

Addenda
Minnetonka City Council Meeting
Meeting of May 9, 2022

ITEM 14A – Three Rivers Park District Regional Trails Master Plan

The following are attached:

- Correspondence received after distribution of the packet
- Amended versions of the letter and resolution of support that incorporate changes suggested in the aforementioned correspondence



14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345 | 952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew Kumka, Park and Trail Project Manager

DATE: May 9, 2022

SUBJECT: Change Memo for May 9, 2022 City Council Meeting

ITEM #14A – Three Rivers Park District Regional Trails Master Plan

The following emailed public comment was received after the distribution of the packet.

Staff has reviewed the public comment received and included in the change memo is an addendum version of the letter and resolution of support in which staff does support.

From: Luke Van Santen [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, May 6, 2022 11:03 AM

To: Bradley Schaeppi; Matt Kumka

Cc: Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn

Subject: City Council Meeting 20220509 Agenda Item 14.A - Resolution of support for the Three Rivers Park District Nine Regional Trails Master Plan

Mr. Kumka and Councilmember Schaeppi -

I am unsure whether I am permitted to request, or if there is time to make, changes to the Resolution and accompanying letter being presented per the subject to the City Council, but hope that my comments can be incorporated to the referenced items.

In regards to:

1. Item 1.01 - the trails included in this Master Plan do represent a "desirable recreation ... amenity". However, they do not represent a "non-motorized transportation amenity". Rather, they represent the critical backbone of the regional non-motorized transportation network. Given the incontrovertible role they play in regional non-motorized transportation, I hope this item can be modified to read "providing a desirable recreational amenity and serving as critical components in the regional non-motorized transportation system to the residents of the city and the region."
2. Item 1.02 - the trails provide access to many things, only some of which are "regional recreation amenities". The Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail is a vital non-motorized transportation connection between the village centers at Hwy 101 & Minnetonka Blvd, at Minnetonka Mills, and Hopkins (and beyond). Many people use these trails to travel (not just recreate) between home and work at these destinations daily throughout the year. Some of these travelers also likely access the 7 Hi village center and Minnetonka High School. Additionally, many students at Minnetonka Middle School East (MME) utilize the Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail to travel (again, not recreate) between school and home. The River Bluffs Trail segment that runs through Minnetonka also likely (since I do not travel that segment as often as I do the Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail between Minnetonka and Hopkins, I cannot say for sure) carries numerous travelers between Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, and Hopkins as well as to points beyond (some bike commutes originate in Minnetonka and terminate in St Paul). For these reasons, I hope the second item can be modified to read "will continue to provide safe, easy, convenient, and direct off-street non-motorized access to existing regional recreation amenities, between business districts, and between peoples' homes and work locations."

3. Item 1.04 - While giving Three Rivers the benefit of the doubt as to whether their response to comments has been appropriate (I don't see the updated Master Plan included in these materials and when I try to access them via the Three Rivers Park website I am prompted to login rather than seeing the documents), is it possible to strike the word "appropriately" from this item? Or, can the updated documents be provided some other way in order to verify a) response and b) appropriateness?
4. The draft letter for Mayor Wiersum signature - can the third paragraph be modified similarly to my first bullet item above, to recognize that these trails, while certainly serving as desirable recreational amenities, also serve as vital components in the regional non-motorized transportation network? Perhaps something like "The regional trails and envisioned improvements are consistent with the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Parks and Trail Plan. As such, the city looks forward to working collaboratively with Three Rivers to implement the envisioned improvements and further enhance regional recreation amenities and the non-motorized transportation backbone and network located within our community and that directly and indirectly serves our residents."

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this with me, I am available via phone, text, or email as detailed below.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input!

Luke Van Santen
Minnetonka Universal Bicycling



Resolution No. 2022-XXX

Resolution of support for the Three Rivers Park District Nine Regional Trails Master Plan

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota as follows:

Section 1. Background.

- 1.01. The City of Minnetonka (City) recognizes the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail and the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail included in the Nine Regional Trails Master Plan, as an important component of the regional parks system providing a desirable recreational amenity and serving as critical components in the regional and non-motorized transportation amenity system to the residents of the city and the region.
- 1.02. The Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail and the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail will continue to provide safe, easy, convenient and direct off-street non-motorized access to existing regional recreation amenities between business districts and between peoples' homes and work locations.
- 1.03. The City of Minnetonka recognizes that Three Rivers Park District (Park District) and the directly affected cities, have gathered significant public input in the development of the Nine Regional Trails Master Plan.
- 1.04. The city recognizes that the Park District has drafted the Nine Regional Trails Master Plan and accepted and responded to public comments appropriately.
- 1.05. The Nine Regional Trails Master Plan is consistent with other approved local and regional plans.
- 1.06. The City supports the acquisition, design, implementation, and operation of the Nine Regional Trails pursuant to the Master Plan.

Section 2. Council Action.

- 2.01. The City of Minnetonka supports the Nine Regional Trails Master Plan.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on May 9, 2022.

Brad Wiersum, Mayor

Attest:

Becky Koosman, City Clerk

Action on this resolution:

Motion for adoption:

Seconded by:
Voted in favor of:
Voted against:
Abstained:
Absent:
Resolution adopted.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, at a meeting held on May 9, 2022.

Becky Koosman, City Clerk



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May 9, 2022

Ms. Kelly Grissman
Director of Planning
Three Rivers Park District
3000 Xenium Avenue North
Plymouth, MN 55441

Dear Ms. Grissman,

The City of Minnetonka supports the efforts of Three Rivers Park District to develop a master plan for nine existing regional trails, which includes the Lake Minnetonka and Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trails located within Minnetonka, to meet the requirements of the Metropolitan Council's 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

These trails are fully developed existing facilities that have operated for many years without a master plan and serve as the backbone to our local community's trail network. The city supports the Nine Regional Trails Master Plan's envisioned improvements that will ultimately increase the safety, usability, connectivity, and quality of the nine regional trails, including the regional trail segments located within our community.

The regional trails and envisioned improvements are consistent with the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Parks and Trail Plan. As such, the city looks forward to working collaboratively with Three Rivers to implement the envisioned improvements and further enhance regional recreation **amenities** and the non-motorized **amenities transportation backbone and network** located within our community **and that directly and indirectly serving serve** our residents.

Sincerely,

Brad Wiersum
Mayor
City of Minnetonka

Minnetonka...where quality is our nature