



ThreeRivers
PARK DISTRICT

Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail: Edina
environmental assessment worksheet (EAW)



Overview

- Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail Status
- EAW Purpose
- Area of Study
- EAW Scope
- General EAW Timeline
- Proposed Consultant
- Importance of Resolution of Support for the EAW



Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail Status

- Hopkins/Minnetonka segment complete in 2010
- Richfield segment complete in 2011
- Edina – planning stage; ready to begin EAW analysis for alternative trail routes under consideration
 - *But what is an EAW?*



EAW Purpose

- Determine potential environmental impacts for each of the alternative trail routes under consideration by a qualified, independent third party consultant
- EAW findings will help determine:
 - if any alternative trail routes should be removed from further consideration
 - preferred Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail route through Edina



Area of Study

- Included: All road- and creek-based routes between Hwy 169 and France Avenue
 - ~10 miles
 - 13 alternative trail routes
- Not Included: The existing route between France and Xerxes Avenues



EAW Scope

- EAW identifies project compatibility, potential impacts, proposed mitigation, and/or considered alternatives for:
 - Land use
 - Land cover types
 - Fish, wildlife, and ecologically sensitive resources
 - Water resources
 - Water-related land use management
 - Erosion and sedimentation
 - Water quality
 - Geologic hazards and soil conditions
 - Traffic
 - Air emissions
 - Odors, noise, dust
 - Nearby resources
 - Visual impacts
 - Plan and land use regulation
 - Infrastructure and public services
 - Cumulative potential effects
 - Other potential environmental impacts



EAW Scope, Continued

- EAW does not evaluate or determine:
 - Cost (construction, maintenance, and operations)
 - Potential property value impacts
 - Number of driveway or road crossings
 - Final trail design, location, or construction limits
 - Engineering feasibility
 - Boundary of right-of-way or public property
 - Location or extent of potential easements
 - Utility impacts
 - Public access
 - Potential user experience
 - Public or political preference



General EAW Timeline

- Data Collection: 4 weeks (proposed August start)
- EAW Preparation and Review: 2 weeks
- 30-day comment period/public meetings: 30 days
- Review and prepare responses to EAW comments: 3 weeks
- Present findings EAW findings: 3 weeks
 - Edina City Council
 - Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners
 - Community Member Assessment Team



Proposed Consultant

- Bonestroo; \$64,900
- Proposal Strengths:
 - evaluated all routes equally
 - strong coordination with other regulatory bodies
 - diverse, environmentally focused project team
 - includes conceptual trail design/graphic study
 - determine parking impacts, if any
 - scenic view evaluation
 - evaluation of best management practices
 - 2 public meetings



Importance of Resolution of Support for the EAW

- Development of a regional trail requires a strong partnership between Three Rivers Park District and the local community
- The EAW can provide objective and useful information to help identify a preferred regional trail route through the City of Edina

The resolution reaffirms the partnership, and confirms the City's support for use of an EAW to help determine the preferred alignment



Questions?