



Conclusion

Planning and implementation of Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail is in various stages. The route for Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through the Cities of Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Richfield is generally established and pending construction, whereas the route through the City of Edina is not yet determined, resulting in a critical gap in the regional trail system and a community underserved by regional trail opportunities.

As currently proposed, Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through the City of Edina is estimated to traverse seven to eight miles and cost between \$17 to \$20 million to develop. As a fully developed community, implementation of a new regional trail in the City of Edina presents a set of concerns and challenges that are specific to the neighborhoods and greater community in which the trail is proposed and which must be considered throughout the planning and development process.

Three Rivers Park District and the City of Edina coordinated a Community Assessment Team (CAT) to identify the concerns and challenges associated with implementing Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail. After a six-month process, the CAT identified numerous social, technical, and economical considerations for evaluating the fourteen alternative trail routes. Although environmental considerations were not a primary role of the CAT, the CAT identified them as an important component in evaluating all trail routes under consideration.

In addition to environmental considerations, the CAT identified the following components as the most significant items for consideration in selecting a preferred regional trail route through the City of Edina.

Social Assessment Priorities:

- Adjacent residential yards

- Proximity of trail to homes

Technical Assessment Priorities:

- Space requirements (available right-of-way)

- Road crossings

- Driveway crossings

Economic Assessment Priorities:

- Preliminary construction estimate

The CAT findings will be available for public review during a 30-day public comment period between June 14, 2010 and July 14, 2010. Upon completion of the public comment period, the CAT findings and a summary of public comments will be forwarded to the Edina City Council and Park District Board of Commissioners for consideration in identifying the preferred regional trail route in late summer/early fall 2010.

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