

**Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail: Edina Segment**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**June 2010**



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**Why are the City of Edina and Three Rivers Park District planning a regional trail in Edina?**

Ten years ago the City of Edina participated in a joint endeavor with other first-tier communities and Three Rivers Park District to identify potential regional trail corridors within those communities. The joint effort resulted in the 2000 First Tier Trails, Greenways, and Parks Master Plan. The Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail corridor was included in the master plan, and the Edina City Council approved resolutions of support in 2000 and 2003. In 2008 the City of Edina requested the Park District continue planning and implementation efforts for the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail.

**Who approves the trail route, and when will this occur?**

The Edina City Council, Edina Park Board, and the Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners are expected to hold a joint work session to review the Environmental Assessment, Community Assessment Team Analysis, and public comments in late summer/early fall 2010. Following the work session, the Edina City Council will determine and consider approval of a preferred route. The preferred route will then be forwarded to the Edina School District and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District if required, and to the Park District Board of Commissioners for consideration and approval.

If a segment of the trail route is located on Edina School District property, that trail segment will require approval by the Edina School District Board. If any segments of the trail route will parallel Nine Mile Creek, those segments would require approval by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

The Park District Board of Commissioners will be the last party to consider approval of the preferred route. The timing of this approval is contingent on the preceding approvals and may occur in late fall/early winter 2010.

**When will the trail be constructed?**

Trail construction is likely several years away. Prior to construction of any trail segment, the City of Edina must provide the Park District with the necessary easements for locating the trail on public land and right-of-way. Construction timing also will be contingent on available funding and coordination opportunities with Nine Mile Creek restoration and/or road reconstruction projects.

**What trail uses are permitted?**

Regional trails are multi-use and provide opportunities during spring, summer and fall for walking, dog-walking, running/jogging, bicycling, and in-line skating. At this time, winter use is not proposed for the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail, but it may be considered in the future. ATVs and snowmobiles are not permitted.

**Will the trail be open 24 hours a day? Will lights be installed?**

Park District regional trail hours are 5 AM to 10 PM. There are no plans to light the regional trail.

**Will the trail be open year-round?**

The Park District's present policy provides for the operation and maintenance of regional trail corridors from March 31 – November 15. Local municipalities may apply for a winter trail operation and maintenance permit. Some communities choose to groom trails for cross-country skiing, while others choose to plow the trails for walking and winter bicycle use.

**Are trails safe? Who is responsible for public safety?**

There have not been any reports of personal or serious crimes along Park District regional trails, and proactive measures are in place to maintain this level of public safety. Safety and security will be provided through regular patrol by Park District public safety officers, presence of maintenance staff, ongoing patrol by the Park District Trail Patrol Volunteer Program, and the amount and frequency of trail users.

The Park District's Public Safety Department is the law enforcement agency responsible for providing a safe environment along regional trails. The Public Safety Department includes a dedicated trail patrol of two full-time Park Police Officers and five Park Service Officers, supported by the entire Public Safety Department comprised of an additional 25 Police Officers and 11 Park Service Officers. All law enforcement activities will be coordinated with local law enforcement.

**Who is responsible to build, maintain, operate, and fund the trail?**

Three Rivers Park District is responsible for building, maintaining, operating and funding the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail. If the City of Edina elects to obtain a winter use permit, the City would assume maintenance and operation responsibilities during the winter months. The primary funding source for operating costs is Three Rivers Park District property tax revenue, with some revenue received from the State of Minnesota as part of the Operations and Maintenance Fund allocations from the Metropolitan Council.

**How much will the trail cost, and how will trail construction be funded?**

The preliminary planning phase trail construction estimate for the seven to eight miles of Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in the City of Edina is between \$17 and \$20 million.

At this time, the Park District anticipates utilizing a variety of funding sources and partnership opportunities to construct the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail. Potential funding sources and collaborative opportunities for the project may include:

- Federal Surface Transportation Program/Transportation Enhancement funds
- Three Rivers Park District General Obligation Bonds
- Metropolitan Council Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program funding
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Minnesota DNR) Parks and Trails Legacy grant program funds
- Nine Mile Creek Watershed District through an opportunity to partner with creek restoration
- Other governmental agencies through road reconstruction partnership opportunities

**What are the potential environmental impacts of the trail?**

The results of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) are available for public review through July 14, 2010. The EAW indicates that the creek-based routes pose a greater potential for environmental impacts to wetlands, wildlife, and plant communities compared to road-based routes, which pose a greater potential for runoff impacts and parking concerns.

**What measures will be taken to address the privacy of residents along the recommended trail route?**

The Park District will work with the City of Edina to design the trail in a manner that minimizes potential trail impacts on adjacent property owners, and with adjacent property owners to determine the most appropriate ways to preserve privacy along the trail. The Park District has previously employed a variety of methods including slightly shifting the trail away from adjacent properties, planting a vegetative screen, or installing a fence to preserve privacy.

**Is this a joint project with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District?**

If a trail route along the creek is preferred, Three Rivers Park District will work with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to develop the trail and stage construction in a manner that is environmentally sensitive and compatible with creek restoration work and flooding. Trail segments adjacent the creek are eligible for partial funding from the Watershed District.

**Where can I find additional information?**

Please visit [threeriversparks.org/news.aspx](http://threeriversparks.org/news.aspx).

**How do I provide comments?**

Written comments will be accepted by the Park District through 4:30 PM on July 14, 2010. You can submit comments via one of the following methods:

Mail: Three Rivers Park District  
Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail  
3000 Xenium Lane North  
Plymouth, MN 55441

Fax: Three Rivers Park District  
Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail  
763.557.5248

E-mail: [NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org](mailto:NineMileTrail@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org)