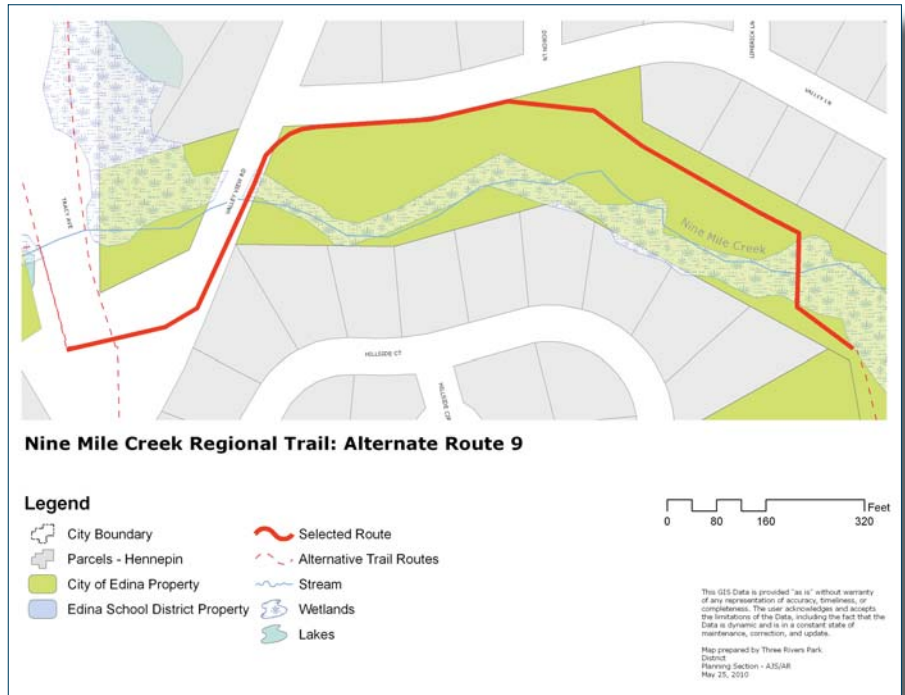


Route 9 Assessment

Tracy Avenue > Valley View Road > Parkland > Heights Park

Overview

Route 9 begins at Tracy Avenue and generally follows the existing sidewalk adjacent Valley View Road east until the first residential property when the route leaves the road right-of-way and follows the parkland adjacent the creek. Boardwalks are proposed in wetland locations. The route is proposed to cross the creek to the south side west of Heights Park. The route ends at the existing pedestrian bridge at Heights Park.



The top photo is representative of the creek corridor. The lower photo shows the existing pedestrian path near Heights Park. This pedestrian path would provide a neighborhood access point to the regional trail along this route.

Economic Assessment

Preliminary Construction Estimate: \$600,000

Route 9 Assessment, cont'd

Tracy Avenue > Valley View Road > Parkland > Heights Park

Social Assessment

<p>Adjacent Residential Yards</p> <p>Different areas of residential property offer varying levels of privacy and access which may be altered by the trail.</p> <p><i>Number of residential front yards</i> 0</p> <p><i>Number of residential side yards</i> 0</p> <p><i>Number of residential back yards</i> 15</p>	<p>Proximity of Adjacent Homes</p> <p>Homes closer to the proposed trail have greater opportunity for potential trail related impacts (visual, noise, privacy).</p> <p><i>Average distance from house to trail</i> 160'</p> <p><i>Average distance from house to property line</i> 60'</p> <p><i>Number of houses < 25 feet</i> 0</p>
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Technical Assessment

<p>Space Requirements</p> <p>If adequate right-of-way is not available, additional easements or street redesign may be required.</p> <p><i>Proposed street redesign: N/A</i></p>	<p>Driveway Crossings</p> <p>Each driveway crossing will result in encounters between trail users and motorists. Each encounter creates an opportunity for an incident.</p> <p><i>Single family driveway crossings</i> 0</p> <p><i>Multi-family driveway crossings</i> 0</p> <p><i>Low turnover commercial crossings</i> 0</p> <p><i>High turnover commercial crossings</i> 0</p> <p><i>Total driveway crossings</i> 0</p>
<p>Road Crossings</p> <p>Each road crossing will result in encounters between trail users and motorists. Each encounter creates an opportunity for an incident.</p> <p><i>Number of road crossings</i> 0</p> <p><i>Speed limit of roads</i> 0</p> <p><i>Average annual daily traffic</i> 0</p> <p><i>Functional Class</i> 0</p>	

Route 9 Assessment, cont'd

Tracy Avenue > Valley View Road > Parkland > Heights Park

CAT Design Recommendations

Route 9 recommendations include improving the Valley Lane bridge as the current bridge is narrow and would not adequately meet regional trail standards.

Additional CAT Member Narrative

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the CAT Member Narrative are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of Three Rivers Park District.

"Sections 9 (and adjacent Section 11) run down a narrow band of open space where Nine Mile Creek meanders through residential communities. A regional trail in this area would be of particular concern for the impact on the environment, water quality, wildlife and residents.

Water Quality concerns

Currently Nine Mile Creek is listed as "impaired" for the pollutants chloride, turbidity, and nutrients (impaired biota). Construction of the proposed Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in Sections 9 and 11 is likely to encounter storm water discharge issues.

Plant and Wildlife concerns

The Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail may adversely affect threatened or endangered plants, as well as the habitat of threatened or endangered animals. Even if the trail does not completely destroy plant or animal habitat, the project could fragment critical habitat. Habitat fragmentation makes it difficult for threatened plants or animals to survive.

Floodway concerns

Because of the lack of land available between residential lots and Nine Mile Creek much of the proposed raised boardwalk will be within the floodway (the current of the creek at high water). Footing sizes, height above creek and structural integrity will pose considerable difficulty.

Recommendation

Based on the impact the Nine Mile Creek Regional trail would have on the environment, alternate routes would be preferred."

- Harvey Johnson, Segment 9 Representative

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