonka City Council,

I am a college student at St. Olaf College; I live at 13111 April Lane Minnetonka, MN 55305. I’m writing to you to voice my concern about the well being of Lone Lake Park. I believe it’s essential to protect the preserve as its special to me and many other people. If you too think it’s important, please vote against the mountain biking trail.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Sophie Gershone
From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 8:33 PM
To: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODoe <kodea@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Fwd: Trails and Taxpayer Funds

Deb Calvert
Minnetonka City Council At Large
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Russell, Lyn C"
Date: August 20, 2019 at 4:15:29 PM CDT
To: "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Trails and Taxpayer Funds

Trails and Tax Payer Funds

I am not sure if you have been told that there are at least 3 flooded damaged trails and boardwalks in need of repair in our city. Along the trails in Shady Oak Lake many trees dying because of the flooding that will most probably need to be removed before they cause damage to person or property. Damaged Nature Kiosks and restroom exterior in Lone Lake Park. Damaged Boardwalk in Glen Lake..............Just to mention a couple of issues. Not all of the trail issues caused by the rainfall this year.

In addition, Shady Oak Lake needs a permanent solution to the water levels. The snow/debris that is dumped in the parking lot every winter only to filter into the lake is also now causing an issue with the water quality, especially in the spring. This morning there was an oily film near the fishing dock along the shore.

As a taxpayer in Minnetonka, I feel we have a responsibility to maintain the trails we currently have and are struggling to keep up. I don’t understand why we would spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on new trails without maintaining and appropriately repairing the trails we have now.

Lastly, Mountain Biking is an expensive sport. Certainly not everyone can afford to participate in the expensive sport. Shouldn’t our parks offer open access to nature for people of all Socioeconomic Status?

I researched the Bike prices:

Budget and Beginner bikes range from $500 - $1,000

Mid-Range Bikes $1,000 - $1,500

Upper Mid-Range Bikes $1,500 - $3,500

Mid-Range – Premium Bikes $3,500 and above
I just wanted to be sure you were aware,

Thank you for your time and service,

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 8:34 PM
To: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Fwd: Interview of interest about Lone Lake Park

Deb Calvert
Minnetonka City Council At Large

Sent from my iPad
Begin forwarded message:

From: Linda
Date: August 20, 2019 at 5:07:58 PM CDT
To: Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>, "scarter@eminnetonka.com" <scarter@eminnetonka.com>, "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>, Rebecca Schack <rschack@eminnetonka.com>, "bellingson@eminnetonka.com" <bellingson@eminnetonka.com>, Mike Happe <mhappe@eminnetonka.com>, "tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com" <tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Interview of interest about Lone Lake Park

Hello,

I am sharing this video with you so you know about it, in case it comes up in any of your correspondence or conversations with constituents. Jeff Strate, producer of the public access show Democratic Vision, interviewed Larry Wade and Linda Russell about the mountain bike trail proposal in the park. It’s about 15 minutes long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vqwkmw5_oGo&feature=youtu.be

This video has been shared on the Facebook page, in email, and through sharing. It just posted a few minutes ago.

Friends of Lone Lake Park

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 8:36 PM
To: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Fwd: Mountain Bike Trails in Lone Lake Park

Deb Calvert
Minnetonka City Council At Large

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kimberly Korb
Date: August 20, 2019 at 6:48:43 PM CDT
To: dcalvert@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Mountain Bike Trails in Lone Lake Park
Reply-To: Kimberly Korb

Dear Minnetonka Council Member

As a four plus year resident of Minnetonka I am writing ask that you vote NO on the mountain bike trails in Lone Lake Park.

When I moved to Minnetonka and began enjoying Lone Lake Park it seemed to be for families, walkers, and nature lovers. That has certainly changed recently and mountain bike paths will only degrade the overall park quality more.

I was required by the city of Minnetonka to restore what they deemed to be a wetland (Aaron Schwartz) at a cost of over $100,000. Much more than that was invested by the City to restore native plant, and ultimately animal, species including removal of invasives in the park.

The mountain bike trails will more than un-do that progress and remove even more open and safe areas for the insects, birds, and mammals. Plus the bikers, mostly not Minnetonka tax payers, will add more noise and congestion to the park.

Please vote NO on this measure, or at least table it until there can be the required neighborhood meetings, which have not been held.

Thank you,

Kimberly Korb

Douglynn Dr.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 8:37 PM
To: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Fwd: Mountain Bike Trails in Lone Lake Park

Deb Calvert

Minnetonka City Council At Large
Begin forwarded message:

From: Todd TeVogt  
Date: August 13, 2019 at 2:28:58 PM CDT  
To: bwiersum@eminnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com, bellingson@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com  
Subject: Mountain Bike Trails in Lone Lake Park

Hello to Mr. Wiersum and the entire Minnetonka City Council,

I am writing to you in regards to the potential Mountain Biking Trails that could be created in Lone Lake Park. My son will be in 8th grade this coming school year and has joined the Minnetonka Mountain Biking Team and is having a blast. We currently commute all over the metro area in search of some great trails to ride on (Theodore Worth, Elm Creek, Lake Rebecca, Lebanon Hills, Murphy Hanrehan, etc.). One thing that is missing is some great trails in Minnetonka! The Mountain Biking Team in Minnetonka and the community in general is growing right now and the need for good local trails is also growing. I have heard about some kids "playing" in Purgatory Park and maybe doing some things that they should not be doing, but they are just hoping to get out and ride. What a great way to keep the kids off of technology and get them outdoors having fun.

I hope to make it to the City Council Meeting on August 26th, but also want to let you know how important that this is for our community.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks,

Todd TeVogt

From: Deborah Calvert  
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:19 PM  
To: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>  
Subject: Fwd: Vote Yes for Mtn Bike..... plz read my single argument
Deb Calvert
Minnetonka City Council At Large
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: dhbns434
Date: August 20, 2019 at 7:44:05 PM CDT
To: bwiersum@eminnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com, bellingson@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Vote Yes for Mtn Bike..... plz read my single argument

Name one other Minnetonka Park where I can Mountain Bike?

Most (if not all) activities the opposition support (and defend) can (and do) occur in most (if not all) Minnetonka Parks.

I bike with my kids age 10, 13, and 15 on trials in nearby communities that support this type of activity. Our family moved to Minnetonka 5 years ago from St. Paul - Midway, partly because of the livability. Mountain Biking is an activity that appeals to young families, voting 'yes' on trails makes your community more livable.... and we need young families to replace an aging Minnetonka population.

This subject comes back again with a 'No' vote, perhaps stronger. Give the Mountain Bike Community one park and this subject becomes mute. The argument that a few miles of single track is more disruptive than other park activities (in construction phase or otherwise) is absurd.

Please make the right choice and vote YES for Mountain Bike Trails.

Thank you,

Dan Huseth
12727 Woodcourt Ln, Minnetonka, MN 55343
Deb Calvert
Minnetonka City Council At Large
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Linda
Date: August 20, 2019 at 4:10:30 PM CDT
To: Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>, "scarter@eminnetonka.com" <scarter@eminnetonka.com>, "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>, Rebecca Schack <rschack@eminnetonka.com>, Mike Happe <mhappe@eminnetonka.com>, "tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com" <tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com>, "bellingson@eminnetonka.com" <bellingson@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Petition Signers for Lone Lake Park

Hello Council and Mayor,

I am representing the Friends of Lone Lake Park, a Minnetonka group that is concerned about the future of this park. We conducted a petition that reads:

We, the undersigned neighbors and friends of Lone Lake Park are concerned that many of the sensitive ecological systems within this park will be harmed if the proposed development of mountain biking trails proceeds.
The fact that proper process was not followed by the City before taking steps toward this development is also of concern to us, as our voices were not allowed to be heard.
Now, as a collective voice, we are saying “No” to mountain biking trails in Lone Lake Park.

We put this petition online and have 113 Minnetonka signers. See the attached document for their comments. We also had an additional 15 signers who were from Edina, EP, and SLP and 50 who were from further away. We only counted Minnetonka residents.

We also circulated the same petition on paper in our local area. There are no duplicates; the paper petition garnered 80 more signatures.
**All combined, we have 193 Minnetonka signers** who are opposed to the Mountain Bike Trail proposal for reasons you will see in their comments.

Please think hard about the residents of this community who value the peace and quiet, the nature observation opportunities, the value of the restored park, and the fact that this park already has many recreational areas. The Park Board created the Preserve as a direct result of mountain biking damage in this park! They did not consider this sport to be passive use. You shouldn’t either.

Friends of Lone Lake Park

**LLP Petition Signers who answered the question, “Why is this important to you?”**

1. The preserve section of Lone Lake park should be protected!
2. Preservation of the natural beauty and solitude of walking on the paths through the woods of Lone Lake Park. Keeping the traffic and parking to a minimum on Bren Road and Rowland Road - it is already a problem without adding another reason for more people to use the park, parking spots and roads.
3. I live in a neighborhood near the park and am a frequent visitor. I have worked as a park restoration volunteer.
4. Lone Lake Park preserve is a remnant of the Big Woods. The endangered rusty patched bumble bee and 12 bird species of MN special concern have been identified there. It needs to be preserved for future generations as was the original intent by the City of Minnetonka.
5. Lone Lake park is home to countless species of songbirds (10 climate endangered, 32 climate threatened), many of which require undisturbed areas to nest.
6. The area includes rapidly expanding urban density (high density housing) we need to protect an area so the new neighbors can enjoy nature from their balcony with an asphalt front yard.
7. I have been bringing school children to Lone Lake for 2 decades. For many of them it is the first time in their lives that they can experience the quiet of nature. Mt Biking will change all of that. This is a unique park that needs to be a preserve.
8. I walk with my grandkids on the nature trail. It's dangerous for hikers and bikers to share a narrow 18" trail. Carving mountain bike trails into the Big Woods will destroy the fragile ecology we’ve worked so hard to preserve.
9. Thanks to the City of Minnetonka and resident volunteers’ long-term restoration investments, Lone Lake park provides all members of the community with an ‘up North’ feeling and unparalleled nature-based recreational opportunities. Don’t turn the amazing and biodiverse Big Woods forest in this park preserve into a gymnasium!
10. Lone Lake Preserve has been undergoing restoration for close to twenty years. It is a great example of big woods forest in an urban environment which is becoming more rare. It needs to be preserved for future generations especially since it seems to be more difficult to have unstructured experiences in nature. Please keep it unstructured and avoid creating a single use for this magnificent space.
11. Protect native habitat
12. This is a beautiful, peaceful park. We go there for the beauty and the quiet. There are many species of birds to see there, as well as pollinators. To lose what makes this park a gem would be a travesty. And these mountain biking trails would do that.
13. save the wild lands, let them be, save the planet by saving the wild
14. Lone Lake is a serene place to enjoy the outdoors and experience all that nature has to offer. We love to stop and look under rocks for wild life or stay silent and listen to the sounds of the birds.
15. Why on earth would the possibility of mountain biking even be considered for this unique ecosystem? It is one place where a person can walk in nature without speeding bikes or disruptive dogs. Ground-dwelling and nesting species depend on their habitat not artificially eroding or bike tires whizzing next to them. Please - just let this fragment of disappearing nature be as it should be.
16. This is an amazing forest, and area to bring our children. Why not use the ski hills for mountain biking trails?
17. We must, with determination and desperation, PROTECT ecological systems. There are a lot of bike paths, but if an ecological system is tipped, it will never be again.
18. I live near and use Lone Lake park on a weekly basis. There is not enough room in the park to support a mountain bike trail that would not severely impact other people using the trails. A mountain bike trail will ruin the aesthetics of the park and create conflict with others that use the park.
19. Please protect our natural habitat for our future generations to enjoy. This is a special park and would be destroyed by mountain bike trails.
20. Survival of endangered bee. There has been no cost information for building and maintaining the trail. A financial cost and funding source for the trail needs to be presented before this can be voted on.
21. Lonelake park is an invaluable asset to our species, communities ,it’s wild life the ecology and our environment
   It must remain as is and not degraded and destroyed by mountain biking trails
   The wonderful and beautiful park of Mother Nature that belongs to the future cannot suffer any further destabilization diminishment
22. No public meetings held; The ecology of our trails should not be messed with. There are many other mountain bike trails in the city. This park is not big enough to accommodate the proposal
23. It is a place of sanctuary that reduces stress and a home to the endangeted bumble bee. Very important to pro
24. I moved to Beachside 25+ years ago for the location & adjacent parks. Slowly the green space/trees/wild life are being threatened with development & now the SWLRT. Save our Big Woods & don’t let Lone Lake become extinct. It was named for a reason!
25. This trail will go behind my back yard, and it’s being shoved down our throats with no regard for the wild life and the endangered bees. I’m concerned about bikers using my yard as a shortcut as well.
26. Former Minnetonka City Forester Mark Simenson’s opinion was that "mountain biking activity is not compatible with natural resources restoration efforts currently in place. Lone lake park was chosen as one of the first restoration areas because it has diverse natural area that needs protection. Mountain biking creates erosion problems and would not seem to be an appropriate use for this site." That quote comes from the April 4, 2001 Park Board Memorandum in which the Park Board and City Council denied the request for mountain bike
trails at Lone Lake Park.
The City has spent the last twenty-one years financially investing in the restoration of Lone Lake Park. In the last ten years, the Natural Resources division of the City of Minnetonka has spent over $230,000 restoring the park. Mountain bike trails would degrade this investment and undo the work of the natural Resources staff and volunteers. By approving the Bike Trail, I fear we would jeopardize the beauty and uniqueness of this special park.

27. We don't need bikes screaming down the peaceful walking paths! Who is going to police this area? You are creating a liability for walkers and bikers! Leave the park and nature alone!

28. Let's reinvest in maintaining and preserving the beautiful natural resource of Lone Lake Park. Are parks only for playing the latest fad sports? Let's fix up the signs along the nature trails, add some no-littering signs and enforcement. Lots of much more common-sense things to do with $250k-300k of tax payer money than on dirt bike trails for a small segment of the population to enjoy.

29. The natural beauty should be protected. Mountain biking will be very destructive to the natural beauty of this park.

30. As a longtime resident, since 1966, I have watched the increasing development of Lone Lake park. It still has a peace and tranquility, but mountain biking is a step too far. No one has proven that the delicate ecosystem will not be permanently harmed. It is better to err on the side of caution in this case.

31. Mountain bikes are unnecessary human intrusions that degrade ecologies and habitats. Tires should be on pavement, of which there is more than enough!

32. We must preserve these green spaces and protect wildlife.

33. We need to protect our green spaces. They serve an important role for animals and humans to enjoy open, less developed spaces.

34. Because mountain biking is very damaging to sensitive ecosystems, and we need to protect the last remaining important ecological areas like Lone Lake Park.

35. There are very few pieces of pristine wildland left in Minnesota, particularly in the Twin Cities area. We should nurture and protect those places, not develop them.

36. Let's keep nature intact. A mountain bike path disrupts the natural growing process and the ground spread the keeps the healthy eco system in place.

37. We need to preserve our few remaining nature places that offer so many health benefits to us all. We also need to honor and/or reserve them in ways that also benefit the wild places. A Mountain bike path through this area would not honor this sacred balance.

38. It is the tip of the iceberg... wild places are disappearing at an alarming rate ... It is like extinction--once gone it is forever...

39. A mountain bike trail will damage the beautiful, undeveloped nature of Lone Lake Park. With our city already being carved up with new housing developments, apartments, senior living complexes, we need to at least maintain some of our green space that had traditionally attracted people to live here.

40. I value the availability of a quiet, more natural place, in which to enjoy nature.

41. Our favorite family park

42. Processes/procedures designed to foster fairness MUST be followed!!!!

43. There are so few completely natural areas left in and around the Twin Cities. Rather than add biking trails I would MUCH rather see a little bit of money invested to repair the existing deteriorated signage to educate visitors on what makes this place so special.

44. Nature needs a safe place to exist in our cities with quiet and minimal disturbance.
45. Please help me understand why we would jeopardize the beautiful green space we still have in Lone Lake Park by replacing it with mountain bike trails? We should continue with the natural resource restoration efforts currently in place, and further create a learning center for our children to appreciate in years in years to come. We seem to keep filling our "green spaces" with human activities to our detriment. Please help us preserve our beautiful Lone Lake Park.

46. I am aware of the value of this limited and valuable resource of Lone Lake Park. I am not in favor of the plans to develop any part of the park for Mountain Bikes as is described the petition.

47. Lone Lake park is a unique park with more wildlife than other urban parks. It is the place to go to for showing kids a natural and peaceful setting even though it is surrounded by highways and housing. It retains this unique character due to its geography: it has glacial moraines, right in Minnetonka!

48. We need to retain green space for animals and other wildlife. The use of this area for sports area or recreational team sports is pushing the white privileged agenda and not considering the other residents in the area. It will benefit no one to install volleyball courts except the privileged few. Minneapolis is better than this and the parks board needs say no to the conversion of green space to commercial sites.

49. Green spaces must be respected and preserved. Our health and sanity depend on nature.

50. I'm absolutely sick! Minnetonka is losing its beauty at maximum speed!

51. Love birding there. Quiet. There are enough trails elsewhere for the bikers

52. The city needs to follow its own procedure and conduct neighborhood meetings! The city said they would be managing the trail but is looking to a 3rd party to potentially help maintain the trails (https://www.morcmtb.org). This is very concerning because this organization also promote the trials leaving the neighbors of Lone Lake Park with a surge of visitors from all over the place. This will no longer be a neighborhood park!

53. Follow process.

54. This is the last piece of natural parkland left in Minnetonka. Who would ever want to do that?

55. I have hiked the trails for twenty years. I have found native plants such as orchids, lilies, maidenhair fern. I hiked barefoot on moss paths, until for a time, mountain bikers unofficially used the park. Immediate and intense erosion was created in all paths. Understory was destroyed between the newly created winding bike paths. It is a truly special wild preserve, rare especially in the region of overly processed Three Rivers park system.

56. Preserve biodiversity close to home for the health and well-being of this and future generations.

57. Lone Lake is an absolute treasure when it comes to plant and insect diversity. The many years of restoration that have taken place have made a huge impact and are obvious to me. I have walked my dogs there dozens of times. Please allow the bike trails to be built at Braemar woods instead. It is a neglected site, full of buckthorn and becoming more degraded. No question about the right thing to do!!

58. Few remnant natural areas have escaped development in our area. Passive use natural areas are vital to the survival of pollinators and all wildlife........necessary for human survival.

59. unless the mountain biking is completely closed off there is danger to the people who are walking? I will pay more in taxes. But this can't be combined with parks

60. Protection of natural areas for pollinators and wildlife.
61. I've been a devoted mountain biker since the 90's, but it would be an environmental tragedy to put mountain bike trails in Lone Lake Park. The park is an ecological gem of the entire metro area and would be sliced to ribbons by trail builders. Save this beautiful area - there are plenty of other wonderful places to ride off road.
62. I love the wild areas in the park. Don't destroy that with more trails.
63. Please preserve this beautiful and limited ecological area in Minnetonka!!
64. Beautiful and peaceful treasure of biodiversity right in our back yards! Plenty of mountain bike trails in the area, no need to add to Lone Lake Park while simultaneously eliminating another precious greenspace for generations to come.
65. Lone Lake is a great place to enjoy nature without having to worry about someone on a bicycle disturbing the peace. Also, a mountain bike trail would remove several more precious acres of natural landscape from the park.
66. We have so few quiet natural spaces left in Minnetonka, we need to preserve Lone Lake Park as it is. Bikers can use Purgatory.
67. The claim that a mountain bike trail is “multi-use” is a pipe dream. No walkers in their right minds would put themselves at risk like that. I've been buzzed by bikes on the 6 foot wide trails; imagine that same behavior on an 18 inch one! You can label them multi-use, but that will just satisfy the box checkers. It will not represent reality. Therefore, your plan will just hand over the park to bikers, and take it away from walkers, birdwatchers, and the like.
68. It is as necessary to preserve places of calm to re-energize the brain as it is to provide recreational spaces to re-energize the body. Lone Lake Park has already provided space for tennis, basketball, frisbee golf, soccer. Preserving our natural habits for the health and enjoyment of walkers should be a priority of our community. Cement sidewalks will never replace a walk in the woods.
69. Because it will increase traffic in our neighborhood my property has a perfect outlet onto the park and I am concerned it will become route for some into the park. It will damage our property. I am concerned that their will be litter. It will dislocate the small animal that live in the park.
70. The noise and the decrease in safety for me and my family. It would be nice if the promises made would be kept. A pickle ball court was put in with no thought about how it affects the residents. This move is on to get present politicians out of office.
71. The park is currently serving a need that is harder and harder to find-a place for family relaxation, quiet reflection. The cost of upkeep etc will be born by the residents of Mtka not the bike path users. There are other better options available for the bikers.
72. I don't want to disturb the natural setting, the quietness of the trails. It's too close to established neighborhoods. We do not need the additional traffic in the area--there are better places for this.
73. A lot of money was spent to keep the park a quiet natural environment for all to enjoy. there are so few places like this left. The park is one of the main reasons I purchased my home in this neighborhood. There has to be a better choice for a mountain bike trail. Do not take this beautiful park away from everyone who enjoys the peace and quiet of nature!
74. This park has endangered species in it. Mountain bikers, while they think they're environmentally sensitive, the rapid movement and quiet of mtn bikes can scare and startle Wildlife into dangerous situations or cause them to un-necessarily use energy to flee. With the impending extinction of ONE MILLION species, it is imperative humans act to protect, not harm any more Wildlife whether they be Insects, Birds, Mammals, Amphibians or Reptiles.
75. It's bad enough having the light rail line disturbing much of our area and destroying much needed wildlife habitat. Add the sound and vibrations of that and many residents will be
unfavorably impacted. Adding salt to the wound by putting in a mountain bike trail is unconscionable! We deserve a quiet and peaceful place to enjoy nature and walk, picnic, bird watch, etc. in peace and quiet. more construction.

76. I love this park. I was the illustrator for the interpretive trail that goes through the park. At that time the city council cared about the natural habitat in that park enough to hire us to put in the trail and provide stations so people could learn about the beauty they were seeing. Although years have gone by and the signs are neglected, the time I spent in this park was significant to me. It is very diverse, with many small ecosystems. I would hate to see that quiet, that peace, that wonderful place in the middle of such a busy area, be disturbed. It would preserve the integrity of the natural area more if you revitalized the signs instead...

77. This is important to me because of the potential changes to the park. The current path where I walk my dog would no longer be available for that. I would have to either get in my car and drive to the park or walk my dog on the road to get to the park to access other trails. Neither of these makes practical sense. This mountain bike proposal is only taking into account the special interest mountain biking group. When biking was previously allowed on some areas of the park, the bikers were creating their own trails and going where ever they wanted with no regard to rules. There are many indications that behavior similar to that would still occur. Mountain biking is far harder on trail erosion than hikers.

78. It’s important to save the bees and other habits that would be harmed if the project goes into Lone Lake Park.

79. The Mayor, City Manager, and Parks Dept have pushed this biking plan through, without regard to facts and at least 1/2 the opinions submitted. The City lacked integrity throughout this process. The reports are problematic. Errors were pointed out but the Parks Dept did not correct. Main sources of information in their report is a blog post aimed at convincing people to allow biking (manipulated facts and outright inaccuracies). The area next to Glen Lake Golf would have been a perfect spot, perfect timing as it was being developed - dismissed by city as ‘we would have to work with the county’. Strib Bike Guy article suggested just that, Minnetonka work with Hennepin County, they have experience and money. The way the city handled this process is cheating everyone. Pitting outdoor enthusiasts against outdoor enthusiasts. Find a place that works for everyone. Work with the County, save the city money! Win for everyone.

80. I want to save Lone Lake Park

81. Please preserve this beautiful park in its natural state!

82. We have already invested thousands of dollars to maintain the viability of this park for the sanctity of wildlife, natural forest with all of its species of trees, plants, etc., and finally for it value to men, women and children. It is a place of quiet, learning about nature and has wonderful walking/ running trails. Please do not undo the natural beauty of this parkland.

83. It’s important to have safe, undisturbed walking space.

84. It’s important the community’s voice is heard before you make a decision.

85. Protect the beauty of the park and keep the old trees that are there. Protect the ecological system by not allowing the mountain biking trails.

86. We must maintain our ecological systems.

87. I grew up in the lake area and my family still lives in Excelsior and Minnetonka. I've always been concerned that when humans have access to natural places they sometimes love them to death. By overusing the areas for recreational purposes without having any idea of what that area needs to be sustained, irreversible damage is a consequence. The idea that the earth would not sustain life if all the insects died off but humans remained, but if all the people were gone but the insects remained the earth would thrive, is compelling. True or not,
its a notion we can learn from. I'm concerned that if we do not adapt to a mind set that values the planet's health over recreation and economy, we will erode away at the natural systems that sustain us. So, it seems a recreational use for this space as a biking park may not be so dramatic but it is to those who see these spaces as the last vestiges of quiet, restorative to our serenity in times of stress and a place people can visit to absorb the fresh air and health benefits of being in nature... left as it is, un-manicured in its natural state. We lived on Lotus Lake and watched that area degrade from human use, overbuilding and lack of appropriate management. There are areas of Lake Mtnka with similar problems. Stop this madness!

88. We are facing devastating and life-threatening climate change and an extinction crisis. We need to protect all the natural spaces we can (there already aren't nearly enough). Humans have plenty to do, let's stop destroying ecosystems, biodiversity, and wild habitat for human-centric "activity" space. We can live without more bike trails.

89. Protect our natural environment for all creatures big and small. No more disruption.

90. For over 20 years, we've held a summer day camp in Lone Lake Park. This year, we chose to relocate due to the mess and noise of last year's construction and the potential for problems related to the bike trail. Kids and adults need the opportunity for exposure to nature and the peaceful surroundings that Lone Lake Park has always provided for us. Please give us back our park.

91. The park needs to stay as is and to further protect bees and birds, etc.

92. I love walking in the park, but have difficulty when bikers do not indicate they are about to overtake walkers has changed that. I am concerned that the emphasis is on mountain biking and not walking. It seems hypocritical of Minnetonka that natural pollinator habitat is being destroyed at the same time the city wants recognition for habitats of pollinators all for mountain biking.

93. It is as necessary to preserve places of calm to re-energize the brain as it is to provide recreational spaces to re-energize the body. Lone Lake Park has already provided space for tennis, basketball, frisbee golf, soccer. Preserving our natural habits for the health and enjoyment of walkers should be a priority of our community. Cement sidewalks will never replace a walk in the woods.

94. Because it will increase traffic in our neighborhood my property has a perfect outlet onto the park and I am concerned it will become route for some into the park. It will damage our property. I am concerned that there will be litter. It will dislocate the small animal that live in the park.

----------------------------------------------
From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 9:41 PM
To: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Fwd: Mountain Bike Trail Proposal

Deb Calvert
Minnetonka City Council At Large
Begin forwarded message:

From: Linda Russell  
Date: August 20, 2019 at 9:20:27 AM CDT  
To: Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>, "bellingson@eminnetonka.com" <bellingson@eminnetonka.com>, "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>, Rebecca Schack <rschack@eminnetonka.com>, "scarter@eminnetonka.com" <scarter@eminnetonka.com>, "tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com" <tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com>, Mike Happe <mhappe@eminnetonka.com>  
Subject: Mountain Bike Trail Proposal  

Dear City Council,

I have written to you several times about my opposition to the trail proposal in Lone Lake Park. This is my last opportunity to do so before you vote, so I hope you will read and think about my main concern. I live one mile from the park. As a “near neighbor,” I feel disenfranchised and frustrated about not having a meaningful neighborhood meeting about this proposal.

The city has a set of procedures that it follows when a new project is proposed. Whether it is a road, a business, housing or a trail, one of the first steps is to involve the neighborhood. Notice that I did not say “the public.” You begin with the nearby neighbors because you know that they are the people who are most affected by any new project. The city does this as a matter of course.

The city followed its usual plan when Big Willow Park was under consideration, and held neighborhood meetings. After much neighborhood objection, the city abandoned Big Willow and switched its attention to Lone Lake Park. On page 6 of the Final Mountain Bike Study it states, “The process includes the following.” The fourth bullet point is “Conduct community and neighborhood meetings for public input.”

**However, the city never did conduct neighborhood meetings for the Lone Lake Park area.** It sent informational postcards to residents who live within 800 feet of the park, which were not invitations to public meetings. Some staff and council members probably think they have done a lot of community engagement on this process because of the earlier focus groups. But those were not held to discuss Lone Lake Park, and were not focused engagement with the most important constituency and those most affected--the neighbors of the project at hand.

Also, holding an open house at the city offices is not the same as hearing from the neighbors as a group. (That open house was essentially a “sell the concept” event. There were no booths presenting the opposing viewpoint, no booths explaining clearly the environmental ripple effect. It was only the city
proposal and mountain biking point of view.) Getting random letters from Minnetonka residents is not a neighborhood meeting.

The proposal was then forwarded to the Park Board. **That board refused to let residents speak at the meetings.** Several tried and were told they could not. The only meeting at which residents could address the topic was at their June 6, 2018 meeting; the meeting where they cast the vote. We were extremely disappointed that they did not want Minnetonka resident input to inform their votes.

This lack of neighborhood engagement is a problem, but not an insurmountable one. **You can fix this.** If you wish to go ahead with this project, you should take a pause, restart it at the point of conducting neighborhood meetings, and then evaluate it based on the input you get.

**It’s not too late to hold meetings.** Please expand your inclusion area to beyond 800 feet from the park because the neighborhood of park users is larger than that. This park is in the SE corner of the city. There are no other parks nearby, and anyone south of Excelsior, east of Baker, north of 62 and west of the city limit line would be the people who are most affected. The HOA groups of Beachside 1 and 2, Vista Woods, The Oaks, and other residents within a mile of the park represent large numbers of people who visit this park.

**You took an oath to uphold the democratic process.** I cannot imagine that you truly wish to proceed with a project that has not followed due process appropriately. I believe the right thing to do is to stop, schedule neighborhood meetings, consider the near neighbors’ input, and then decide the best plan based on that feedback. Just like you did for Big Willow. Just like you do for every other project.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Linda Russell

5423 Maple Ridge Ct.

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From: Ben Duininck  
Date: August 20, 2019 at 10:55:38 PM CDT  
To: bellingson@eminnetonka.com, bwiersum@eminnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com  
Subject: Mountain bike trails for Lone Lake Park

I am emailing to send my support behind the consideration for the mountain bike trails.
If you are looking for feedback on the success of other locations, there are great examples from the likes of Theo Wirth and Elm Creek.

I recently watched the video from those opposed to the trails and I think there is a real disconnect between the understanding of who mountain bikers are. We are nature lovers all the same. Being on a trail and hearing the birds sing and wind blowing through the leaves and breathing in the fresh air is all part of the experience.

I have walked mountain bike trails with my kids and my dog as well. You certainly cross paths with bikers for a moment. It is not a disruptive experience and pleasantries are exchanged and you carry on with your time.

I ask that you take time to consider the feasibility of a multi use park that draws more people out into nature. There is a very low downside to giving this a try. If people hate it or somehow problems arise that we’re not originally anticipated (unexpected erosion or some other damage to nature) there is nothing wrong with pulling back on that initial decision. Maybe even consider offering up a trial period. I think you might be impressed by those who volunteer their time to create and care for such a trail.

Sincerely,

Ben Duininck

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From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 8:37 AM
To: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Fwd: Comment on Lone Lake Bike Trail Proposal

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Carole Gernes
Date: August 20, 2019 at 11:30:40 PM CDT
To: "tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com" <tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com>, "mhappe@eminnetonka.com" <mhappe@eminnetonka.com>, "rschack@eminnetonka.com"
Dear Minnetonka City Council members and staff;

As the Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator (RCCWMA), I’d like to express my professional opinion on the matter of adding off road biking trails to Lone Lake Park. At Ramsey County’s Battle Creek Park, I’ve witnessed the spread of Japanese hedge parsley and narrow leaf bittercress from a small patch with a bike path cutting through it (2010), to lining entire lengths of biking trails and then to neighboring parks. The hedge parsley now covers large portions of the park understory. Areas with excellent native plant diversity were invaded requiring multiple removals by MICC crews, volunteers and contractors.

In another large city-owned preserve within the county, despite contract language including requirements for equipment to come clean of any soil, and maps of existing wild parsnip areas, this serious threat to health was spread during trail construction. How will contractors ensure equipment will come to the park clean and be kept clean as equipment moves from area to area? Will there be WorkCleanGo protocols in the contract? Will project supervisors be trained to recognize invasive plant species? Who will be responsible for early detection monitoring and rapid response/treatment of invasive plants found after trails are installed, and for how long?

Prevention is the most successful and cost-effective strategy for invasive plant management. Generally, by the time an invasive species is reported, it is beyond the rapid response infestation size, requiring greater time and resources to control:

CitSci.org

The rapid response stage is the infestation stage at which the patch is still small enough to eradicate. Beyond this stage, management is used to prevent spread and preserve high quality sites. It becomes a perpetual annual cost. Is the City of Minnetonka prepared to meet the challenges of invasive species monitoring and species specific rapid response to reports of invasive plants on this high quality site?
Minnetonka has a reputation of being on the forefront of environmental protection. After 25 years of restoration time, hard work and funding spent to protect this park, I urge you to consider moving the bike trail to a less ecologically sensitive area. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter;
Carole Gernes
1837 McKnight Rd. N.
Maplewood, MN 55109

From: Jon Richie
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 10:26 AM
To: Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>
Cc: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: RE: Lone Lake Park

Hello Mayor,

Thank you for your reply and consideration. It is greatly appreciated.
I would like to add that ever since I began to hear about the proposed mountain bike trail and read articles in various publications I got curious. First I went to a council meeting to hear what they had to say. I then volunteered for several invasive species removal events put on by the advocates for the proposed mountain bike trail. This provided me an opportunity to get to know them and I became very impressed with their sincerity, environmental knowledge and willingness to work – really work for what they wish to achieve in a positive manner – and I don’t recall any other group working with such sincere effort as the mountain bike trail advocates. I will also state I have never seen such an misinformed, angry group in opposition to any other proposed project in a city park, be it tennis courts, hockey rinks, basketball courts, ball fields, playgrounds or pickle ball that this group have been forced to contend with. It is really quite sad and very unfortunate.

Lone Lake is perfect in every way possible - the terrain, the topography, the location and the size of the parcel in relation to the proposed trail.

I will also reiterate, IF mountain biking ever goes away in the future the trails we be reclaimed by nature – naturally - at no cost to the city. The same cannot be said for any of the above mentioned.

Thank you again for your time and consideration regarding this matter. It is very much appreciated.

Regards,

Jon Richie
Minnetonka, MN

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 9:31 AM
To: Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>; Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Fwd: Lone Lake Park and Mountain Bikes?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Carolyn Smith
Date: August 21, 2019 at 8:17:38 AM CDT
To: "bwiersum@eminnetonka.com" <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>, "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>, "scarter@eminnetonka.com" <scarter@eminnetonka.com>, "bellingson@eminnetonka.com" <bellingson@eminnetonka.com>, "rschack@eminnetonka.com"
Dear Mayor, and City Council Members,

I had originally started this letter to voice my opposition to the Mountain Bike Trails in Lone Lake Park. I am opposed to the Bike Trails by the way. However, I think the question that I really have for all of you is what do you want Lone Lake Park to be? It can't be everything to everyone. I built a home on Lone Lake, 11895 Douglynn Dr. about 5 years ago. I did what was asked by maintaining the wetland and adding additional natural plantings, adding rain gardens, abiding by easements and keeping everything very natural. I spent close to $100,000 on these things. My property also butts up to Lone Lake Park on the south side, and I have enjoyed wonderful wildlife as well as beautiful birds, bats, butterflies, and bees. It has been a wonderful place to live and share nature as well as hike in the park with my dog. However, things have started to change in not a good way.

What I have noticed, is that the Park and trails are not getting the maintenance and attention that they used to. The signage is not kept up, the wood duck houses are not maintained, and there is fencing around bushes and trees that has been there for years, and that does not seem to have any value. The lake itself seems to be dying as it is becoming filled with algae and weeds, and we have lost many of the eagles, and herons that used to fish in the lake. They probably moved to Shady Oak Lake which seems to be in much better shape environmentally. People used to fish on the dock in Lone Lake and this no longer seems viable.

On top of all of that, we now have more cement and the pickleball courts which do not help the lake and have added to the noise pollution around the lake.

So, adding the mountain bike trails seems to just another way to put money in to a specific recreation for a specific group. Why can't you budget and spend money on maintaining and improving the lake and hiking trails that are already there and enjoyed by many people?

Before your last vote, I came to the meeting and voiced my concern. Here we go again next week with another vote. I hope that you will vote "no" and start caring for the Lake and Park with the money and resources that such a gem of a place warrants.

Thank you,

Carolyn Smith
Dear City Council Members,

I am a 17 year old Minnetonka high-schooler and I am a part of the VANTAGE program at Minnetonka High School. As you may recall, a group of 17 year old Vantage students, just like me, were the first to present the idea for sustainable off-road trails to the Park Board. Those kids are now starting their sophomore year of college.

As a representative of the VANTAGE program, I would just like to thank you for listening to the voices of the youth and taking the time to hear us out. It seems like it's a new national trend to empower the voices of the youth, and we are very excited that that trend is alive and well in the city of Minnetonka.

This is the first time that many high-schoolers like me have ever been to a city council meeting or gotten involved in local government. Everyone in the Vantage program is very proud of what we started and hope that someday we'll be able to use the trails. I’m a runner not a biker, but my friends and I will still use the trails.

This whole experience has helped me learn what it means to perform our civic responsibilities as citizens and it has pushed me to consider studying political science once as I go to college.

Again, thank you all very much for listening to the voices of the youth in Minnetonka.

Austin Roberts
VANTAGE Student
5512 Tamarack Circle, Minnetonka, MN, 55345
Hi Kelly,

I just received this from a MORC Board Member. If possible, please include in meeting packet for council members.

Thanks,

Ben
August 21, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

Wright County Parks & Recreation has worked with Minnesota Off Road Cyclist (MORC) for over eight years on the singletrack project at Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park. In this time, we have worked together to develop over 15 miles of singletrack that has nearly a five-star rating on the MTB Project website.

In our experience MORC has been a tremendous partner for Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park. The dedication to the work and the park itself is evident by the amount of time and effort they put into the singeletack. As a land manager working with MORC they have exceeded my expectations. We have open communication and they have been respectful of the overall concept and view of Bertram Chain of Lakes, realizing that the singletrack is just one of the many features within the park and figuring out ways to make it work together with the hiking trails, swimming beach and soon to be constructed campground to create a positive user experience for everyone coming to the park.

In closing, I would recommend partnering with MORC for your singletrack project that you are embarking on. They are a great organization to work with and will work hard to maintain a balance of the land managers ideas and concepts and the user experience of the trail. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Bradley.harrington@co.wright.mn.us or by phone at 763-682-7894.

Sincerely,

Brad Harrington
Wright County Parks & Recreation
Parks & Recreation Operations Manager

From: michael smith
Date: August 21, 2019 at 11:48:50 AM CDT
To: bwiersum@eminnetonka.com  
Subject: 7 questions

Dear Mayor Brad Wiersum,

Word on the street is you’re a good listener. So here’s 7 questions we feel need to be addressed regarding the Lone Lake Park decision.

Having walked the park the other evening with the call of a great horned owl hooting above our heads, it not only struck us how much the habitat of the park would be impacted by the installation of a mountain bike track, but the quiet of the place and the solace it brings would be forever assaulted by the whirring of wheels and hollering of bikers.

1. How many places can you name in Minnetonka that bring solace to our stressful times?

2. How many remnants of the Big Woods do we have left to appreciate?

3. Letting the bike course go in at Lone Lake runs contrary to Minnetonka’s ‘Open Space Preservation Policy,’ wouldn’t you agree?

4. The planet needs caretakers, not takers. Do you see this as an opportunity for Minnetonka to make a statement about the effects of Climate Change and the need to sustain an ecological balance (however small) over what some people want and don’t need?

5. Has anyone asked Lone Lake how it feels? The red oak trees? When will the great horned owl be given a vote?

6. Isn’t it cool there are so many Minnetonka residents who care so deeply about our natural treasures and quality of life they are willing to step out of their comfort zones and say, “Enough is enough.”?

7. Will you be a voice that says, “Enough is enough.”?

“When the time comes and the table is set for the Council of All Beings, don’t be surprised when you find no chair for humanity to take part.”
Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I’m sure there is a correct and formal way to address this email so my apologies if I have done so incorrectly, no offense is meant and google wasn't overly helpful with details.

However google was helpful with details on mountain biking and it's impact, which were profoundly positive. The obvious is it’s a good workout, which I don’t know about you but I admittedly could use a little more of. It's also a great family activity, actually I’d say it’s best when done with family and friends. It teaches kids great life lessons such as respect for nature and fellow trail users. It also teaches coordination, critical thinking, balance and helps encourage a healthy way of life.

It’s a great activity for anyone at virtually any age but what I really appreciate about the sport is it not only accepts but encourages all riders of every level. Last year I started helping with the Minnetonka High School Mountain Bike Team and was amazed. Did you know that the governing organization NICA has a no-bench rule. In other words all kids participate if they want to. The goal is to get more kids actively involved in an activity no matter their ability. Mountain Bike provides a group activity to many kids that otherwise wouldn't have one. We absolutely have some very fast athletes that will do quite well this year, we also have kids who would not make a baseball, football, or soccer team, kids that are on the spectrum, kids that without mountain biking may not be doing any activity what so ever besides Fortnite. I can honestly tell you the greatest joy I get from helping kids is teaching them a skill that is new to them and seeing the giant smile on their face when they get it, especially to a child that hasn't experienced that feeling much in their life.

So obviously I am an advocate of creating the mountain bike trails. Why do we need more? It's no different than asking why do we need so many football or baseball fields; it would be impossible to put
every high school and middle school baseball team in the metro on 5 fields. Every high school and middle school has a mountain bike team and these kids deserve a place to ride. Lake Rebecca is a 45 minute drive on a good day, Elm Creek can be an hour, Theodore Wirth the same as well as Murphy Hanrahan. Certainly all sports have to do some traveling and we accept that as a part of our participation in this sport, but it sure would be wonderful to have opportunities in closer proximity.

Just so nobody thinks I don't care about the environment, I have worked on and have been a part of environmental conservation all of my life. For example I buy a fishing license but don't fish because I believe it's important to support the DNR and conservation, I've advocated for the BWCA and numerous other areas because to me they are irreplaceable, I also donate to environmental causes. The benefits of this trail system are numerous and the conservation of the park can and absolutely should continue side by side with it, this does not need to be a choice between one or the other it should be both. I would suggest that anyone who says it can't be both or no changes can be made to the current park really don't have the interest of the park or the community in mind but really only their individual use of it, but parks are not meant for just an individual, they are meant for the enjoyment of the community.

Thank you for taking the time to let me bend your ear a little,

Chad Macy
Hollie Macy
Connor Macy 8th grade MMW
Anderson Macy 6th grade MMW
6580 Bayview Drive
Excelsior, MN 55331

From: Jill Angel
Date: August 21, 2019 at 1:45:12 PM CDT
To: bwiersum@eminnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com, bellingson@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Mountain biking

Dear Council Member
I am a 69 year old mountain biker who bikes in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Colorado. I know the small foot print that mountain biking trails make. I believe there is plenty of room in Lone Lake Park for all walkers and bikers. Additional trails would leave more room on the wider trails for the walkers.

Please vote to allow the mountain biking trails and we can all take care of the parks together.
From: Jill Angel 
5235 Silver Maple Circle 
Minnetonka 55343 

Date: August 21, 2019 at 2:08:25 PM CDT 
To: bwiersum@eminnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com, bellingson@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com 
Subject: Lone Lake Mountain Bike Trail 

Mayor Wiersum and members of the Minnetonka City Council - 

As 44-year residents of Minnetonka living on Dominick Drive, we strongly support the mountain bike trail in Lone Lake Park. 

Our 15-year old grandson, who also lives in this neighborhood and participates in this sport, has met a whole new community of friends to compete with and against. Over the years he was exposed to other team sports and this is the one he connected with. He has made connections with many positive influences at a very vulnerable age of making good and/or less than good choices. We are grateful for this opportunity being available to him. 

We hear from residents who oppose the bike trail option for Lone Lake Park that it will disturb the environment and the habitat of the creatures of the earth. A question perhaps might be why dirt trails in a park are disruptive to the environment any more than any other park features including, but not limited to tennis courts, parking lots, playgrounds, walking trails, picnic shelters, fertilized soccer fields, and the recent completion of eight pickleball courts on the park's limited green space. 

We are lucky as residents of this City to have many options in activities in our various parks. It seems that at least one park in this community should be open and available to accommodate the interest of this environmentally caring and friendly group and their activity. 

Regards, 

Marlan and Pat Carlson 
5349 Dominick Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55343

From: Ben Johnson
Date: August 21, 2019 at 4:55:54 PM CDT
To: "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: An opinion on Lone Lake vote for August 26 city council vote from 4736 Gaywood Drive

Ms. Calvert,

My name is Ben Johnson. My wife Michelle and kids Grace (18) and Pete (16) have been residents and taxpayers of 4736 Gaywood Drive for the last 15 years (wow time flies!!!).

I just wanted to write a quick note to let you know that the Lone Lake vote is an important one to myself and my family on August 26nd. We urge you to vote YES to implement sustainably built and maintained mountain bike trails in Lone Lake Park.

Thank you for the time and energy you and the park board has put into this project. From looking at and confirming environmental issues to making folks more than aware of the potential project.

Here is a partial list of why this is important to the Johnson family:

- My son and I used to ride at Purgatory Park in western Minnetonka. We were asked to not ride there any longer and have not had a place to ride in Minnetonka since that time. We are forced to drive out of our home city to get to riding.

- We as a family ride bikes. I commute to my work by the Carlson Towers on average 2x/week from April – November. I also ride my mountain bike only about 2x/month because I can only get to Theodore Wirth/Murphy/Elm Creek. Each of those places is a 15 – 45 minute drive in my truck each way depending on the time of day. This is not good for the environment with extra driving at 15 mpg and also clogging the local roads often during rush hour.

- We would ride our bikes to and from the trail. We live 2.5 miles from Lone Lake and would ride to and from the MTB trails. I have friends that I ride with who live all over Minnetonka who would ride to/from the trails. A 10-15 minute warm up and cool down is perfect for us.

- Lone Lake is a perfect place for these trails as the park has some wonderful topography for riding and the footprint would not have to be large with the ability to create trails that go around current vegetation and use the hills and large trees to an advantage in making a trail that can be great for both new bikers and those that have ridden for years.
The proximity to places to eat and drink is also a nice feature. There is an opportunity for local restaurants to pick up some business from mountain bikers. From Jimmy’s to Jimmy Johns and everything in between.

Thank you for your consideration on this project and am optimistic that this can be something that will be wonderful for my family, my future grandkids, and bunches of other community members of all ages.

With much hope,

Ben, Michelle, Grace, & Peter Johnson

From: Mike Leiss
Date: August 21, 2019 at 5:27:20 PM CDT
To: bwiersum@eminnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com, bellingson@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com
Subject: I support mountain bike trails

Dear City Council Members,

I support mountain bike trails at Lone Lake Park.

Sincerely,

Mike Leiss
3716 Hilltop Rd
Minnetonka MN 55305

From: Dale Antonson
Date: August 21, 2019 at 4:17:19 PM CDT
To: dcalvert@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience. Ralph Waldo Emerson
Reply-To: Dale Antonson

Dear Councilwoman Calvert,

I have a deep emotional connection to the controversy over the creation of bike trails through Lone Lake Park. I was hoping that I could just trust the process and allow Park Board and the City Council to gather
all the information and make an informed decision on moving forward on this. As a final decision approaches, I feel I need to communicate my thoughts on this or I’ll feel terrible regret for remaining silent and watching this proposal pass with my feelings unheard.

As evolved stewards of this wonderful garden we live in here in Minnetonka, I feel that the small parcels of nature that remain here must be cherished. There has been enough exploitation of this precious land since it was occupied by our native forefathers. I don’t think we need to make an amusement ride out of a woods at Lone Lake. Please, let not one tree be lost so one can zoom through the woods. A place like this needs to be kept sacred, respected and undeveloped for the future. Such a place can then be savored at a pace in touch with Nature herself.

With Kind Regards,

Dale Antonson
3223 Robinwood Lane
Minnetonka, MN 55305

From: John Piepkorn
Date: August 12, 2019 at 10:05:06 AM CDT
To: bwiersum@eminnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com, bellingson@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Lone Lake Mountain Bike Trails

I am in full support of a sustainably-built mountain bike trail at Lone Lake Park.

Sincerely,

John Piepkorn
Minnetonka Resident

From: Ed Hassler
Date: August 22, 2019 at 10:13:05 AM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Re: LONE LAKE PARK MOUNTAIN BIKING PROPOSAL

Thank you for acknowledging my email, Deb.
The high school mountain bike teams are on record wanting to use Lone Lake Park to practice. Practicing means navigating the course as fast as possible, another way of saying "racing." How is that going to work when they race down the Big Hill trail, through the playground, to use the restrooms or get water? They would be riding (The proposed course comes within a mere ten yards of the Big Hill trail at its apex. I asked Jesse why they wouldn't ride through the woods and then down the maintained trail instead of backtracking to the proposed trailheads. "Because they're not supposed to," was his answer.) What happens when the high schoolers want to hold competitions at Lone Lake Park?

Ed

From: Karen Anderson
Date: August 21, 2019 at 10:21:05 PM CDT
To: dcalvert@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Lone Lake Park

August 21, 2019

Dear Deb Calvert

I have been a resident of Minnetonka for 40 years and an art teacher for 50 years. I enjoy the natural beauty of the Lone Lake Park for quiet walks and conversations with friends. I also participated for many years with students sketching at the park through the Hopkins school district programs. I live near Purgatory Creek Park and love the Minnetonka parks and appreciate the work this city has done to restore them.

I do not feel the city Council and staff are listening and responding to the concerns of the citizens on this issue. Mountain biking is often high impact, aggressive, and competitive in one of Minnetonka’s most relaxing natural places – the last of the old growth forest! Other communities have tried to preserve these tiny remnants of the forest. The birds, bees, and many animals have precious few places left in the city to live.

Please use those proposed mountain bike trail funds for the parks – to continue the excellent hard work of restoration in all the parks, repair signage, and mitigate water /climate damage, as well as other projects that make Minnetonka a wonderful community.

There are better uses of funds and energy that all of us can enjoy without this massive intrusion by a very few residents on the peaceful use of this park.
Sincerely,

Karen Anderson
5630 Mahoney Ave
Minnetonka MN 55345

From: "cindy ~"
Date: August 22, 2019 at 9:21:27 AM CDT
To: dcalvert@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Lone Lake

August 21, 2019
Dear Deb Calvert,

I am writing you regarding the ongoing discussion and the upcoming vote on mountain bike path for Lone Lake Park. I have been following this issue and did attend one of the City Council meetings addressing this issue.

We, in Minnetonka, are fortunate to have Lone Lake Park in our community. It provides habitat for those species that require undisturbed acres. Installing a mountain bike path through a pristine habitat will cause significant harm to this ecosystem and place greater stress on the wildlife that relies on it. The Rusty Patch Bumble Bee is one part of the balance of this ecosystem. It is an endangered species and is federally protected with specific guidelines that are imperative that we follow. Lets protect this land. It is a jewel.

The information distributed on this project indicates that there will only be 1-2 acres of pathways through the park. This figure is deceptive. The path is supposed to be 18-24 inches wide. (Anyone’s experience will tell you that will widen with wear) and 4.7 miles long. However, it will require 8 feet of width to construct and the impact of switchbacks/ cutting back and forth across the landscape multiplies it’s negative impact. Many species will not cross over that path, and many require undisturbed areas for their life cycle. This plan will cause harm to the critters that do not have a voice in this. It will do harm to those of us that value the presence of that level of wildlife.

Mountain bikers move fast through the forest. They are not listening quietly for birds, watching the caterpillars, bees, butterflies, snakes and squirrels. They are having a great time racing through the forest. In other words, it is not a passive use of the park. By it’s very nature mountain biking disrupts wildlife that does not tolerate human activity. To consider this trail multi-use is ludicrous. Anyone else on the trail will need to be vigilant to bike activity and not be able to be attentive to wildlife activity.
Lone Lake Park has many uses for families, recreation and sports. It is the big woods element that nurtures the wildlife not found in other parks in Minnetonka. It has had the benefit of being “rehabbed” for 20 years. The city and volunteers have contributed to it’s successful restoration. There are no other locations in Minnetonka that can compare with this park. We have the opportunity to CONTINUE to preserve this patch of Big Woods environment. We cannot take this for granted anymore. Vote NO on the mountain bike path at Lone Lake Park!

I will be at the meeting on the 26th. I am available for a conversation before that time if you wish.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Eyden

16824 Excelsior Blvd.

Minnetonka, MN 55345

From: Sam Nelson
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 6:03 AM
To: Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>; Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>; minnetonkamtb@gmail.com; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>; Susan Carter <scarter@eminnetonka.com>; Bob Ellingson <bellingson@eminnetonka.com>; Mike Happe <mhappe@eminnetonka.com>; Tim Bergstedt <tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com>; Rebecca Schack <rschack@eminnetonka.com>; Geralyn Barone <gbarone@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Great idea on the MTN bike trail!

I completely support the MTN bike trail idea and live 1.2 miles from it. I’m frustrated with the people against it, as it does not seem like they realize anyone who is into MTN biking also loves nature.

Any support I can give, please let me know. Hopefully Monday’s vote goes well!

Sam Nelson and family
8/20/19

Neka City Council:

I am in Michigan and will not be at the meeting on Lake Park. I live at The Oaks, 5128 Abbott Place. I have signed petitions and attended meetings to show my objection to this project. I have lived in Neka over 40 years and do not feel this is something we need!

Please consider.

Shirley Buchler
Dear Council Members,

My name is Liam Urbanowicz, I am an eighth grader at Hopkins West Junior High. Last year I took up the sport of mountain biking as a way to stay active and manage my mental health.

It is a great way to connect with my dad and I’m trying to get my mom and sister into the sport. Lone Lake mountain bike trails would allow youth and adults easy access to recreation. This would foster relationships, promote physical fitness, and support social emotional well being. These trails would let people get out and enjoy nature while also giving them a workout.

Mountain bikers will work together to preserve the park and trail system. Mountain biking is referred to as a silent sport, as opposed to dirt biking. I believe many residents of the area are confusing the two. Mountain bike trails would help build our community

Please consider voting yes to Lone Lake mountain bike trails. This would be a valued resource within our community that people of all ages could enjoy.

Kind Regards,

-Liam Urbanowicz
Minnetonka, MN

I have two children - ages 12 and 9 who also mountain bike and support these trails. My 12 year old is a current member of the Minnetonka mountain biking team. They both attend schools in Minnetonka - MME and Scenic Heights Elementary.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lori Sylvester

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From: Diane Mintz  
Date: August 23, 2019 at 4:01:33 PM CDT  
To: dcalvert@eminnetonka.com  
Subject: Lone Lake Park

Hi, my name is Diane Mintz. I live in Woodbine Condos at 12700 Sherwood Pl. #109, Mtk.
I am writing to urge you to vote “no” for the Lone Lake Mountain bike park. Please preserve the natural area. There are other places to mountain bike.
Thank You,
Diane Mintz

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From: A K Griff  
Date: August 23, 2019 at 3:43:32 PM CDT  
To: Bob Ellingson <bellingson@eminnetonka.com>, Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>, Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>, "scarter@eminnetonka.com" <scarter@eminnetonka.com>  
Subject: LONE PARK - MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS - VOTE NO

Please use this chance to vote no to Mountain Bikes in Lone Park on 26th August. Thank you. Angela Griffin. Loving Lone Park. Living on Rowland Road. A

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From: George Skinner  
Date: August 23, 2019 at 3:38:42 PM CDT  
To: "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>  
Subject: No to Lone Lake Park mountain bike trails

To: Council Member Deb Calvert (At-Large Seat A)
dcalvert@eminnetonka.com
Re: No to Lone Lake Park mountain bike trails

Dear Council Member Calvert,

The Minnetonka Park Board directed city staff to create an expedited study of Lone Lake Park as a location for mountain bike trails. This was a result of Big Willow Park neighborhood opposition to
proposed mountain bike trails in Big Willow Park. Lone Lake Park neighbors were not given the same
opportunity. Lone Lake neighborhood meetings were never held to discuss mountain bike trails in Lone Lake Park.

Lone Lake Park has extensive developed recreation areas. More notable are the wooded and prairie
areas that provide the park with a rare, out of the city, feel. These natural areas have benefited from
extensive and continuing restoration efforts by city staff and volunteers. The natural areas host a
number of habitats with minimal human intrusion and support a variety of birds or other wildlife that
make Lone Lake Park a special jewel in Minnetonka’s park system.

The park features approximately 2 miles of city maintained multipurpose all-weather trails through its
lovely natural areas. Adding the proposed mountain bike dirt trails of four or more miles in length would
triple the amount of trails snaking through the park’s natural areas. As a volunteer in Minnetonka parks
and other locations I have seen firsthand the damage mountain bikes can cause. Many bikers do not
honor trail closed signs and ride wet trails. Minnetonka’s ordinance restricting bikes to the existing
maintained city trails is often ignored by riders. The resulting bare, rutted dirt trails allow non-native
invasive and noxious weeds to become established in quality natural areas.

Mountain bikers careening through the woods and ripping across the prairies individually or in group
Cyclocross race events will negatively impact Lone Lake Park and its many users who enjoy the quiet
observation of nature and wildlife.

Mountain biking is not a use I wish to see developed in Lone Lake Park.

George Skinner
15330 Lynn Terrace
Minnetonka, MN 55345

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From: Matt Urbanowicz
Date: August 23, 2019 at 2:22:08 PM CDT
To: dcalvert@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Constituent input

Dear Councilmember Calvert:

As my elected representative, I want you to know that I believe I stand with the majority of Minnetonka Citizens when I say that the mission of our Parks Board and by extension our parks and the Council is to get citizens outside using them. We seek to share our parks. The opponents of the measure to add Mountain Bike trails to LLP seek to reserve it for activities they approve of - to the exclusion of all else.

Lone Lake Park is not a nature preserve or a bird/wildlife sanctuary as the opponents of mountain bike trails would have you believe. Moreover, Mountain biking is not incompatible with our parks ecology. To that end, the exaggerations put forth in their promotional video are shameful.

Off-road cycling is a growing sport. The cycling community has demonstrated repeatedly that our volunteer efforts to build & maintain trails & control invasive species more than offset our impact.

Please support mountain biking in Lone Lake Park.
Dear city councilman,

I would like to express my support for the mountain bike trails at Lone Lake Park. I not only live in Minnetonka but own a business close to the park. The majority of customers that come in support the trails being made.

I also think that high school sports should be supported equally and the Minnetonka mountain bike team does not currently have a place to ride in their own town.

Thank you for your time.

Jesse Rask

From: Patrick Nigon
Date: August 23, 2019 at 9:12:10 AM CDT
To: rschack@eminnetonka.com, bellingson@eminnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Proposed Mountain Bike Trail

Hello City Council Members,

I am writing in regards to the proposed mountain bike trail at Lone Lake Park.

I see that this topic has become fairly heated and I’ve seen arguments against the trail such as massive amounts of bike traffic, unruly bikers, wildlife fleeing for calmer environs, introduction of invasive species due to seeds carried by mountain bike tires, erosion problems, and more - all of these leading to the destruction of the peaceful setting of Lone Lake Park.

A lot of the claims against the trail are based on emotions rather than facts and I ask that you weigh the evidence more than the emotions when it comes to these claims. Area trails like Lebanon Hills in Eagan,
Murphy Hanrehan in Savage, Elm Creek in Maple Grove, Theodore Wirth in Minneapolis and Lake Rebecca in Rockford all used to be mostly cross country ski trails and other multi use trails that mountain bikes were allowed on. I grew up mountain biking in the metro area in the early 90's and these trails used to get rutted and washed out often. However, MORC (Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists) has reconstructed these trails using proper trail building techniques and it is a much smaller issue than in the past. Proper trail construction and usage policy can drastically reduce erosion problems.

I believe that you will also find that mountain bikers make great volunteers and are mostly a good group of environmental stewards. All of the trails I mentioned above and several more in the metro area were built and are maintained by volunteers. These volunteers are taught about proper trail construction and maintenance and have also helped with causes such as removing invasive species. Mountain bikers want to bike in beautiful wooded areas and do not wish to destroy our city's peaceful settings.

I recently got back on my mountain bike after a 10 year hiatus and I am having a great time sharing the sport with my 8 year old daughter and 6 year old son. It is a great way to get them outside and exercising while also getting some quality time together as a family. I think that having mountain bike trails in our beautiful city would enhance livability and provide yet another reason for the younger generations to get outside and experience the joy of playing in the woods. Mountain biking has added a great deal to my life - I have traveled to beautiful areas of our country that I otherwise wouldn't have seen and it has made me more interested in things like preservation, geology, ecology and wildlife.

I would love to have a mountain bike trial in Minnetonka and I'm hoping Lone Lake is the place for it. There are people against the trail that seem to be basing most of their arguments on emotions, which means they love their park but it does not mean that they have open minds about this topic. I am not an expert on trail feasibility any more than these detractors, and I ask that you listen to the knowledgeable folks and weigh the facts - please look past claims based on fear and emotion.

Best Regards,

Patrick Nigon

10209 Kingman Lane

Minnetonka, MN 55305

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From: Grace Sheely
Date: Sat, Aug 24, 2019 at 8:17 AM
Subject: Lone Lake and Mountain Biking
To: Deborah Calvert  Rebecca Schack <rschack@eminnetonka.com>, <scarter@eminntonka.com>

Deborah and Rebecca and Susan:

I hope you are not exhausted by the whole Mountain Biking issue in Lone Lake.
I would like to briefly explain why I feel that Mountain Biking is a sport that needs correct accommodations and why Lone Lake is the wrong Minnetonka Park.

I have watched the riding rink become much needed soccer fields. I am not a Lone Lake NIBY. I actually had not spent a much time at Lone Lake Park until last year as I studied the mountain bike issue. I am not against change but I think at best this choice lacks community consensus and needs further choices in a selection process. I think the City has chosen the wrong placement. I would even like to offer up my personal daily park...Purgatory as a better option. Purgatory has a yet to be defined new property and potential for a building/parking lot at the Barn site. Purgatory is adjacent directly to other trail access points. Purgatory can safely be accessed by Minnetonka High school and there is a safe bike trail to it from Hopkins High school.

I do believe that Lone Lake is the Queen Gem of the Minnetonka Park system. If you were dismayed by the Bensman property changing to 12 homes, I believe that the bike use in Lone Lake will at a minimum compact and erode soils. Tree roots birds and insect homes will be impacted. Serenity and peace will be lost. I love Purgatory Park and the sounds of the creek but Lone Lake is a level about Purgatory in its serenity.

I have seen an endangered species, the RUSTY PATCH BUMBLE BEE and photographed it in Lone Lake Park last 8/23. I will not bore you with the photographic proof. I do know from watching it that it is nearly impossible to determine where it nests in the soil, underground. Insects are really not understood but there is a healthy population of insects in Lone Lake and I suspect part of the reason is that soils are not compacted or disturbed there.

Please push staff to collaboratively work with both the park and bike community to find a different location. Lone Lake is a poor choice. I believe that the trail should have save access to both high schools and if possible be longer than the one proposed in Lone Lake. Maybe another option would be to have a 5 mile trail in the City Hall/Ice arena property which is connected by flat bike trail to another 5 mile trail at the Purgatory Park barn site. I see this as being closer to both high schools and much safer.

I hope as you vote, you consider that open space and its uses will become more and more complicated. You can't get space back.

Best wishes as you work to protect my little RUSTY PATCH. I welcome your thoughts for me.
On Aug 24, 2019, at 3:21 PM, Joan Z Carter wrote:

Dear Mayor and City Council People -

Please read the Star Tribune column The Bike Guy, Tony Brown, about Mountain Biking in Minnetonka. It is a balanced view.


Question your point of view. Are you for all Minnetonka residents or do you have a bias?

Please do the responsible thing and vote no on mountain biking in Lone Lake Park. Lone Lake biking is just too divisive. Please insist the City work with the County, at Glen Lake Golf or other parks. Find a solution that works for everyone and is fiscally responsible.

Thank you for your service.

Best-

Joan Carter

15500 Oric Ave

Minnetonka, MN 55345

From: Sue Clark
Date: August 25, 2019 at 3:27:13 PM CDT
To: "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Lone Lake Park

Deb,

Please vote "No" on the mountain biking proposal for Lone Lake Park!
I don't think mountain biking trails can coexist with the wild and natural sanctuary area of the Park; the trails will irreparably harm the Park.
Plus another use of the Park, along with the existing soccer, pickleball, playground, and picnic activities in the Park, will necessitate an expansion of the bathroom facilities and parking areas further encroaching on the Park.
My husband and I live near the Park and worked on the buckthorn removal project of the Park. We feel stewardship and "ownership" of the Park. It needs to be protected!

Sue Clark
5179 Dominick Drive
Minnetonka, MN. 55343
From: Polly Bayrd  
Date: August 25, 2019 at 3:24:41 PM CDT  
To: Tim Bergstedt <tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com>, Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>, Mike Happe <mhappe@eminnetonka.com>, Rebecca Schack <rschack@eminnetonka.com>,  
"dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>, Bob Ellingson <bellingson@eminnetonka.com>, "Scarter@eminnetonka.com" <Scarter@eminnetonka.com>  
Subject: My too long presentation for Lone Lake Park meeting

I am working hard to take eight minutes of points I wanted to make and shrink them down to three minutes. I feel like I am losing a lot of content so decided to send you the long version with the hopes that at least some of you will have time to read it before tomorrow’s meeting.

My name is Polly Bayrd. My husband and I have lived at 5353 Dominick Drive in Minnetonka for 30 years. We love Lone Lake Park.

I plan to offer some historical perspective on the park and on this debate and past debates about appropriate use.

In 1990, the city proposed an active use (ball fields) for the western portion of the park. I and many neighbors and concerned citizens formed a group (Minnetonkans for Natural Parklands) to try to preserve the park as a passive natural area. We collected over 1,100 signatures, wrote letters and articles and spoke at council meetings. I have saved a file from newspaper articles and letters to the council from that time. Sample comments from Minnetonka residents in 1990 include:

February 1990 Letter to Sun Sailor  
“Lone Lake Park was an integral part of my decision to reside in the Beachside area. I value the convenience of Lone Lake Park and I am in my glory when walking or skiing through it. This haven should not become an “amusement park”

Another February 1990 Letter to Sun Sailor  
“Lone Lake Park is the largest quiet wooded natural tract of the city that I can think of. I have walked there alone with my family many times because of its solitude and naturalness. “

March 1990 Letter to city council  
“The city’s own residential questionnaire done in the summer of 1989 showed that 70% of residents supported preserving natural areas. 65% strongly opposed the idea of active development in another lovely park (Purgatory –golf or ball field ideas). 86% of residents said they felt the current mix of recreational opportunities met their needs.”

Happily in 1990 the council listened to our concerns and we were able to keep Lone Lake Park in its natural state.

In 1992 I was appointed to the Park Board and I served eight years, six as chair of the Park Board. We were well aware of the surveys showing that Minnetonka residents love their natural areas and are
environmentally conscious. Park Board, City Staff and City council hired consultants to help us produce the City of Minnetonka Natural Resources Plan. All of us can feel proud of the plan and of Minnetonka’s firm commitment to ecological stewardship and restoration.

The plan summarized the benefits of preserving our natural areas
Protecting a fragile planet for future generations
Recognizing the intrinsic value to the quality of our own lives
Improving opportunities for wildlife
Passive recreation
Ecological Stewardship
Community Aesthetics
Economic

The plan cited research showing that significant ecological changes had already occurred in Minnetonka parks and there was an urgent need for the city to take steps to forestall any further degradation of these resource areas.
City council, city staff and park board and volunteers can feel proud of the steps taken to implement the recommendations and to be good environmental stewards. I will speak to some of the steps done in Lone Lake Park.

- We educated the public about the benefits of prescribed burns and conducted these burns to help eliminate invasive exotic plants
- We have programs for buckthorn and garlic mustard removal and encouraged volunteers to participate
- We created signage to transform the Lone Lake Loop trail into a nature trail. Signs at various locations educate about the lake, prairie wildflowers, forest inhabitants, environmental stewardship and other topics. Signs are sorely in need of repair but content of each sign is still applicable.
- We encouraged or sponsored nature walks and school group field trips focusing on birds, on trees, on spring ephemeral flowers and other natural phenomena.
- We sponsored pollinator events with opportunity to purchase native plants that support bees and butterflies.
- We reconfigured the lower parking lot to support lovely labeled native plantings and address drainage problems and allow contaminants to settle and filter out before entering the lake.
- We organized shoreline plantings along the edge of Lone Lake Park and provided signage to explain the benefits of such a buffer.

I hope to make three points by discussing this background information.

Point 1
The residents of Minnetonka back in 1990 were overwhelmingly in favor of preserving and protecting the city’s natural areas. The majority did not favor active development ideas for natural areas of parkland. The majority expressed that the existing mix of recreational offerings met their needs. If anything, residents are more environmentally conscious and even more protective of the natural areas still existing in the city. The city is more developed now, there are even fewer open spaces or wild areas and there is way more gloom and doom about our environment now. Folks likely appreciate and want to protect natural areas even more than before.

Point 2
The city has really done a good job preserving and enhancing their parks. They have taken many measures to improve various natural areas and prevent further deterioration. This is something we can all feel proud of.

Point 3
The city has done a good job of balancing active and passive use of Lone Lake Park in a way that works well. There is no lack of active use of the park involving all ages. Soccer, basketball, play structures, pickle ball, tennis, sledding, lacrosse are examples. The configuration of the park works for this dual purpose of active higher impact use and more passive quiet and lower impact uses. Active uses tend to be clustered closer to the eastern side near Shady Oak Road while those who want to have peaceful enjoyment and a natural experience use the western trails and areas of the park.

My questions to the council would be”
Do you really think it is wise to reverse this trend of good stewardship for a higher impact use of a natural area?
Do you think that most residents of our city want to see a relatively pristine area cut up and crisscrossed with high impact trails?

I hope the answer to these questions is “NO”.

Thanks for your time.

Polly Bayrd

From: Mary Beth Pottratz
Date: August 25, 2019 at 11:41:30 AM CDT
To: "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Please Vote No on Monday to Mountain Bike Trails at Lone Lake Park

Dear Ms. Calvert,

I urge you to vote on Monday to protect Lone Lake Park by voting no to mountain bike trails as proposed at the park. My reasons are many:

I have seen many Minnesota wildflowers, native trees, shrubs and plants, songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, migratory birds, insects, mammals and other important wildlife in the sections of park slated for MTB trails. Some are uncommon and even endangered. The impact of trail construction will fragment the
important habitats. It will also completely change the character of the park and cause problems for current users.

I have lived, worked and volunteered in Minnetonka for almost three decades. This is not the intended use decided by residents when we approved the $5 million referendum, when the city gave Lone Lake preserve status, when we volunteered thousands of hours restoring Lone Lake Park, and when the city spent hundreds of thousands of approved budget dollars in restoration. I do not understand how the Park Board can approve a proposal that negates many years of past decisions, budgets and work. And what will that precedent mean for the future?

Mountain biking is a wonderful sport for all age groups, a positive activity for our youth, and I give these groups and trails my full support. MTB trails are important for Minnetonka and can exist without destroying precious, irreplaceable assets. There are other areas that can work. Other cities nearby are also providing new trails in much larger parks, where the space is available and the habitat is still natural, without degrading ecologically important areas.

I urge you to redirect the mountain bike trails proposal to a site or sites that are not ecologically important.

Thank you very much.

Mary Beth

Mary Beth Pottratz

From: Judy Kessel  Date: August 25, 2019 at 11:03:19 AM CDT
To: bwiersum@eminnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com, bellingson@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com
Subject: Lone Lake Park Mountain Bike Trail

Dear council members,

We are residents of Minnetonka (3415 Groveland Lane) and moved to Minnetonka because of the quiet, beautiful nature all around us. We believe it is one of the highlights of the area. We are aware of the effort to place a mountain bike course in Lone Lake Park. We frequent the park for walks, pickle ball and bringing our grandchildren there. We strongly oppose the move to put a mountain bike course there because it will make us feel unsafe with our small grandkids, create noise and congestion and most of all disturb the wonderful surroundings and wildlife at the park. There are other places to mountain bike but very few wonderful, large natural parks in the area.

Orrin and Judy Kessel

From: Heidi Gray  Date: August 24, 2019 at 10:02:10 PM CDT
To: bwiersum@eminnetonka.com, dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, scarter@eminnetonka.com,
bellingson@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com

Dear Mayor Wiersum and Council members,

I’m entering one more plea for you to vote to approve the proposed mountain bike trail in Lone Lake Park on Monday.

- Dedicated mountain bike trails will (and already have) create a community of volunteers who care for the trails and surrounding parks.

- Mountain bike trails will make our community an even more desirable place to live by broadening the spectrum of activities available in the City's parks, and at the same time provide a location for local high school mountain bike teams to practice.

- Mountain bike trails in our parks will provide residents a place to ride that can be reached by bike, unlike other metro trails that are 10 to 20 miles away or more.

- The trails will economically benefit local businesses like bike shops and restaurants.

- Having dedicated mountain bike trails in our city will be consistent with Minnetonka's vision as a bike friendly community.

The opposition has concerns about mountain bike trails interfering with other existing trails, environmental concerns regarding the land itself and wildlife habitats, and increased traffic to the park that would threaten the serenity of the park. The proposed trail is in a currently unused part of the park (except for some unofficial trails). This provides a separation between bikers and walkers. Mountain bike trails are narrow dirt trails. There will be no added impervious area, and vegetation removal is minimal. Construction is done by professional contractors in a manner that minimizes impact and erosion. As can be witnessed at other local trails, wildlife coexists seemingly naturally with mountain bike trails. With just under 5 miles of trail proposed, Lone Lake will not be a destination trail for people from all over the metro, but a great amenity to be enjoyed by local residents.

The opposition is putting out many messages that are very negative in nature in an attempt to give the sport and its participants a bad reputation. They even went so far as to hack my Facebook page and put up a negative post on the Mountain Bike Advocates' page. It was shortly removed from the site.

Mountain biking is an activity that combines several key elements, including an appreciation for the natural environment, the joy of participating in an exciting, physically challenging outdoor activity, and the comradery of enjoying the experience with family and friends. I have been a Minnetonka resident just slightly longer than I have been a mountain biker. I have never used any of the city's parks until the prospect of having trails so near home came up. I have spent many hours volunteering, which has taught me much about the parks, the natural environment, and connected me with neighbors who I probably never would have met. Approving the mountain bike trail in Lone Lake park will perpetuate all of those positive experiences for myself and all other users and volunteers.

Please follow the recommendation of the park board and vote to approve the mountain bike trail on Monday night.
Sincere thanks,

Heidi Gray
13800 Knollway Drive South

From: Molly Ekstrand
Date: August 24, 2019 at 7:05:03 PM CDT
To: "<dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Supporting Sustainable Single Track Trails at Lone Lake Park

Good Evening Councilwoman Calvert,

I'm writing in support of the sustainable single track trails proposed in Lone Lake Park. I know that you are likely being barraged with emails about this matter - as evidence by the special email about the 8/26 council meeting. I will keep my email succinct.

1. I believe there is significant disinformation and misunderstandings of what these trails will mean to the park. I believe there will be minimal environmental and acoustical impact to Lone Lake park. This video is nicely done and likely cost a fair amount to professionally produce, but contains significant misinformation. YouTube Against Lone Lake Trails Video
2. Our family has enjoyed cycling for several decades. These sustainable single track trails are different than the Three Rivers Park trails. Our closest single track trails are 12 miles away. As Minnetonka residents and taxpayers, we would like this amenity in our city.
3. 'Athletics' and physical activity for our youth are changing and evolving. Individual sports are becoming more popular. No longer should you need to convene 10 people for a basketball game, or 12 people for a soccer game at the same time and place. These trails will allow our children to be active at their own time and place. Please help me get my kids off the screens! Remember, this initiative was started by the the Mountain Bike Team at Minnetonka several years ago. They must bus kids (and bikes) to even practice. (I do realize the city and school district operate separately)
4. These trails will have positive impact on our local economy as well. From personal experience I know that cyclists will often stop at local restaurants for a bite to eat and a beverage on the front or back end of a ride.
5. Cyclists, ALL the one's that I know, are good people. They volunteer to maintain the trails, clear brush and invasive species. They are not loud, not do they blast heavy metal music while riding (as portrayed in the video).

Please vote in support of these trails on August 26th. I'll be present at the meeting as well.
Highest respects for all you do for our great city, Molly

--

Molly J Ekstrand

15508 Highwood Drive

From: Jeff Strate
Date: August 25, 2019 at 9:07:01 PM CDT
To: Deb Calvert <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Lone Lake Park
Reply-To: Jeff Strate

Good evening Deb,

Thank you in advance for reading my condensed thoughts on the proposed mountain bike trail in Lone Lake Park.

Given nearly two decades of informed experience with similar park and open space issues in Eden Prairie and other suburban communities and my familiarity with Lone Lake Park and now with the mountain bike issue, the Minnetonka City Council has only one good option on Monday August 26: postpone its vote on the proposal.

Regardless of The Minnesota Court Of Appeal’s decision (responding to a law suit against the City) that agreed with the City that it did not need to perform an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) on the proposed trail, that action does NOT provide reason for an approval of the trail.

I list here two of the chief reasons:

1) Residents near Big Willow Park were afforded informational and feedback meetings by your City when a similar and recent proposal for mountain bike trails was made. The City must do the same with residents who live near Lone Lake Park east of Shady Oak Road and the Bren Road neighborhoods.

2) The City’s “Post Plan” for Lone Lake Park provides for a preserve for passive uses like nature trails, overlooks and interpretive programs. A 4.7 mile mountain bike course with bikers careening through 53 acres of big woods with trees pre-dating the American Revolution, is NOT passive or low-impact.

I have bicycled on the mountain bike trails in Theodore Wirth Park, observed established mountain bike trails in Scott, Washington and Crow Wing Counties and have recently browsed YouTube videos made by mountain bikers in other parts of our own metro region.

Mountain Bikers (some wearing helmets fixed with GoPro video cameras on their helmets and ear buds pumping loud music into their heads) speeding through a quiet woods, yelling loudly in excitement as they fly off a trail bump or ramp, curl around a hairpin, crash into a dead fall or scrape through wild
habitats and speed by joggers, walkers and nature study tours are NOT passive users.

These bikers care not one whit for Mother Nature’s gifts when on the bicycles. Their sport channels ValleyFair and the State Fair Midway.

In Lone Lake Park, they would harm the big woods forest and adjacent and critical ecological areas that support Lone Lake Park’s interdependent communities of plants, trees, fungi, insects, birds and other critters. In addition to the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee, 12 bird species of concern to the MN DNR have been identified at Lone Lake Park.

In Lone Lake Park alone, the City has invested 20 years, nearly a quarter million dollars and coordinated and managed hundreds of volunteers to restore LLP’s big woods and prairie areas. Some of those volunteers once worked with me in Birch Island Woods in Eden Prairie.

Informed members of the Friends of Lone Lake Park tell me that the City’s “SEH” report on the trail proposal, although well intended, was NOT based on systemic observations and had no quantified data.

The author of the “SEH” report actually told your Minnetonka Park Board that the report was an opinion and was not based on adequate research at Lone Lake. It is a conjecture! The City Council owes its constituents to treat it as such.

Lone Lake is highly valued by Minnetonka residents for its scenery and natural sound profile with its frogs, toads birds, insects, leaves, big woods and a branch of Nine Mile Creek.

There are no adequate mitigation options for a mountain bike trail in Lone Lake Park. If it’s preserve area is compromised with a mountain bike trail, the preserve is gone for good. The City Council and the mountain bike activists will have killed Lone Lake’s Park’s preserve. Why? There is no acceptable argument when numerous nearby mountain biking circuits are either planned or already operating.

Edina is planning one. Carver Park is opening a 10 mile mountain bike trail circuit this year. Carver Park is 25 times larger than Lone Lake Park.

Other managed local mountain bike trails are in Lebanon Hills Park (Eagan), Elm Creek (Maple Grove), Carver Park (Waconia), Murphy Harrahian Park (Savage), Bertram Chain of Lakes (Monticello), Lake Rebecca (Dakota County), Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Bloomington to Carver). There are other local circuits and scores more outstate.

Minnetonka is highly respected for its natural habitat restoration projects and its stewardship of its beautiful open spaces and parks. Your natural preserves are valued by your residents and ... your neighbors. Mountain bike trails in Big Willow would have betrayed your legacy; the same holds true for Lone Lake Park.

Please honor this legacy and the increasing importance of natural preserves as residents, day visitors and investments in the Minnetonka, Eden Prairie and Hopkins area continue to climb.
Please see my Lone Lake segment on Democratic Visions on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfOP8odF-qg

With warmest regards,

Jeff Strate
15021 Summerhill Drive
Eden Prairie, MN  55346

From: Emily John
Date: August 25, 2019 at 7:30:15 PM CDT
To: "bellingson@eminnetonka.com" <bellingson@eminnetonka.com>, "bwiersum@eminnetonka.com" <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>, "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>, "mhappe@eminnetonka.com" <mhappe@eminnetonka.com>, "rschack@eminnetonka.com" <rschack@eminnetonka.com>, "scarter@eminnetonka.com" <scarter@eminnetonka.com>, "tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com" <tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com>

Subject: Mountain Bike Trails

Hello Minnetonka City Counsel -

I just wanted to send a quick note and let you know that I am very much in support of the Lone Lake Park mountain Biking trails. I have 2 boys at Scenic Heights and we live just down the road from the school. We love Minnetonka and are avid users of many local parks. We also really enjoy biking and I think this would be such an amazing addition to our community while also caring for the park. I hope this side of the argument is getting represented because there are a lot of parents out there who are in support of the trails like us and think the research and planning you’ve already done will responsibly incorporate this into Minnetonka.

Thanks,
Emily John

--

Emily John
Subject: Hopkins highschool team cyclist

I’m a 15 year old mountain biker and hopkins high school student athlete. I would strongly urge you vote yes on the lone lake mountain bike trail system. After attending several of the meetings I have realized nobody has brought into consideration how effective the mountain bike trails would be at getting the younger generation off of technology and outdoors doing something active. Many of my peers do not appreciate the outdoors or their overall fitness as much as I do. By voting yes to these mountain bike trails you would create an easily accessible opportunity for kids like myself to get outdoors, stay healthy, and bring life into a park that has needed it for some time.

Thank you for your time!

From: Tracy Meyer
Date: August 25, 2019 at 5:01:56 PM CDT
To: dcalvert@eminnetonka.com, scaryer@eminnetonka.com, bellingson@eminnetonka.com, rschack@eminnetonka.com, mhappe@eminnetonka.com, tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com

Subject: Preserve Lone Park

Dear Representatives,

Please preserve our beautiful Lone lake Park. Keep mountain bikes out of there. It will change the beauty and peace that is so valuable in this time and day.

Thank you,

Tracy Meyer
6025 chasewood Pkwy

> On Aug 24, 2019, at 3:06 PM, Joan Carter wrote:
> >
> > Dear Rebecca Schack -
> > Thank you for serving on the Minnetonka City Council. I am writing to urge you to vote no on Mountain Biking in Lone Lake. There are other more fiscally responsible plans. Working with Hennepin County is the obvious best solution. The City (Kelly O’Dea at the Park Board meeting) dismissed working with the County outright. The County has money and experience. The site next to Glen Lake Golf course is a win for everyone. Or just teaming with the County at one of their other sites.
> > Charging each resident a flat “fee” on our municipal bill so as not to have a vote on raising taxes is disingenuous and inequitable. Hennepin County was giving out grants to add bike lanes. Several nearby suburbs got these grants to do exactly what Minnetonka wants to do. Instead of working with the county Minnetonka is unethically raising taxes (fee in name only).
> > The whole process has shown lack of leadership by the City management. They have ignored comments, manipulated facts, pit outdoor enthusiasts against outdoor enthusiasts, all to achieve a preordained outcome (biking in Lone Lake).
Please do the fiscally responsible thing and vote no to mountain biking in Lone Lake.
Thank you again for your service.

Best-

Joan Carter
15500 Oric Ave
Minnetonka, MN 55345

From: Grace Sheely
Date: August 26, 2019 at 1:00:53 AM CDT
To: Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>, Tim Bergstedt <tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com>, Mike Happe <mhappe@eminnetonka.com>
Subject: Think Legacy When Voting Monday Please

Hello Brad, Tim and Mike:

First, I am concerned as a local beekeeper about the Rusty Patch Bumblebee which I did photograph in Lone Lake Park on 8/23/18. I won't bore you with the pictures or the extensive outing that was needed to find this endangered species. I do want you to remember that this bee lives in the ground and that ground compaction will reduce its habitat and ability to survive. Mountain Biking is ground compaction.

Second, I believe that there is a lack of consensus on the selection of Lone Lake as the best location of Mountain Bike trails. Something is either wrong with the selection of this park or the process and its ability to generate consensus. Minnetonka residents are unnecessarily divided. This is not a NIBY issue. The bike trail barely meets the length that the bike community wanted/requested.

I do not support any further development or inclusions within Lone Lake Park. Pickle Ball was enough and it already disturbed habitat next to the Rusty Patch’s documented location Lone Lake Park is a unique Minnetonka open space. Please think legacy for our kids and carefully keep this special space for future generations.

I support Mountain Biking in Minnetonka. I would support it even in my backyard favorite and special Purgatory Park. I believe Purgatory is a safer space for Minnetonka students to access bike trails. What is the land with the Purgatory barn going to be used for? Maybe a trail could also be placed behind the City's ice arena/city hall and another trail within Purgatory Park. These two trails both would easily connect with each other along the regular bike trail that runs next to Minnetonka Boulevard.

I believe that Lone Lake Park is the crown jewel of Minnetonka Parks. Residents have said we live here for the open space and parks. Not many of us say we live here for the Mountain Bike Trails.
Please support Mountain Bike trails but not in Lone Lake Park. Think of Legacy and the long term need for green space.

Thank you sincerely,

Grace Sheely

From: BECKY HATCHER  
Date: August 26, 2019 at 10:15:34 AM CDT  
To: "tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com" <tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com>, "mhappe@eminnetonka.com" <mhappe@eminnetonka.com>, "rschack@eminnetonka.com" <rschack@eminnetonka.com>, "scarter@eminnetonka.com" <scarter@eminnetonka.com>, "bellingson@eminnetonka.com" <bellingson@eminnetonka.com>, "dcalvert@eminnetonka.com" <dcalvert@eminnetonka.com>, "bwiersum@eminnetonka.com" <bwiersum@eminnetonka.com>  
Subject: Lone Lake Park

Hello Minnetonka City Council,

I live at 2520 Sylvan Place in our second home in Minnetonka where we've lived for the last 37 years. We raised two children in them and now live in early retirement, loving the green spaces we all share in Minnetonka. We don't live next to a park but depend on being able to use the park of our choice depending on the activity we choose to do.

The idea of a mountain bike trail within Lone Lake Park is excellent. It's time to build the mountain bike trail at Lone Lake. Your council has done a wonderful job of discovery and evaluation and the plans have been carefully prepared. Please vote in favor of the project and end the delay.

Becky Hatcher

From: Rosie Norton  
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:35 AM  
To: Kelly ODea <kodea@eminnetonka.com>  
Subject: mountain bike trail

I have signed the petition against the planned trails. It is too close to private property - it’ll destroy a lot of the park. We do not need this in our “back yard”. Would any of the city council members want this adjoining their properties?? There is enough going on in this corner of Minnetonka. We will have added traffic with light rail. We have added traffic with United Health. We have enough street bike traffic now. Parking will be a problem. There will be cars on Bren Road which is used by pedestrians. Safety is an issue.

We have lots of people who want to continue to enjoy the quiet of the existing trails in Lone Lake Park. Please encourage the city council to vote NO to destroying the park.
Thank you. Rosemary Norton