



Addendum

Minnetonka Park Board

Meeting of May 3, 2023

ITEM 7A – Park Habitat Restoration and Maintenance Plans – Purgatory, Hilloway, and Ford Parks

- **Feedback received after the distribution of the Park Board packet**

Emailed comments

Name

Jocelyn Mehle

Full Address

4749 Clear Spring Rd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
USA

Phone

Email

Meeting date

05/03/2023

Agenda item

7.a

Comment

Please consider adding the North leg of the Purgatory creek trail to this plan. The section north of Highway 7 to 101 specifically. The number of birds and wildlife is great, but the ecosystem is being threatened by several invasive species.

Thank you,
City of Minnetonka, MN

From: Angela Moreira < >
Sent: Sunday, April 30, 2023 9:02 AM
To: Matt Kumka <mkumka@minnetonkamn.gov>
Cc: Heather Holm < >
Subject: Purgatory Master Plan

Hi Matt,

We see that the Purgatory Park Master Plan document is to be presented to the park board for review and recommendation for approval. Regarding the savanna plant community target, we would like to suggest a last minute tweak.

Please consider the following changes below.

- Retain fire tolerant trees 12" DBH+, including oaks. Remove *structurally weak trees and those with heavy tops (lollipop trees)*.

Identifying trees to remove based on whether they are fire tolerant or fire intolerant species may make management decisions more straightforward. That would allow for removal of the

following trees currently listed: hackberry, apple, black walnut and black cherry, since they're fire-intolerant.

Consider eliminating this phrase.

- *“Consider retaining non-invasive trees within 20’ of trails to provide shade. Remove Siberian elm, buckthorn, and fruiting box elder in this zone.”*

Having a buffer around trails may be confusing, could negatively impact the restoration outcomes of the adjoining TPC (reduced light), and will create a confusing medley of TPCs and buffers.

Thanks so much!

Heather and Angela

From: Sabrina Harvey >
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 8:38 AM
To: Matt Kumka <mkumka@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Feedback on draft plan for Hilloway

Hi Matt,

I've read the draft plan for Hilloway, mulled over our conversation and goals for the area, and came up with some questions and concerns I'd like to share with you.

Oak Savanna

As I think about maintaining the areas under restoration, I think we have to use fire as an important tool or we will not be able to keep up with the invasives. We talked about this the other day, but I think we should remove the fire intolerant trees in the savanna, such as elm, ash, and black cherry.

Pine Hardwood Woodland

I see that you recommend thinning no more than 5-10% of the pines every year. Although we are both concerned about people's reactions if change is too drastic, I'm concerned that a "tentative" approach will create an explosion of invasive plants that will be very difficult to manage. I'd like to be able to use all the tools we have available, including fire and the forest mower.

I suggest we take a more aggressive approach to restoring this area. The NRMP indicates that the "pine forest" is first priority for restoration – so perhaps we should

focus resources here rather than the aspen woodland. If we begin thinning next fall or winter, we could spend time until then educating people about what we're doing and why. FoMP would want to be very involved in that.

I noticed that you included canopy cover percentages for the oak-aspen woodland and the oak savanna. What is the target canopy cover for the pine woodland?

This is a nit, but I prefer the term woodland rather than forest. Woodland implies a more open canopy – which is what we want to move toward.

If you'd like to discuss this further, please give me a call at

Thank you,

Sabrina