

Hiawatha Golf Course Improvements Project - Groundwater Study Update

General Comments – Please submit comments to MPRB staff in person, by email, or by mail.

Dear MPRB,

First, thank you for your presentation on Nov. 29 – public listening sessions are both crucial & appreciated. The presenters were informative, honest, & patient.

First and foremost I appreciate the time & attention you have dedicated to investigating the details of this project thoroughly. In the past two years I have had to leave my home & watch it be demolished to make way for new city development. I know how awful that is. I believe it is of utmost importance to ensure that people living in this area will not suffer damages or lose their homes to the best of our ability, pending the study results. Unfortunately, many people in our city do not get such deep consideration when public infrastructure is "improved" near their homes.

However, I believe the #1 issue at stake is how we proceed in regards to environmental ethics. Right now every decision our city, state, or national govt makes NEEDS to be cued to mitigating negative effects on our natural environment. I believe that Minnesota, and specifically Mpls, are in a key position to lead the rest of the country in these efforts. This project is one of those moments. The number of people who feel this area needs to remain a golf course* ~~is not~~ does not surprise me. I am not a golfer, but I have sports/activities I love, & if the place I enjoyed them faced being shut down, I would be disappointed as well; I empathize with that. However, it is short-sighted. Despite varied interests, maintaining a healthy environment is vital for all citizens. If my preferred place of recreation was being artificially maintained in an inhospitable environment, I would gladly sacrifice it & seek a new venue. The issue is not about trying to shut down a golf course ~~to~~ to create another space for cyclists, walkers, or dog owners; it's not about more trails or paths. It's about doing what we know is right. People have made a lot of poor decisions in the past due to lack of knowledge/foresight, but this does not excuse us to perpetuate them once we ~~have~~ have the wisdom to know better. I look forward to seeing the results of your research

(over →)

*: re: public comment surveys Sept. 15, 2015 meeting

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and data gathering next Spring, but in my heart + mind it seems obvious that continuing to pump 263 million gallons out of a wetland + floodplain can only be detrimental to our land, wildlife, water, + people. Minnesota has lost 90% of its native wetlands. I can vividly see us letting this land return to the way it is, removing our human inputs (mowing, spraying, etc), and being a model of environmental ethics being taken seriously by our governments. I see native wetland plants helping filter out the water entering Lake Hiawatha, mitigating the damage that our storm-waters have done — and people once again swimming there. I see the return of shore birds + kids trying to catch toads. I see innovative city parkland untouched by pavement, parking lots, sports fields, or fences. It may be impossible for some others to see this vision, but I truly believe it is our only choice if we desire to move forward and ensure the long range health of our city.

I look forward to more information as it is gathered over the next six months. Thank you for your work + taking the time to listen.

Sincerely,
Melissa S.
55407