Hi Adam,

A couple thoughts about this play area idea.

In doing some research it seems SW has more parks per square block than other areas of Mpls, so in the interest of equity does it make more sense to invest in those communities?

If so, then here is an alternative idea for the space: A Interactive Environmental Education Zone.

You’re already planning an overlook on top of Nicollet, how about tying that into the lower area with education and interactive (if possible) exhibits about birds, their natural habitat, what climate change means for them, their migrations as well as how they link us with communities in across North, Central and South America. Hummingbirds are pollinators too so that could be linked in.

Maybe there’s a bird feeder down there or like the Oriole feeders at Cedar Lake a season feeder Hummingbirds.

It would be a lower cost project, have lower ongoing maintenance costs, and would preserve environmental areas. You could also pull in partner funding grant-wise and from local group focused on environment and environmental education (I’m think Audubon, Nature Conservancy and the like).

Of course we’d still want to maintain that lower road for access… and one idea someone proposed is to make that a test area for environmentally friendly and/or forward thinking road surfaces.

I’ll put these thoughts in the survey as well.

As always, thank you for your time and your “ear."

Amy Simso Dean

Add extra color to your (or a friend’s) world.
Check out my stained glass at www.ScrappyBirdStainedGlass.com
Hi, I've lived a block from the Parkway for 20 years & S Mpls for 40. My grandma raised my mom in a boarding house at 38th & Pillsbury starting in 1928.

So, I have a lot of experience with our parks, raising a family here, you get the idea.

We have a wealth of parks & playgrounds nearby. We don't need any engineered places along the creek. What we do need is habitat restoration along the creek.

The creek valley should also be a refuge for wildlife, but with all the invasive trees, etc., it's a strange dessert for wildlife instead. Also, kids need a city place to e counter nature "uncurated."

Fix the invasive species & improve the habitat. Thanks
I can't find the online survey, please append my comments to that collection.

Throughout the MPRB system, and especially along Minnehaha Parkway, the biking trails are too narrow to be safe. When rebuilding trails, these need to be widened for everyone's safety.

First, standards for two-wait trails are wider than the trails MPRB is building, with a minimum of 10 feet and a best practice of 12 feet. The park system trails are heavily used, and need to recognize this in the width to which they are designed and built. (Also, no signs or lights or obstructions in that width - or you can't count it!)

Second, it's important engineers remember that a trail width cannot be measured as the width of the pavement. The edges of the one-way trail lane aren't useful space - they need to provide buffer to avoid going over the edge of the curb into the street it's next to, or over the pavement into the mud, or recognize that plant growth infringes on the trail narrowing it. They need to recognize that oncoming bike traffic needs a buffer, too.

On Minnehaha in particular, the many blind corners and tight spots make it unsafe. It's especially problematic because of the very heavy, very wonderful family use. I actively avoid the trail, and tend to take the Parkway because it's safer -- except for the angry drivers who lean on their horns and buzz me because they perceive me as in the way. I don't have an alternative.

Thank you for taking my comment, and for building adequately wide bike (and walk!) trails as we invest tens of millions of dollars in our park system in the near future.

--
612-816-2115 (cell)
2112 Dupont Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55405
Hello Adam, just joining in with other voices you have heard. I am trying to find the actual Master Plan on the website and have opened every document including the email comments on the website but I can’t seem to locate the plan. So forgive me for not referencing the exact line in the plan.

I only want to say, please keep the Minnehaha Parkway open to cars. I am a biker and I love the trails we have. (And I love the new trail under Lyndale Ave. Thank you.) Yet I am also a driver and I adore meandering along the parkway sometimes, particularly at rush hour, when I can enjoy the beauty of the parkway and stay out of the fray. It is a gem for walkers, bikers AND drivers. When I read there would be a portion of the parkway closed to vehicles I felt bereft. So here’s another vote for keeping it open to vehicle traffic.

Thank you for reading.

Courtney Hammond
5949 Clinton Ave, Minneapolis 55419
Hello. I am a resident of Saint Paul and a professor of sociology at Winona State University. I want to express to you my deep concerns about the proposed blocking of Minnehaha Parkway. I know you have heard many comments about this plan. I am weighing at as one who frequently goes out of my way to enjoy the beautiful and tranquil drive down Minnehaha when I am in South Minneapolis. When I have guests in town, I often drive them through the parkway and then to Minnehaha Falls. They are always amazed by this thoroughfare, remarking on how pleasant and humane it feels. This carries over to their view of our cities.

I applaud efforts to slow down traffic and make the parkway even more accessible and friendly for bicyclists and pedestrians. If the speed limit was reduced to 20 mph through the entire parkway, I would still drive it in order to get my sanity fix. But the current plans appear to be designed to eliminate the possibility of motorists using it. And the blockages are incredibly confusing — they will only make traffic on the other streets worse. Certainly there is a way to create a thoroughfare that creates harmony across the constituencies that use it, but this one has only fomented discord.

If nothing else, the extended and widespread public outcry to this proposed plan has demonstrated two things. First, we love Minnehaha Parkway — while riding a bike, walking a trail, sitting on a bench, or driving our car. There are many ways to enjoy this thoroughfare and parkland. Second, the current proposal was not developed with enough community voices at the outset. Please reconsider the larger ramifications of these proposed changes, go back to the drawing board, and this time create a process where you will get community input up front.

Thanks for your consideration,

— Craig Upright
From: Musich, Steffanie D.
To: Arvidson, Adam R.; Barrick, Jeremy
Subject: FW: Right turn on red on Minnehaha Parkway
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 9:16:26 PM

Gentlemen,

Please see the suggestion below about turns on red lights along Minnehaha Parkway.

Sincerely,

Steffanie Musich
Commissioner 5th District
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
612-230-6443 x5

Subscribe to the 5th District Mailing List: http://eepurl.com/QZ_-9
Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/SteffanieMusich
Twitter Feed: www.twitter.com/CommishMusich
Note: If this is a reply to a resident's email that had multiple commissioners copied on it, I am prevented from replying to all by Open Meeting Rules (www.revisor.gov/statutes/?id=13D), replying staff members are able to reply to all and will do so with their response if needed.

From: Justin Doescher <jadoescher@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 13, 2019 10:04 PM
To: Musich, Steffanie D. <SMusich@minneapolisparks.org>
Subject: Right turn on red on Minnehaha Parkway

Hi,

I think allowing right turns on red lights for streets that cross Minnehaha Parkway is dangerous. I have had a few close calls at Chicago and Bloomington Avenues where drivers were turning right on red onto the parkway. Seems like a bad idea for all users and antithetical to the point of the Parkway itself. I'd be happy to talk further about this.

Thanks,

Justin Doescher
612 616 9374
Dear Mr. Arvidson,

As a resident close to Minnehaha Parkway, (55419) I drive this boulevard daily to move from place to place in south Minneapolis. For decades I have driven along Minnehaha Parkway from Nicollet to meet 50th Street by John Burroughs.

I also drive Minnehaha Parkway the opposite direction for many reasons including visiting family members in St. Paul, St. Catherine’s University, friends and frequent activities in the area.

I oppose any restrictions that might be under consideration to alter or restrain complete car access to Minnehaha Parkway.

As a biker, I use the bike paths already in place along the creek. I appreciate the underpass recently installed under Lyndale Avenue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter of great concern to me and to so many in this neighborhood.

Sincerely,

MJ McGregor
(612 377 4789)
Hello Mr. Arvidson,

I am one of the many residents near the intersection of Nicollet and Minnehaha Parkway who will be impacted by the Nicollet Hollow plan currently under discussion. I’ve been to a couple of your meetings, and I’ve heard a lot of points on either side. What I have not heard from you or from anyone is a clear and accurate justification for why this park needs to be built.

I’m trying to stay as open minded as I can before forming a final opinion. What I can say with 100% certainty is that this plan will introduce hardship and inconvenience to those of us who live right up next to the Parkway at Minneapolis. But even with the added inconvenience for me and my neighbors, I am open to the possibility that maybe there is a greater good that needs to be considered. I might be willing to get behind the plan and support it, despite the inconveniences, if I understood what the real reasons for this park plan are.

So far, I have heard the following reasons from you and others (directly or indirectly, so I apologize in advance I attribute something to you that you never said):

1. I have heard claims that this neighborhood needs a local park, and that currently we don’t have parks we can use. In my experience with my own children and other families we know in the neighborhood, is not justified. People close to Nicollet routinely go to Pearl park and others. Crossing under 35W has never been a significant barrier to park access, and Pearl has many more facilities to use than anything you could build at Nicollet.

2. I have heard claims that safety problems need to be addressed, but those problems seem to be primarily near Portland avenue and 50th and perhaps also by Lynnhurst and 50th street. These problem areas can certainly be addressed without the Nicollet Hollow park being part of the solution.

3. I have heard claims that people drive too fast on the parkway and it isn’t safe for bikers and pedestrians, but that is certainly not true on eastbound part of the Parkway near Nicollet. I walk dogs on those streets nearly every day and I am far more endangered by bicyclists who ignore the stop sign just to the west of Nicollet than by automobile traffic. If there are problems on the westbound side, surely those problems could be addressed by speed bumps and additional controls that do not require forcing traffic off of the lower road.

4. I have heard claims that the bike path and pedestrian path just to the west of Nicollet and south of the creek need to be separated. I agree with this one, but there are so many ways this can be done without the introduction of a park.

5. Finally, I have heard the non-specific claim of “we need to do this for environmental reasons”, but I have never heard anything more detailed about this. What specific environmental issues are being addressed by this plan?

Most of us in the neighborhood are reasonable and willing to accept some inconvenient changes if we believe we are getting straight answers and if the inconvenience is justified by some greater good for the city. But so far we have not gotten those straight answers or a clear
rationale for why such drastic changes are warranted. Is there anything you can do to help us understand WHY this is being done rather than just telling us WHAT is being done?

Thanks for you time,

Tim Dean

tim.dean@gmail.com
I am a resident of the area for 30 years+, please preserve the parkway the way it is (except structural for Existing trails, etc.). It is beautiful the way it is. Thank You, Bob Langhorst

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Adam,

I have a few concerns about the draft Parkway Master Plan.

1. I’d like to express my concern about the plan to reconfigure Minnehaha Pkwy south of 50th St at the Lynnhurst Park bldg. I see on the draft master plan that the southbound drive has been eliminated and traffic is rerouted around Burroughs School. I don’t think directing traffic towards and around a school where there are children crossing both 50th St and James Ave is a good idea at all. Keeping the current configuration is safest for pedestrians, especially when the Lynnhurst rec building is moved to the north side of 50th Street.

2. I also wanted you to know that I firmly oppose the plan to erect concrete medians to prevent cars from driving the parkway.

3. As an avid bicyclist, I feel safe biking the Parkway – even during rush hour. There are only two intersections that need to be addressed: 1) the bike path at Cedar Ave – this is a blind intersection for bicyclists and Cedar traffic is moving fast. The road condition is also beyond poor. Biking westbound is another challenge given the steep grade up to Cedar. The good news is that I hear the bike path is planned to be re-routed under Cedar? 2) the bike path at the Parkway/50th St – this intersection just west of Portland is always a problem due the curves of the Parkway and cars not knowing if they should stop for 50th St traffic or not. Maybe move the crossing west one block to avoid the confusing intersection?

Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your time, Steve
Dear Mr Arvidson,

I would like to thank you and the park board for listening to the neighbors in these areas and responding with changes to the plan. Like many people, I am not against sharing the roads and encouraging more people to bike and use public transportation but I drive these intersections a lot and in 20 years have never noticed a backlog of cars or bikes.

Thanks again,

Karen Nemchik
Hello,

I may be late to the comment period but I wanted to write a note. I just read the MinnPost article.

I live in south Minneapolis and I don’t support the idea of making vehicles turn right at certain intersections.

Driving continuously through Minihaha is a great pleasure. Please don’t redirect traffic.

I also bike along Minihaha. I use Minihaha at various times of day. I don’t use it to commute during rush hour.

Thanks for taking my message!

Megan Harrington

Sent from my iPhone
Please NO medians on Minnehaha Parkway. Keep the road open to cars. We do not want to be re-routed or detoured when traveling on the Parkway. Stop being anti-car. Carol and Sean McNamara
Dear Commissioner Meyers and Mr. Arvidson,

Greenhouse gas emission from humans are devastating our planet. Cyclists and pedestrians are all too frequently maimed or killed by drivers on the streets of Minneapolis. Both of these problems are made possible by a city which was irresponsibly designed for expedient travel by car. In light of these crises, the responsible move by MPRB would be to remove cars from the parkways.

Parkways are to be used to access the parks, where people socialize and engage in healthy, recreational activities. Since the parkways themselves are a park, these should be used for active transportation, like walking and biking, not for driving directly to a park, and especially not for a convenient traffic shortcut for drivers.

Pro-car critics of cycling infrastructure will argue that pedestrians and cyclists already have a nice, raised path which is separated from the road. However, these paths cannot reasonably accommodate all users. With a 10 mph speed limit, park users who bike for sport (at speeds of potentially 20 mph or higher) cannot safely (or law-abidingly) ride on the path. Even bike commuters are likely riding over this speed limit. These riders must ride on the parkway and be subjected to 6,000 pickup trucks that are traveling at speeds of 35-40 mph. Why is MPRB catering to motorists, when we see that driving is environmentally and socially destructive, and drivers are not using the parks for their intended purpose?

As the maintainer of the parkway system, MPRB has the duty to ensure that these roads are used responsibly. Given the climate and safety crises that we are all faced with, MPRB needs to step up and ban cars from the parkways.

Sincerely,
Sam Penders
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing with large concerns about the parkway project. I moved close to the parkway for its use and beauty. By closing it off in areas it disrupts the grand rounds and greatly effects the surrounding neighborhoods that are not set up for the increased traffic. I think of how side street and neighborhood parking alone narrows the roads and now heavier traffic offers greater risk for safety concerns, especially in the winter. I often choose to use the parkway to get across town instead of 62, even though it takes me longer to get to my destination, because of the peaceful drive it offers instead of the ugly drive of 62. It literally brings peace and joy to my day and if it is cut off and I am rerouted to 62, it really changes how I feel about living in such a beautiful city. It feels like any other city. It also makes it harder to get around permanently making choosing Minneapolis specifically for it climate and beauty a factor that future home owners will not consider without Minnehaha as a way to travel through south Minneapolis.

I also fear the safety implications that will occur should a park be created by the Nicolette bridge. With 13 and 10 year old girls who love the parkway, I would be nervous to let them go over there for it seems that it is the perfect conditions to create a squatting ground for drugs, drinking, or crimes against children. Having vehicle traffic under that large bridge keeps it safer with constant exposure to passer-bys. I think about how many people I found living under the bridges of the midtown greenways as its just bike traffic or how many broken bottles of alcohol were under the bridges. It seems like an unsafe option for any of our residents, but especially children in the area. I would not even be comfortable letting my girls bike through that area without me if there was not street traffic to keep the area free of squatters.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. I just really want you to know that I have lived in other areas, but my soul finally feels home in Minneapolis. As my family may change in the next couple of years, we have been talking about where we can move to afford a bigger home, but I keep adamant that I am finally at home in south Minneapolis...that I can't live without the parkway in my life. It brings me peace in my chaos and fills my heart with joy wether I am driving, biking, running, or walking.

Thank you for your time!

--
Be Kindness.
Sincerely,
Jen Ziegler
Please put in the concrete barriers to limit traffic on the parkway. You know it's the right decision. Don't let the tyranny of the vocal minority stop progress!!

I live in south Minneapolis.

Please let me know when the next meeting or step is.

Thanks
Evan Mulholland
Hello. My name is Meghan. I grew up in SW Minneapolis, near Lynnhurst park. I now live fairly close to Minnehaha Falls, and love visiting this area, from Wabun to Lake Harriet, with my own children.
I had heard some buzz about redevelopment along Minnehaha Creek, and thought it sounded exciting. However, I recently heard that the plan involves altering Minnehaha Parkway, the road, including in my childhood neighborhood near Lyndale/Lynnhurst. As frequent visitors to that stretch of Minneapolis, I am very concerned about this prospect. As you craft the green spaces around Minnehaha, please preserve access to the creek and the historic Minnehaha Parkway!!
Sincerely,
Meghan Marrinan Feliciano
--
Meghan Marrinan Feliciano
Dear Mr, Arvidson,

I am writing today in regards to the proposed changes to the Minnehaha Parkway. I have lived 2 blocks away from the parkway my entire life. I choose to use the parkway and the connecting Grand Rounds routes to get from my home in South Minneapolis to such areas all around Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs without having to use freeways and other fast past streets. I have a disability and am fortunately still able to drive even though I struggle to walk. Just to get out of the house I often drive the parkway all the way through the city lake system to Memorial Parkway all the way to Brooklyn Center. It's the only way I'm currently able to enjoy the Minnehaha Creek which I used to play in as a child.

While I understand the need for safety for pedestrians and bike riders, taking away the ability to drive this valuable route would not be fair to those who can't walk or bike the area. I absolutely love the 25 MPH speed limit and would not mind 20 or even 15 MPH. Thank you for listening and taking my views into consideration.

Nancy Trottier
To whom it may concern,

That area is already a park. Bring in playground equipment, a drinking fountain, bathrooms, and bike parking will ruin a beautiful, peaceful area. This is a city; there are not a lot of areas like this one around here. This proposal is a dud. There are no shortage of playgrounds in south Minneapolis. Take this idea to an area over in North Minneapolis, where it’s may be wanted or needed.

MJ Garbers
(612)481-0617

Sent from my iPhone
Hi Adam

I have copied out the Nextdoor comments, pro and con, while filtering out back and forth conversations. Have only copied the ones about Nicollet Hollow park, nothing pertaining to traffic or other rants. Note there were 155 comments in total; 18 against the park and 6 for the park. (My initial estimate overestimated the number of park related comments.)

Proposed Park at Nicollet Hollow

Good morning. The Park Board, as part of the Minnehaha Parkway strategic plan, has proposed a park under the Nicollet Bridge on the south side of the creek. I am curious about what you think of the idea - good, bad, or indifferent? As of the revision dated 7/8/19, it states it would consist of the following: Picnicking Restroom enclosure Adventure play - bouldering, swings, etc. Drinking fountain Interactive lighting Public art Creek Access - ADA Creek overlook Bike parking Bike share station Additional parking Specifics can be found on the second page of the document found here: https://www.minneapolisparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/mprtmp_preferred_concept_segment_2.pdf

AGAINST NICOLLET HOLLOW PARK

I think it's a terrible idea. The entire park plan for minnehaha parkway misses the essence of what the parkway is - a park that you move through, whether walking, running, biking, canoeing or driving, enjoying a little oasis of nature in the middle of the city. It is not a destination. Plus it requires them to take down a section of woods to make way for a parking lot and closure of the road. This is already a very isolated area of the parkway - closing the road adds to that isolation and is unsafe. As someone who uses the walking path at very early hours, I would not feel safe if there was no traffic. The parkway, including the road, is iconic and beloved by so many people. I think the plan is misguided and not in touch with the neighborhood.
25 Aug

Nancy Selz

1000% agree with Lisa Erickson. I walk the stretch from Lynnhurst Community Center to Nicollet. Then go up the stairs to Tangletown Gardens. This is one of the most beautiful walking paths on the pkwy. Adding a park at Nicollet hollow would just add chaos instead of calm. I often think that the park planners never use the trails, roads, or walking paths. Otherwise, they'd never come up with these ideas.

25 Aug

Suzanne Silverman

It will become a haven for the homeless. Let’s spend the money instead on finding safe housing for these people. Already in the early morning hours while walking, I’ve come across people sleeping in sleeping bags near there- it can be isolated and is not policed. It is a new version of the K-Mart on Lake Street. Remember, some city planner thought closing Nicollet once was a good idea.

25 Aug

Polly Keppel

Asinine idea. Who comes up with this crap. I think we have too many planners on the Park Board staff and not enough lawn mowers. Bill Keppel

25 Aug

Kathy Peterson

I am not in favor of this Park under the bridge area. It will kill the feeling of the peacefulness of the Park at large. And “man made” play structures will only degrade the intent of the Parkway. PS - as the garbage cans were removed from the Parkway in the area between Lyndale and Nicollet Ave I’m assuming due to cost do we really have $ to spend on this venture when kids are already in a REAL park!already. Let’s just keep what we have in healthy shape and enjoy the true nature the Parkway offers. There are plenty of unused jungle Jim’s and picnic tables around if you need to enjoy them.

25 Aug

Joan Kanavich

☮
Really bad idea. Especially if closing part of the parkway to traffic. Then it's no longer a parkway. The elderly often can't walk that far and enjoy driving the parkway. Totally agree with Lisa, Nancy, and Suzanne. What is the Park Board thinking?????
25 Aug

Kristine Hoover

We have a wealth of nice playgrounds & parks, so I don't see a need for another "engineered" place to enjoy the creek valley here. I'd rather kids have a chance to encounter nature more directly & I treasure the tranquility of the place. I do favor efforts to deal with all the buckthorn, etc. The creek valley should be full of birds & other wildlife, but all the invasive species provide little food & inadequate shelter. This could make the valley look a little spare for a few years, but I think it's a much better investment.

Andrea Childers

We have enough parks. I’m not for this idea.
25 Aug

Martha Shipp

This would be a great idea for the northside. They need it we don’t.
25 Aug

Janis Negratti

There are also plans for picnicking areas along the parkway to include grill, bike racks etc making it, again a destination park rather than what it is - A PARKWAY, a thoroughfare. I don’t think I would like it if I lived on or near the Parkway having smokey grills and picnic crowds in my front yard
25 Aug

Stephanie Fox

You know how the city decides to build a stadium and no amount of opposition will keep it from being done? The city is like this with a lot of things. They’ll build this park. When we object, they will make tiny changes but it'll pretty much be what they want and not what we want.
25 Aug
John O.

The last thing Minneapolis needs is another park when all they propose here already exists in conveniently located neighborhood parks. A couple of years ago the Park Board asked for a $15M referendum to fix up and repair a backlog of existing park conditions. Now they propose to add another park that will require maintenance. This never ends. So easy for the bureaucracy to spend other folks (taxpayer) money.

26 Aug

Ton Beitz

I agree with all of the above except Mr. Starr. Leave the wooded green space AND the continuous Parkway drive. There are plenty of "civilized" parks and precious little "wild" space in this part of Minneapolis.

26 Aug

Jake Reber

I walk that parkway quit often. Its beautiful and peaceful no need to change ANYTHING.

27 Aug

Maureen Mulvaney

Back to the topic....all these plans are about taking out green space and trees. I value the peaceful greenery. What's so wrong about green space and trees? Why do we have to put in all this fancy stuff?
Edited 29 Aug

Patricia Lund

I agree with previous writers that the #1 priority for city/public resources should be more permanent and affordable housing. That will improve the quality of life for everyone in our community. We have ample park space (which I appreciate) already.

6 Sep
Kris Jagers

Beautifying this area is welcome; with better landscaping and improvements to the underside of Nicollet bridge, but this is a terrible location for an isolated, teen-focused park for obvious reasons. Many days it feels true "you just can't fight city hall", but please-- don't give up! I've attended every CAC meeting since March (in regards to Lynnhurst Park) when I first learned about the plans for the major overhaul. I'm still confused about how the CAC committees gather information, but it's abundantly clear that most do not read the surveys, and there definitely does not need to be consensus for approval. While I appreciate the time commitment from the CAC members, the system is definitely flawed, and WAY too rushed. With that said, I DO BELIVE that the surveys (which goes directly to Adam A.'s email), letter writing and showing up to the meetings have an impact. Public outcry has already resulted in the removal of the proposed medians at Lyndale and Nicollet, as well as many other proposed aspects. Members of my block have met with the project manager, Adam Arvidson, on two occasions, which resulted in modification of the Lynnhurst plan to better suit our values. It's still not ideal, (in my opinion)-- but it's better. I'm burnt out, but am not giving up. The parks should reflect the values of the community, so PLEASE keep fighting for the things you value, and let the majority rule.
Edited 9 Sep

Kaari Soderholm

Last place I would want to go for a picnic
5 days ago

FOR NICOLLET HOLLOW PARK

Clark Starr Jr.

This is the area under the bridge right? Where it's currently... dirt? Yeah, sure, sounds like a great idea. It's kind of wasted space now. A nice shady spot would be cool.
26 Aug

Justin Doescher

I think it sounds great, except for the additional parking.
27 Aug

Reuben Collins

, I think it's an awesome idea, except for the parking lot. There is plenty of parking on surrounding streets.

27 Aug

Alex Oenes

, Seems like a great idea. A park in trade for inconveniencing thru-traffic is an okay move (keep your leisurely activities to something a little less dangerous/invasive than driving). However, I'd hope the parking lot either gets tabled or it gets moved to a place that doesn't require any tree removal (we've lost enough in the metro recently). In regards to leisurely drives: I've dealt with traffic on this stretch a lot over the last 10 years. More often than not, there's nothing leisurely about it.

Edited 27 Aug

Doug Peterson

, I want more parks. Yes please, sounds great. In fact, it's already a park so this isn't even a new park.

27 Aug

Anthony Thompson

, I am open to it. Fuller is the closest park and it's not that close. If they can keep the parkway moving and have this space too I'm interested... The homelessness concerns I don't get.

9 Sep
To: Al Giesen <agiesen@stonemurphy.com>
Subject: RE: Parkway Master plan

Al: Thanks for passing this along. I’m not on NextDoor really at all... for my own sanity, as I’m sure you can understand. But I would be interested in commentary on the park in particular if you’re able/willing to share.

Adam.

Adam Regn Arvidson, PLA, FASLA
Director of Strategic Planning
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
612-230-6470
aarvidson@minneapolisparks.org

From: Al Giesen <agiesen@stonemurphy.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 12:03 PM
To: Arvidson, Adam R. <AArvidson@minneapolisparks.org>
Subject: Parkway Master plan

Hi Adam
Do you follow Nextdoor? If so, you may be aware of a posting I made asking for comments about the park under Nicollet. The topic quickly devolved to comments about limiting access to autos. I think this experience is exactly what would happen at the first CAC meeting if it doesn’t specifically address limiting auto access.

Of the 140+ comments, I estimate only 30-40 addressed the topic of the park. By the way, those comments ran at least 10:1 against the idea of a park under Nicellet.

So you know, I think I was quite neutral with my posting – it reads as follows. If you are on Nextdoor, the posting is here; https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=121873448 . If you are not on Nextdoor, I would be happy to send you the comments.

Proposed Park at Nicollet Hollow

Good morning. The Park Board, as part of the Minnehaha Parkway strategic plan, has proposed a park under the Nicollet Bridge on the south side of the creek. I am curious about what you think of the idea - good, bad, or indifferent? As of the revision dated 7/8/19, it states it would consist of the following:

- Picnicking
- Restroom enclosure
- Adventure play - bouldering, swings, etc.
- Drinking fountain
- Interactive lighting
Public art
Creek Access - ADA
Creek overlook
Bike parking
Bike share station
Additional parking

Specifics can be found on the second page of the document found here:

Al Giesen | Managing Director | Stone Murphy
(763) 591-2300 | www.stonemurphy.com
5500 Wayzata Blvd | Suite 1020 | Minneapolis, MN | 55416
agiesen@stonemurphy.com
Please note that myself and every neighbor I have spoken to about this closure is against it. We all love a nice playground, but we love having one of the most beautiful thoroughfares in the midwest much more.

The idea that closing MP off and rerouting traffic onto residential streets is just sad and ridiculous. It works as is, as it was intended to.....as a thoroughfare thru the city's urban forest! There are significant reasons that it was designed this way and it brings an extraordinary amount value for everyone right now. I sincerely question any motive to close it off as it seems completely exclusionary and unnecessary.

For whom are these changes being made?
It surely doesn't seem to be meant to support a majority of Minneapolis residents, just a selective few.

Please stop this horrible plan now.

I wonder what Theodore Wirth would have to say about this?

Carla Gesell
Hello Adam and Brad,

I am confused as to why the decision has been made to close the parkway. It is a beautiful drive which neighbors enjoy and use daily. It is a treasured drive by guests to our city. I don't ever see the road as problematic or infringing on bikers, joggers, walkers or neighbors. I am curious about the reasons for doing this. I would like to know if the decision makers live in our neighborhood and were stakeholders who DO live here consulted? Is the issue that the city doesn't want to maintain the road? Have there been complaints of some sort that neighbors are not aware of?

This closure will greatly increase traffic congestion on Nicollet, Lyndale and other neighborhood streets when there is road construction and snowy driving conditions. The parkway is an excellent, safe alternative and it is a calming, enjoyable drive.

More information on this process would be very much appreciated. Please please don't close our parkway road.

Thank you,
Becky
Adam and Brad,

Please do not close our Minnehaha Parkway roads. We live a block away from the parkway and use it regularly to get to our parks, lakes, and Hiawatha Golf Course. It's peaceful, it's safe, and it is one of Minneapolis' treasures. Please do not take it away us. There are lots of other ways to improve our parkway and our parks.

Thanks.

John

--
John Wood
jwood1002@gmail.com
5428 Pleasant Ave So
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-824-3898
We are opposed to any restrictions to cars on the parkways. We have lived here most of our adult lives and our taxes have helped build this beautiful city. Now that we're retired and don't get around as well as we used to, we rely on our car more than ever. Please don't further limit our access.
Dear Mr. Arvidson, Mr. Swenson, and Mr. Schroeder,

Please do NOT close Minnehaha Parkway to vehicle traffic.

Our family depends upon these roads for enjoyment and peace of mind. My husband, whose work is very demanding, relies on driving on Minnehaha Parkway to and from work to bring peace to his day. My parents who are in their 90's LOVE taking a drive along Minnehaha Parkway so that they can enjoy our city's parks and greenery. I, myself, seek out this route so that I may enjoy our parks while I am doing errands. When visitors come to see Minneapolis, it is with pride that I drive them along the creek.

Being able to drive next to the creek makes our parklands more accessible for more people. My parents would never be able to walk next to it. My husband would never have the time to enjoy the parks with his busy schedule without the road being open. I would feel more frustrations in my own day without being able to enjoy the beauty of Minnehaha Creek while I am going about my business. Having this road barricaded would restrict enjoyment of our parks for many people who don't have the ability to enjoy it in other ways besides driving.

The Grand Rounds is what makes the city of Minneapolis unique. It is our pride and joy. Please do not ruin that by making it only for those who are on foot.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Alice O'Hara
4332 Fremont Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55409
Dear Mr Arvidson,

Minnehaha Parkway provides a beautiful route to traverse our beautiful city, be it walking, running, biking, or driving. The idea of closing a segment of roadway is misguided and ignores the wishes of 90% of the neighborhood. I bike and run along this parkway multiple times a week, and I appreciate the great running and biking trails. It is one of the main reasons I love Minneapolis. I also frequently drive the parkway, especially when I want a more scenic route. Bike and car traffic is wonderfully segregated. I never see conflicts between cars and pedestrians/bikes. This idea of closing this roadway is truly a solution in search of a problem. It is almost on par with the foolish 1960's decision to close one block of Nicollet Ave at Lake Street. I appreciate that this plan was devised with the best of intentions, but it truly is a horrible idea. And it ignores the wishes of the residents the Park Board is supposed to serve.

I am active in DFL politics. If a foolish idea like this becomes reality, I will do everything in my power to change the people who populate the Park Board that voted for this.

Ryan Pulkrabek
5440 Clinton Ave S
Hello-

I am writing to express my disapproval of the plan to eliminate car traffic on Minnehaha Parkway between 50th/Lynnhurst and Cedar Ave.

When hosting guests who have never been to Minneapolis before, I almost always take them through this stretch when returning from the airport to Linden Hills. It is such a beautiful, peaceful drive and it avoids a lot of traffic.

I have also biked on the adjacent bike path and never had a problem with the vehicle traffic on the street.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Robert Nichols
4600 Xerxes Avenue South
Dear Adam-
As a transplant to MN, it has been my pattern to show off our beautiful city by driving any visitors down the parkway. The idea to break up this street would destroy one of the greatest gems in our city!

I don’t see a conflict with bikers, pedestrians or anyone currently using the parkway. I have biked, walked, in the past run & used rollerblades with no issues.

Please let this idea die! It wouldn’t benefit our city at all, but would degrade it most definitely, in my opinion.

Respectfully—a concerned citizen,

Julie Danielson

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mr. Arvidson

I am writing to express my deep disappointment in learning of the planned blocking of the Minnehaha parkway.

I moved in 1993 to the 53rd street and 1st Ave location for the very reason of being able to walk and drive this incredible jewel of Minneapolis.

I have driven it to work for the past 25 years and it is such a joy to drive the serene nature laden parkway as opposed to some noisy, crowded freeway.

I was Director of Delis for Lunds and Byerly’s for over a decade with our offices in downtown Edina. What a wonderful way to drive to and from work. Now I am Director of Delis for Jerry’s and drive the same drive only 1 mile further. This change would force me on busy city streets and make for added time for the commute due to the congestion and indirect route.

The whole park system was designed around the beautiful lakes we have and connecting them to the glorious Minnehaha falls.

I drive my 97 year old mother from her assisted living from Golden Valley down Theodore Worth parkway to Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, Calhoun, Harriet to my home on first Ave every Sunday. We used to go all the way to the falls, until the park board decided it was a good idea to block the end view of the falls from the eastern viewing point, making it inaccessible to anyone who has a disability or elderly and frail. That also was a mistake.

The parks belong to EVERYONE, not just a few select people. I also ride bicycle – but I find plenty of room on the paths and trails to meet every need.

We have walking and biking trails that are the envy of many many cities – it is not as if bicycles are forced to take the parkway road because there is not a bicycle trail between Portland and Bouroughs school. Those bike paths are some of the loveliest of the whole trail.

We sold our house and moved to our current street in 1993 BECAUSE of the parkway – and urban escape from taking city streets and freeways.

Changing this will affect almost every trip I take in my car – my 2 daily commutes, every trip to the gym on Lyndale, the grocery store on Lyndale, (Kowalskis), the dry cleaners, pharmacy, and gas station. We are truly a community and this is highly disruptive.

This proposed change will drastically affect our current wonderful way of life in Tangletown.

I plead with you to heed the changes we made in our lives to create the wonderful life we have and NOT block what IS a crown jewel of our parks.

I have had many international business associates over the years that I have driven around the chain of lakes and continued on the parkway to our beautiful falls. People from all over the world are amazed at our city’s commitment to such beautiful urban accomplishment.

This plan will destroy that wonderful treasure.

I was unable to attend the community meeting as I was in NY on business.

We are the residents that pay the higher taxes for the privilege to live by the parkway. People who do not pay those higher taxes should not be making all the decisions on
important matters that will affect our daily life many times per day. Please take our concerns seriously. We are not curmudgeons that are opposed to change – but we are opposed to change that will not benefit everyone – the elderly, the immobile, the people who live and walk and pick up trash as we enjoy our walks in this rare urban environment.

Byron Hanson
Deli Product Director
Jerry’s Enterprises

bhanson@jerrysfoods.com
Mobile:  612-760-5715
Dear Adam,

Please preserve the parkway- as residents of the neighborhood and parents with multiple children at Burroughs it is crucial to keep that right turn on to the parkway at 50th Street. There are times when you cannot make a left out of the parking lot and this will force tremendous traffic back up on 50th (which is already busy) and force drivers to have to go a far distance east before ever being able to go south or west to work, home, other schools, etc. I understand some changes with the creek may be needed, but we don't want to lose this crucial road. I hope you will take note and help us!

Libby