

**From:** [Julie Young Walser](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]38 Acres of SWLRT "Remnant Lands"  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 11:03:01 AM

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Dear Emma Pachuta,

I'm writing to ask you to please incorporate the SWLRT "remnant lands" into the Cedar-Isles master planning process. After SWLRT is completed, these 38 acres of land are intended to be retained in public ownership according to the MOA between the Met Council and the City of Minneapolis. I'm asking that the land be included in the plan, and that the plan specify that the lands remain open and undeveloped.

As a teacher at nearby Kenwood Elementary School (Minneapolis Public Schools) I frequently brought my class to this area to work on restoration by nurturing pollinator-friendly seed distribution and native species plants, to study the local watershed, write poetry, and (especially important to urban kids) just to BE outdoors in an undeveloped, natural setting. My students frequently reported that spending time outside on these lands was a favorite and most influential part of their school experience.

That these "remnant lands" remain open and un-developed is crucial. Japanese scientists have found that being in nature is beneficial to human health in many ways. Experiences in nature have been proven to lower blood pressure, pulse rate, and cortisol levels, and improve mood. My students could have hands-on math and science lessons and also see health benefits in real time by checking their own vital signs before and after time spent in the open, natural area to the east of the bike path, now referred to as the SWLRT "remnant lands."

Melanie Choukas-Bradley in [The Joy of Forest Bathing](#) states, "The physical, mental, and emotional health benefits of time spent in nature have been corroborated and augmented by researchers in South Korea, China, the U.K., Europe, and North America." The pandemic, social-justice issues, climate change, and war are wildly increasing stress and anxiety levels, making it more important than ever to protect natural spaces - particularly in urban areas.

People in Minneapolis will greatly benefit by keeping the 38 acres of SWLRT "remnant lands" open and undeveloped. Please include this element in the Cedar-Isles master plan concept design.

Thank you,

Julie Young Walser  
Minneapolis Resident

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**From:** [Susan DeMaris](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Additional Thoughts - Support for Modified Living Lakes Plan  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 10:19:13 AM

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Sorry to add to your inbox again, but we live very close to the skating rink and warming hut. The hut was in great disrepair and was not maintained until concerned neighbors donated the funds, design, etc. to update the warming hut. How will we fund upkeep for all the new hardscape for the Distinct Lake Plan?

I love our community events on and around the lakes, but I think that all the Loppet events and Medtronic/and other races are plenty for the lake/fragile natural resource to handle.

I would support a modified Living Lakes Plan (Plan A), but I am not supporting the Distinct Lakes concept and very concerned for the impact that Plan B

Thank you again for your time.

Susan DeMaris

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**From:** [Perl, Justin](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar and Isles  
**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 4:09:51 PM

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I want to voice my strong concern against Plan B. Having lived near Cedar Lake most of my life, I am concerned that the natural beauty it now provides will be destroyed by man made structures. There is nowhere else in Minneapolis people can feel like they are in the north woods, and EVERYONE should be able to enjoy that. Please don't take it away (like was done with the destruction of the urban forest at Kenilworth by a different entity). Thanks for listening.

Justin Perl

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** [X. Coe](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Lake - Lake of the Isles Master Plan  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 5:13:42 AM

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Dear Ms. Pachuta,

To my mind, lake and ecosystem resilience **must** be the number one priority for any design that is implemented. For this reason, I cannot support the "Distinct Lakes" plan (B), whereas I could support the modified "Living Lakes" plan (A). Here are the four areas of major concern I have regarding plans for Cedar and Lake of the Isles:

**1. Preservation of Lakes Ecosystems.** If we do not protect and conserve these already overused natural resources, they will be depleted. We have beautiful lakes at the center of this city: let's appreciate them, not pave over them.

**2. Natural vs. Built Recreational Environment.** The "Distinct Lakes" plan builds *significantly* more hardscape into parklands. Why do we need more pavement, boardwalks and infrastructure if the point is to improve access to and enjoyment of nature? We don't have a dearth of concrete in this city: we certainly don't need to be adding more concrete to our lake landscapes. It makes me wonder what planners think "parkland" should mean. Concrete corridors with planters? Nicollet Mall?

**3. Equitable Access.** These plans (yet to be priced out) propose significant further investment in an already economically prosperous, well-developed area of the city. Shouldn't we be investing more in neighborhoods where safe, beautiful, natural spaces are scarce?

**4. Maintenance Costs.** MPRB is already challenged by the cost of maintaining current infrastructure. What is the long-term maintenance plan for keeping existing infrastructure usable and safe? Maintenance is not a fun issue but it's a crucial one, and we shouldn't be planning for more costly infrastructure until we have solid plans and budgets in place to maintain what already exists. We've seen the results of neglecting maintenance, and they aren't pretty.

I appreciate your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Alexandra Coe

[Redacted signature block]

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**From:** [james kirkham](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Lake Lake of Isles Master Plan  
**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 6:15:33 PM

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Dear Emma

Ecosystem and nature should be the main focus of the master plan.

Building boardwalks and infrastructure will not improve these lakes

Modifying Plan A living lakes without boardwalks is what Shelly Marette, my wife and I support.

Building hard scape is contrary to the goal of natural environment parks

Maintenance costs are prohibitive with a tight Park Board budget and less wealthy areas of our city should be the focus of those financial resources.

Thanks for all your hard work on this!

Jim Kirkham  
Shelly Marette



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**From:** [Donna Hoffman](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Lake plans  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 8:27:24 PM

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Hi Emma,

Elizabeth Schaeffer sent along the two plans being proposed for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake. In the first plan there is mention of changing the traffic pattern around Cedar Lake to become one way. As a resident of Bryn Mawr we have only two options for traveling to Lake Calhoun and points south: 394 or Cedar Lake Rd. Our neighborhood has already been negatively affected by the construction of Highway 394, which bisected Bryn Mawr, and now the construction of light rail. The plan to convert the traffic around Cedar Lake to one way will further severely limit our ability to travel to the south metro. I love looking at, and being active by Cedar Lake; walking, biking, kayaking, and swimming. Driving around it makes the trip slower and more peaceful when I do need to be in the car. Please be responsive to the needs of the community of Bryn Mawr, as a change in traffic pattern will have a drastic affect on our DAILY lives. It's bad enough that I have to actually get on and off Highway 394 just to get to Uptown. Don't make our second option more cumbersome, too.

Donna Hoffman

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Charles VanDeWeghe](#)  
**To:** [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#); [Forney, Meg A.](#); [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Lake/Lake of the Isle Master Plan  
**Date:** Monday, March 7, 2022 3:19:11 PM

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Elizabeth, Meg and Emma. My wife and I live in Lowry Hill, and regularly walk or bike around Lake of the Isles. I cherish the park surrounding Lake of the Isles, so I am keenly interested in any plans for its improvement.

I spent some time on your website learning more about the two concepts being considered for improving the park areas surrounding Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles. I applaud this early R&D effort and look forward to learning more about your plans as this planning process evolves in the coming months. I do have a few questions regarding these concepts.

- In both concepts it appears that the plan is to move all bike traffic to dedicated bike lanes on the existing parkways.
  - Does this mean that the existing paved bike paths would be removed, or would the parkway bike lanes be in addition to the existing bike path?
  - How would the addition of dedicated bike paths on the parkways impact space for car parking?
- In both concepts there is mention of a possible closure of Lake of the Isles Parkway along the northeast corner of the lake.
  - Would this closure be permanent or temporary?
  - If temporary, what conditions/activities would warrant its closure?

Thanks again for your efforts to further improve our already specular park system. I look forward to your reply.

[Charles R. \(Chuck\) Van De Weghe](#)



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**From:** [Mariana Quiroga](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 7:36:31 PM

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Hello Emma,

As I resident of Minneapolis, I am writing today regarding the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan.

My husband and I moved to Minneapolis because if the wonderful natural setting of the lakes - unique in an urban area to have something do natural.

When seeing these plans, we definitely do not support the "Distinct Lakes" plan (Plan B).

"Living Lakes" (Plan A) could maybe have our support if it keeps the lakes as natural as possible, with no xtra infrastructure. People LOVE how natural these lakes are. Cedar has beautiful walking woods and a “hidden” beach that makes everyone feels like they are very far away from the city. No one I talk to wants anything there to feel built and full of Infrastructure... for that, frankly, people go to other places like suburban locations. Do not kill the natural magic of our urban nature!

Thanks for your consideration.

Regards,  
Mariana Quiroga

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**From:** [Steve Young](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 4:10:12 PM

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Emma,

I haven't been able to make the last couple meetings. Can you tell me where we stand on getting a walking and/or biking path around all of Cedar Lake? The homeowners are trespassing on MPRB property without any repercussions. I think it's time the MPRB asserts its ownership of its land.

Thanks, Steve

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Steven Young  
Arbor Commercial Group, LLC

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 4:40:46 PM

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Hello Emma,

I am writing to tell let you know my thoughts about the Master Plan for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles. I lived on Lake of the Isles for many years before moving to SE Minneapolis in a high rise. Now that we have grandchildren, we want to more time back on the extraordinary chain of lakes especially Cedar Lake. To be able to access the beach with its clean water, wooded trails in all seasons is a gift we all want to share with our families. The Living Lakes Concept (Part A) that prioritizes rewilding and maximizes natural water quality improvement is an opportunity for Minneapolis to pass this experience and appreciation of wild spaces to the current and future generations.

My concern is that we also need to protect and conserve our already overused lakes. By creating additional hardscapes, boardwalks and infrastructure that impacts the currently strained ecosystems seems to defeat the purpose. Since we already have a great number of paved trails around Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles, do we want more? I also remember when there was a boardwalk around the north end of Lake of the Isles. They were lovely at first but over the course of the summer, they collected green algae and trash and had a "low tide" smell. It doesn't appear that the boardwalk experiment was successful from either environmental or maintenance perspectives.

In addition, Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles are developed and serving economically prosperous areas of Minneapolis. Shouldn't our first priority be to invest in other areas of the city that also deserve to have beautiful natural parks, as well? And if MPRB would have to add costly infrastructure to its strapped portfolio, how can we afford to maintain these additions in generations to come? I hope we can allow Cedar - Isles to stay as natural and wild as possible and focus our work to create equitable sustainable green space for the rest of Minneapolis.

I appreciate your consideration,

Regards,

Frances Wilkinson

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**From:** [Julie Zelle](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar-Isles Master Plan Survey, comments  
**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 5:05:53 PM

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Dear Emma,

I am writing today regarding the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan.

It is my *firm* conviction that lake and ecosystem resilience is the number one priority for any design that is implemented. For this reason, I do not support the "Distinct Lakes" plan (Plan B) and could support a modified "Living Lakes" (Plan A). I have four main concerns that apply to the entire project. They are:

**1. #1 Priority: Preservation of Lakes Ecosystems.** If we do not protect and conserve these already overused natural resources, they will be depleted and ultimately cease to be usable by anyone, including the plants and animals who call them home. For this reason, I support a modified "Living Lakes" plan (Plan A).

**2. Natural vs. Built Recreational Environment.** The "Distinct Lakes" plan builds significantly more hardscape into natural environments unique to our city. Why do we need more pavement, boardwalks and infrastructure if the purpose is to create access to and enjoyment of the outdoors? We have already have plenty of paved trails around the Chain of Lakes.

**3. Equitable Access.** These plans, that have yet to be priced out, require more investment in an already built up, economically prosperous area of the city. If equity is truly a priority, shouldn't we be investing in parks in neighborhoods where safe, beautiful, natural spaces are scarce?

**4. Saddling Future Generations with Maintenance Costs.** MPRB cannot afford the infrastructure it has today. How can it afford to add more costly infrastructure to its portfolio? What is the long-term maintenance plan for keeping the infrastructure usable and safe? And how will we pay for it if we already are stretched to maintain what we have?

Thanks very much for your consideration.

Best,  
Julie Zelle



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar-Isles Master Plan  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 10:19:46 AM

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Good morning Emma,

We have submitted the survey on the PB plans for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles, but would like to add a few last minute thoughts that might be part of the on-going discussion.

We have, and will continue to support, all efforts to protect, maintain and upgrade (if necessary) measures to insure that the shoreline and water quality of these lakes remain safe and pristine, for all to share.

As improvements and additional amenities to the lakes are considered, we believe that it is important to keep in mind that people of all ages enjoy the lakes and parks and use them differently as they pass through the various stages of life.

For example: as young city homeowners, we biked along Cedar and Lake of the Isles and sometimes included Lake Harriet; each of these routes were unique and offered a different experience. Later, we enjoyed Cedar Beach and the ice rink at Isles with our young son. We rented space on the canoe racks on Cedar and eventually cross country skied on Cedar Lake. As our son matured, he developed an interest in sailing. He learned to sail and obtained a slip for his boat on Lake Calhoun (as it was named then.) He also fished from the shores of Cedar. How lucky we have been to live in a city that offered these and so many other amenities, to commune with nature!

Today, we are no longer pursue these activities. However, we continue to walk the paths along the four lakes in our vicinity. Each of them remain unique; some are more active and some offer a park bench and a quiet spot in which to rest and contemplate nature. Often we share the path with residents from Jones Harrison on walkers or in wheelchairs, enjoying the quiet path and fresh air. Occasionally, they reach out to pet our dog or comment on the weather.

Each stage of life brings new opportunities for enjoying the outdoors; but every lake by its very nature, does not encourage all activities.

We support improvement and the desire to invite broader audiences to enjoy the Lakes. However, the Park Board would be remiss if they failed to maintain the existing quiet respites that allow young or old to rest and enjoy the views, while watching the birds, ducks, herons, turtles and squirrels in their habitats. The unique qualities of each lake and the inspired vision of Theodore Wirth should guide the planners as they move forward with the Master Plan for the next 20 years.

Thank you,  
Gretchen and Doug Gildner

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**From:** [Jody Strakosch](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]; [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar-Isles redesign  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 9:09:34 PM

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Elizabeth and Emma, thank you for soliciting input from the community regarding the Cedar-Isles proposed redesign. I have attended a couple of the meetings and appreciate that you are seeking community input.

I sent in my comments on the MPRB “new” mission statement - I understand that you are focused on a more specific issue. But, I thought one area of concern with the revised mission statement actually resonates with my comments on the Cedar-Isles redesign. Basically, my concerns are about overreach and trying to “do too much”, which, while laudable, doesn’t necessarily help with the issues at hand. We should not try to make the 4 Lakes of the City a “tourist” destination. We have a lovely GREEN space to protect and nurture; adding cement takes away from this.

Overall, I agree with protecting the water and the Lakes. This should be a sacrosanct principle and anything we can do to help protect the Lakes is a good thing. I question the next principles of “invite, connect, tell stories, celebrate and respect”. I am not sure I understand what the MPRB is trying to accomplish. I live by LOI so what I see on a DAILY basis is a broad community of people who enjoy the lakes. Some drive in, some walk over, but overall, we have many Minneapolis residents who enjoy the Lake throughout the seasons. Do we need to market one of the 10,000+ lakes in Minnesota? Minneapolis residents go to places that welcome them, and the green and open spaces around LOI are one of those spots.

With respect to the specific proposals, I have an overriding question - how can creating activity hubs, pavilions, and decks possibly increase the “green space” that we are all craving? If you walk around the Lake in the slightly warmer months you will see that there are many people with towels/blankets enjoying the space with their picnic baskets. The “space” doesn’t need to be built out to welcome people to visit - they already do so!

#### Concept A - specific comments

Please move forward with all environmental recommendations.

- Do NOT create any Activity Hubs - these will impact the beauty of the Lake and are not necessary for residents to enjoy GREEN space
- Do NOT establish additional lake decks - there does not seem to be an issue of access for people to use the south end entrance (and oh by the way, there is a major access and rental point not too far away!)
- Do NOT build a Picnic Pavilion - the last thing we need is a permanent structure that replaces GREEN space in the park. Plus, many people picnic wherever they feel comfortable. Also, Pavilions create a potential “party” location - who will monitor and “police” this setting to make sure that it is not used inappropriately.
- Why would we need a second bike path, or two way traffic?? It seems that one is plenty, given that most bikers tend to ignore pedestrians - why give them more latitude? And, the one way system seems to work well - those who wish to go in the opposite direction can ride with the cars.
- And, closing the top of the lake from E25th to W21st? I can’t begin to comprehend the extremely negative impact on the East of Lake of Isles and Kenwood neighborhoods

from both an access and parking standpoint. It is incomprehensible.! Directly across the street from the North entrance from Franklin onto LOI is a beautiful park with much GREEN space (until we put up pickle board, baseball courts and whatever else is being considered - perhaps the Picnic Pavilion could go there????). And, may I point out that the Hennepin Ave redesign will automatically force more cars into the neighborhoods. These changes, along with this Lake redesign, are terribly concerning as I worry that we will destroy the reasons for residents to live in the East Lake of the Isles, Lowry Hills, and Kenwood neighborhoods.

- Making Cedar one way for cars does not make a lot of sense and will put more traffic into residential areas.

#### Concept B - specific comments

Please move forward with all environmental recommendations (ecological, water quality, shoreline restoration and protection)

- Do NOT create any Activity Hubs - these will impact the beauty of the Lake and are not necessary for residents to enjoy
- Does it actually make sense to move the ice rink to Cedar? Does it make sense to have two skiing rinks?
- How would a two-way bike lane work? Wouldn't it create the potential for biking accidents?
- How often would there be "temporary" parkway closures? Once a year for the Marathon or other such events is totally fine - why would we do this on a regular basis?

However, having one public restroom on each Lake makes sense (the one on Cedar Lake Parkway is lovely and well designed).

I find the proposals very concerning - we need as much green space as possible, I suggest you read the excellent, and in-depth, article published in the Hill & Lake Press (Link below) authored by Steve Goldsmith. He is more steeped and knowledgeable about these issues than I am.

[https://www.hillandlakepress.org/\\_files/ugd/2a1912\\_59971013e6ec49aa9d3c54ec96d2c5b7.pdf](https://www.hillandlakepress.org/_files/ugd/2a1912_59971013e6ec49aa9d3c54ec96d2c5b7.pdf)

Finally, one other general comment - please consider how you (MPRB) will service and maintain any of these concrete structures and or "boardwalks" that are implemented. It seems that the MPRB is always being squeezed from a budgetary standpoint and that maintenance of well-intended projects falls to the wayside - leaving residents with eyesores.

Thank you for listening. Please think about the intention of these parks and stay true to the original mission of the Parks - GREEN space for all! Please revise your plans!

Jody Strakosch



PS The link to survey was closed when I went to respond before writing this email. I would have expected it to be open until midnight of the due date - today!



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**From:** [Elizabeth Collins](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]cedar-lake. of the isles plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 6:02:05 PM

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Hello

I live by the south end of cedar lake and have some input about proposed plans.

Parking- there is very limited parking along the south end of cedar lake. Adding in more activity hubs will likely make this worse.

Bike and walking safety- I cross. at the pedestrian. crosswalk by the dino sculpture/cold water bathrooms often and have been almost run over at least ten times. I know of at least 3 kids who have been hit on their bikes in the same crosswalk as well. Stop signs to slow traffic would be incredibly helpful. The traffic in general can be horrendous at times and the roads are not designed for traffic. Likely having light rail stopping traffic will contribute to this.

Cedar lake walking paths- Currently it is very nice to be able to walk by the lake. However there are almost always bikers flying along the walking paths who are dangerous and rude and have obviously ignored small signs that say no bikes. A deterrent at the entry points would be extremely helpful.

Updates to the swimming beach were done a few years ago. It is not very accessible if you have a wheelchair or mobility issues. Updating this would be helpful.

Liz Collins

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From: [Ann Ha](#)  
To: [Shawn Crosby](#)  
Cc: [Shawn Crosby](#)  
Subject: [Fwd: re] Cedar Lake Forest  
Date: 04/04/2012 12:50:37 PM

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Hello Emma

We as a family living between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake have been following this very closely. Our friend and neighbor could not have said it better and we fully agree with her's comment as outlined below

"Please incorporate the SWLRT remnant lands into the Cedar-Isles master planning process. After SWLRT is completed these 38 acres of land are intended to be re-aired in public ownership according to the MOA between the Metropolitan Council and the City of Minneapolis. The land is now owned by the Metropolitan Council.  
<https://gis2.mplsnet.com/arcgis/rest/info?layers=1&f=json>  
07/09/2011 10:07:00 AM  
land should be restored and maintained as forest and prairie. Natural land will be increasingly important as mitigation of climate change for our urban environment. There is an emotional movement to consider and as the last great hope for mitigation of climate change because the microbes in healthy soil sequester carbon. The movement is the subject of the movie 'Kiss the Ground'.  
I am concerned about the public use of the park land. They are under tremendous pressure to dispose of parkland that is unused. The pressure is coming from people pressuring to use the land for housing and recently for a parking lot. Natural land is not 'unused' land. This concept is an oxymoron because upland soil and living trees are keeping our lakes healthy and are available for human habitation.  
We rely on the trees and nature of land of Minneapolis for our own human well-being."

We as a family and many others in our neighborhood have been extremely negatively affected by the changes to the nature and natural habitats for trees, bees, birds, but especially deer, lakes and other wildlife. The very reasons we came to live here. Many things have changed in the last two years that we could not have foreseen when this project started.  
Please be mindful that we who do choose to stay are paying the taxes to keep this project going - please make it worth our efforts, patience, and money - for our environment and for our climate and for our sustainability as human beings. Listen to those who are scientific and knowledgeable - the voices of reason. It is imperative to our survival as a community, a city, a state, a country, a world, a future.  
Thank you.  
Ann Ha Crosby MD  
Shawn Crosby

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**From:** [Jean Ross](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Commenting on the Cedar-Isles master plan concept designs  
**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 4:35:08 PM

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To: Senior MPRB Planner, Emma Pachuta

From: Long time Minneapolis resident, Jean Ross

I am writing to ask the planners to incorporate a piece of land East of SWLRT into the Cedar-Isles master planning process. This 38 acres of land is referred to as "the remnant lands" and it is land that is now an unmanaged natural space that has grown over an old rail yard. After SWLRT is completed, these 38 acres of land are intended to be retained in public ownership according to the MOA between the Met Council and the City of Minneapolis. The land is now owned by the Met Council.  
<https://metro council.org/METC/files/f7/f7d41cfb-a062-46c7-942d-0785989da8a0.pdf>

This land should be restored and maintained as forest and prairie. Natural land will be increasingly important as a way to mitigate climate change in our urban environment. Soil is a great way to mitigate climate change because the microbes in healthy soil sequester carbon. I am concerned the park board will cave under the tremendous pressure to dispose of parkland that is "unused." Some people want to use the land for housing and recently for a parking lot. Natural land is not "unused" land. Unpaved land and living trees are keeping our lakes healthy and our air breathable for humans. We rely on the trees and natural land of Minneapolis for our well-being. The parks should have as few permanent structures as possible so that they mimic the natural environment as much as possible. The park board should expend any building funds to upgrade and maintain existing buildings in the park system.

The "Protect" facet of the Cedar-Isles master plan focused on water quality is the most important part. Here are some recommendations from someone who has studied these plans more than I have. They make perfect sense to me!

1. Mandate cooperation with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the City of Minneapolis Public Works and the Clean Water Partnership. Example: Improve storm drains so that plastic trash will not flow directly off the street into Lake of the Isles.
2. Consider aeration features to reduce algae blooms.
3. Use your influence to halt use of lawn chemicals within the City of Minneapolis and St. Louis Park. And teach people the proper use of de-icing salts.
4. Mandate maintenance and dredging of the Cedar Lake Wetlands.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Jean

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**From:** [Nicole Frost](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Comments on Concepts for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 6:18:57 PM

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Dear Emma,

I live in Kenwood very close to Kenwood school and I have been looking over the redesign concepts for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake. Here are some thoughts I would like you to consider.

Please do not permanently close Lake of the Isles Parkway from East 25th Street to West 21st Street and reroute traffic through the neighborhoods. This will have a significant negative impact on our neighborhoods. There is already too much traffic going down those streets where our children are trying to ride their bikes and walk to the park. This would be dangerous and disruptive. The proposed traffic route goes around three sides of Kenwood School - another terrible safety hazard. I don't know how the lake would benefit, but it would be really disruptive to the neighborhoods. We have had enough disruption lately and need to consider the families that live on that traffic route and the schoolchildren who need to play safely. The plans look beautiful in many ways, but that part is a really terrible idea. Just keep the parkway open to traffic all around the lake.

Secondly, please incorporate the SWLRT "remnant lands" into the plan. Please restore and maintain the land as forest and prairie so that it can never be sold and always remains natural land for the health of our communities and natural environment.

Please do whatever you can to ban lawn chemicals in Minneapolis and St. Louis Park. Also, consider ways to keep plastic trash from flowing from storm drains directly into Lake of the Isles, such as working with the Clean Water Partnership.

Please keep the ice skating rink on Lake of the Isles. It will be more accessible to more people if it stays on Isles rather than moving to Cedar.

Thank you for considering my thoughts, especially the VERY important point about NOT closing Lake of the Isles parkway to auto traffic and rerouting past the school and through the neighborhoods where children run and play.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Frost

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**From:** [Susan Lenfestey](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Comments on proposals for Lake of Isles and Cedar Lake  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 3:47:20 PM

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Dear Ms. Pachuta,

I'm writing to you well aware of the tendency of geezers like me to object to change, and am trying to counter that with an open minded review of the two proposals for Lake of Isles and Cedar Lake. If the proposals were to be for less permanent and more natural amenities added to the area -- the HighLine in NYC comes to mind -- which would include native plants and creative natural seating structures, I would support that.

Of the six guiding principles given, I only support #1, Protect and #4 Tell Stories. We are overdue on doing both.

But I have many concerns about both proposals. I'll divide my biggest concerns into two categories, specific and general, and try to be succinct — which I am not known to be!

#### Specific.

1. I object to **moving the Isles skating rink from its current location to the terminus of Kenwood Parkway, as proposed in the Distinct Lakes option.** There is no rational reason to do that. Furthermore, that location is the staging area for the Luminary Loppet and the site of the Ice-cropolis, one of the first sculptures created for that event 20 years ago. The Luminary Loppet has grown into a beloved winter event that 'invites' thousands of people from all over the city to 'connect' and 'celebrate' the lake. To simply ignore the significance of that event and the contribution of so many volunteers by preempting that spot is insensitive, at best.

2. I object to **building a permanent structure in either location.** It makes no sense to add a new structure that requires year-round maintenance, staffing, utilities, lighting and pavement. Yes, the current warming house is no thing of beauty, but it's there for a few months and then can be stored until the next season.

(Sadly, we may not have much of a skating season in the coming decades —the current National Geographic has an article about vanishing winters, the Alps now requiring man-made snow — and while that may not be an immediate concern, it should be on the radar. Our rinks may be gone, but we'll still have permanent structures to maintain.)

#### General.

1. Protect. Yes!! **I am 100% in support of doing whatever it takes to protect and improve the quality of the water and the surrounding eco-systems of these two lakes.** That includes working to eliminate lawn chemicals, plastics and other trash in the storm sewers and other factors contributing to the deterioration of the lakes.

2. I am opposed to adding more buildings or paving new trails. It's an oxymoron to state that a guiding principle is to protect the lakes while proposing to add pavilions, pavement, kiosks, and other amenities that are in opposition to that very goal. Different parks meet different needs and desires, from paddle-boat rentals to rose gardens to bandshells. Lake of Isles has always been a place for a stroll, a bike ride or a lazy afternoon on a blanket. Cedar has always been more natural, at least on the north area near Hidden Beach. **Unused space is not wasted**

**space.**

3. We do not need to add classrooms on park land. Ironically, the movement in America today is to get children out of the classroom and into nature. (For the last several years a volunteer has taken children from Kenwood School (Maura Rockcastle's alma mater) to the Hidden Beach area to put up Oriole feeders. They return on a regular basis to restock the feeders and observe the birds flitting in the treetops and coming to the feeders. Many of these children have never had exposure to wildlife, and the bright darting Orioles make a particularly vivid subject.) Kenwood Rec Center can provide classroom space if needed. **We need more habitat, not more classrooms.**

4. Long term maintenance costs. How will the MPRB pay for the extra expenses involved in staffing, heating, lighting or just securing any permanent structures?

Not succinct, sorry.

Try this:

Yes to putting all resources into protecting and improving the health of the lakes and surrounding habitat.

No to moving the LOI skating rink.

No to a permanent structure at the current site.

No to new pavilions and pavement.

Thank you and your staff for your work on behalf of our parks and for taking community feedback into consideration.

Sincerely,  
Susan Lenfestey  
Lowry Hill

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**From:** [S. San DeMaris](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma B.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Concerns from a Lake of the Isles resident re: Master Plan - Distinct Lakes  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022, 10:04:35 AM

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Good Morning Emma -

I am writing today regarding my concerns about the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan. I know that I am joined by many of my neighbors and residents around LOI and Cedar Lake who also share my deep concern for preserving the precious natural resource we have in our lakes.

It is my firm conviction that lake and ecosystem resilience is the number one priority for any design that is implemented. For this reason, I do not support the "Distinct Lakes" plan (Plan B) and could support a modified "Living Lakes" (Plan A). I have four main concerns that apply to the entire project. They are

- #1 Priority: Preservation of Lakes Ecosystems.** If we do not protect and conserve these already overused natural resources, they will be depleted and ultimately cease to be usable by anyone, including the plants and animals who call them home. For this reason, I support a modified "Living Lakes" plan (Plan A).
- 2. Natural vs. Built Recreational Environment.** The "Distinct Lakes" plan (Plan B) builds significantly more hardscape into natural environments unique to our city. Why do we need more pavement, boardwalks and infrastructure if the purpose is to create access to and enjoyment of the outdoors? We already have many, many paved trails around the Chain of Lakes.
- 3. Equitable Access.** These plans, that have yet to be priced out, require more investment in an already built up, economically prosperous area of the city. If equity is truly a priority, should we be investing in parks in neighborhoods where safe, beautiful, natural spaces are scarce?
- 4. Saddling Future Generations with Maintenance Costs.** MPRB cannot afford the infrastructure it has today. How can it afford to add more costly infrastructure to its portfolio? What is the long-term maintenance plan for keeping the infrastructure usable and safe? And how will we pay for it if we already are stretched to maintain what we have?

Thank you for your consideration, Emma.

Warm regards  
Susan DeMaris



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**From:** [Nancy Gross](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Nancy Gross](#); [Elizabeth Shaffer](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Feedback for Cedar Lake & Lake of the Isles Initial Concepts Draft  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 7:58:20 AM

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Emma Pachuta  
MPRB Project Manager  
[epachuta@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:epachuta@minneapolisparcs.org)

Hello Emma,

I am a resident in the East Isles neighborhood. My family and I have lived in our home since 1993.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Master Plan Initial Concepts draft.

Each Plan Concept has things that I like and things that I don't like, so there isn't one plan that I like more than the other. I could see a hybrid mix of the top ideas coming together to create a stronger plan.

Here are the Likes/Dislikes of each plan:

Plan A - Living Lakes

- Like: Ice Rink stays in current location (Dislike the relocation of the ice rink in Plan B)
- Like: Warming house becomes a permanent structure, with year-round programming
- Like: Rewilding
- Like: Boardwalk is an interesting idea
- Like: Max water quality improvements
- Dislike: too many signs proposed - they would distract from enjoying nature

Plan B - Unique Lakes

- Like: 2-way bike lane on trail in park (Highly Dislike the added bike lane on the parkway in Plan A)
- Like: Temp closure of streets for events (vs Dislike the permanent closure of parkway in Plan A for LOTI)
- Like: Proposed pedestrian connections - Cedar Lake, between the lakes, connecting to other lakes and greenway.
- Dislike: too many signs proposed - distracts from the natural beauty
- Dislike: the addition of numerous structures/activity hubs brings concern about future upkeep (will money be budgeted for this?) and the possibility of bringing dangerous activities during non-programmed times.

Priorities of the draft guiding principles:

Top priority - Respect, Protect

Medium priority - Tell Stories, Connect

Low priority, and in some cases, dislike - Celebrate, Invite -

These lakes already draw a huge number of people each year - spending resources to invite more people will compromise capacity and enjoyment.

As a creative designer and planner, I know your goal is for the best design - which might become a third, stronger plan option.. Please don't ask for our feedback and then only end up

picking on of the plans "as is. Please incorporate our feedback into a third, stronger plan.

Thank you,  
Nancy Gross

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**From:** [Anna Peterson](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Elizabeth Shaffer](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Feedback for Cedar-Isles  
**Date:** Saturday, March 5, 2022 11:01:58 AM

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Hi Emma,

I'm writing with my feedback about the Cedar-Isles design concepts. I live in Minneapolis, within running distance to these lakes, and frequently paddle, run, walk, and use the quiet areas for contemplation. I also co-coordinate a volunteer stewardship group (Friends of Bassett Creek) focused on habitat restoration and community engagement in Bassett's Creek Park.

I'm very much in favor of **concept A: Living Lakes**. The health and vitality of our community mirrors the health and vitality of our unique lake ecosystems. There is still so much to do to improve and create resilient habitats for climate change while maintaining the secluded natural beauty of these lakes for all users. These lakes have a rich history and legacy that has yet to be told in a way that honors past and present diversity. Rewilding and storytelling could help fill this gap. **Protect** and **Tell Stories** are my priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond. I've been on a hiatus from my computer so missed the online survey but was alerted by neighbors and Elizabeth Shaffer.

Sincerely,

Anna Peterson



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From: [John Walker](#)  
To: [Pachuta, Emma B.](#)  
Subject: [External] Feedback on Cedar Lake - Lake of the Isles Plan  
Date: Friday, March 4, 2022 7:38:37 AM

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Good morning Emma,

I have thoroughly reviewed and deeply reflected on the proposed plans for Cedar Lake - Lake of the Isles Master Plan

*Given my Native American ancestry, I encourage you to give significant weight to the under-represented and suppressed voice of me, my people and our ancestors as I share with you a PASSIONATE plea for the Living Lakes Plan A. Accepting any part or even given further discussion to Plan B demonstrates a grave disrespect to our native community and the sacred legacy of the land that would be further desecrated from Plan B.*

It is my firm conviction that lake and ecosystem resilience is the number one priority for any design that is implemented. For this reason, I do not support the "Distinct Lakes" plan (Plan B) and could support a modified "Living Lakes" (Plan A). I have four main concerns that apply to the entire project. They are

- #1 Priority: Preservation of Lakes Ecosystems.** If we do not protect and conserve these already overused natural resources, they will be depleted and ultimately cease to be usable by anyone, including the plants and animals who call them home. For this reason, I support a modified "Living Lakes" plan (Plan A).
- Natural vs. Built Recreational Environment.** The "Distinct Lakes" plan (Plan B) builds significantly more hardscape into natural environments unique to our city. Why do we need more pavement, boardwalks and infrastructure if the purpose is to create access to and enjoyment of the outdoors? We have already have plenty of paved trails around the Chain of Lakes.
- Equitable Access.** These plans, that have yet to be priced out, require more investment in an already built up, economically prosperous area of the city. If equity is truly a priority, shouldn't we be investing in parks in neighborhoods where safe, beautiful, natural spaces are scarce?
- Saddling Future Generations with Maintenance Costs.** MPRB cannot afford the infrastructure it has today. How can it afford to add more costly infrastructure to its portfolio? What is the long-term maintenance plan for keeping the infrastructure usable and safe? And how will we pay for it if we already are stretched to maintain what we have?

Thanks for your consideration, Emma.

Regards,

John Walker

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From: Catherine Gunsbury  
To: [Dachula, Emma B.](#)  
Subject: (External)Feedback on Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan  
Date: Friday, March 4, 2022 7:31:53 AM

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Hello Emma,

I am writing today regarding the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan.

It is my firm conviction that lake and ecosystem resilience is the number one priority for any design that is implemented. For this reason, I do not support the "Distinct Lakes" plan (Plan B) and could support a modified "Living Lakes" (Plan A). I have four main concerns that apply to the entire project. They are

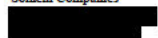
1. **#1 Priority: Preservation of Lakes Ecosystems.** If we do not protect and conserve these already overused natural resources, they will be depleted and ultimately cease to be usable by anyone, including the plants and animals who call them home. For this reason, I support a modified "Living Lakes" plan (Plan A).
2. **Natural vs. Built Recreational Environment.** The "Distinct Lakes" plan (Plan B) builds significantly more hardscape into natural environments unique to our city. Why do we need more pavement, boardwalks and infrastructure if the purpose is to create access to and enjoyment of the outdoors? We have already have plenty of paved trails around the Chain of Lakes.
3. **Equitable Access.** These plans, that have yet to be priced out, require more investment in an already built up, economically prosperous area of the city. If equity is truly a priority, shouldn't we be investing in parks in neighborhoods where safe, beautiful, natural spaces are scarce?
4. **Saddling Future Generations with Maintenance Costs.** MPRB cannot afford the infrastructure it has today. How can it afford to add more costly infrastructure to its portfolio? What is the long-term maintenance plan for keeping the infrastructure usable and safe? And how will we pay for it if we already are stretched to maintain what we have?

Thanks for your consideration, Emma.

Regards,

Catherine

Catherine Gunsbury  
Founding Partner  
Solhem Companies



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**From:** [Terry Engels](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [Lori Mittag](#)  
**Subject:** [External]input for proposed lake changes  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 10:05:49 AM

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Dear Elizabeth,

I am taking this opportunity to share my thoughts on the proposed master plans affecting the Cedar-Isles area. While both plans have some interesting aspects to them, if I were voting I would have to choose Plan B. There are a number of reasons for this.

First of all, I would really oppose the changes in traffic patterns that reroutes the parkway traffic to Irving. Why do the planners want to ruin this street? I live on the west side of the LOI but I often use Irving. I am impressed by what is such a vibrant area. Irving south of Franklin seems to be a model example of the positive trend of a return of a new generation to urban life. I don't personally know anyone who lives there but it seems to be a lively area, families out and about, people walking and greeting each other. The homes are under constant renovation and improvement, which has to be a perfect situation for the city, betterment at no public cost, increased property values and taxes (which are high already). It takes courage to commit to a really old house with its continual maintenance issues. Residents apparently are concerned with traffic issues already since there is a speed bump on many blocks. What do they get for their concern? Transformation into a major thoroughfare! Then, when I trace the new route to 21<sup>st</sup> Street it seems to go by a church and a busy elementary school. However, it is hard to tell on the provided diagrams what is going on, I refer to the text provided.

Given these factors, I firmly oppose these traffic changes. Planners typically respond with a NIMBY sneer, but I feel you are jeopardizing the area for no real gain. Occasional closing of the area for events is an option. It seems to provide interest and excitement to the event.

I also think that Plan A provides too many permanent enhancements to LOI. 8? Why 4 on the narrow and shallow north end of the lake? Too much. And Why does Plan B have only 1, which is really an upgrade of existing use? This all or nothing approach seems to encourage the thought of manipulation of the outcome. If we want improvements we are going to have to accept Plan A, including many things we find objectionable.

I also have issue with the rewilding of LOI. Not that I think the concept is bad. I agree with the positive use of natural efforts to improve the water quality. As it exists however, there is a problem of little maintenance and poor plant choice. To expand the area will not necessarily make it better, unless these issues are addressed. Especially with increased visibility from increased usage, it needs to be made better before it is made bigger.

I have not given any input on Cedar Lake since I am not familiar enough with it. Sorry that I am tardy with registering my opinions. In my past experience with other cities and what we think are public requests for input, I conclude that what they actually want is to inform the public of their decisions, not really listen to their concerns and address them. That is the real reason behind the apathy seemingly expressed in nonresponse by requests for public response. I hope this is not the case with the Minneapolis Park Board. In closing, thank you for your willingness to serve as a representative on our park board.

Sincerely,

Lili Theresa (Terry) Engels

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [Ryan Atwell](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Elizabeth Shaffer](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Input on Cedar / Isles Master Plan  
**Date:** Saturday, March 5, 2022 12:14:48 PM

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Hi Emma and Elizabeth,

I wanted to offer feedback on the Cedar Lake / Lake of the Isles Master Plan. I love these lakes and their surrounding greenspace. It is very exciting to see MPRB engaged in a much needed and far-sighted re-imagining and renewal of the management plan for these areas.

I'm a Minneapolis (Bryn Mawr) resident who uses the green spaces surrounding Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles several times a week year-round for many reasons including: inspiration, contemplation, spiritual retreat, rest and stress relief, walking, appreciating nature, running, cross-country skiing and roller skiing, canoeing, swimming, and biking. I also co-ordinate a volunteer partnership with MPRB focused on invasive species removal, native species restoration, and public engagement and welcoming of diverse groups in Bassett's Creek Park. In my day job I'm an ecologist and environmental social scientist with a background in environmental education.

I LOVE the **Living Lakes Concept**. I feel that the ecological restoration goals, connectivity, and dispersed invitation/storytelling/celebration are progressive and take these green spaces in a forward-thinking progressive direction I would expect from Minneapolis. I believe that Minneapolis has one of the most impressive historic commitments to green space, but that our parks currently lag behind other leading cities in 21st century ecological and social commitments. I think the Living Lakes concept is a great step in the right direction for Minneapolis parks.

Here are a few of the reasons I encourage you to prioritize the Living Lakes Concept.

Especially with the addition of the light rail, people will continue to use these green spaces in a very dispersed way. The goal of these plans should be to invite people into these areas, and then encourage them to spread out and explore, tell stories, and celebrate throughout these spaces. This is where I see ecological restoration and protection as inseparable from connectivity, inviting/telling stories/celebrating, and respect. Currently, the parts of this green space with more natural vegetation are overgrown with invasive species, underused, lack inviting infrastructure, and have significant safety issues. Ecological restoration that adds beauty, interest, and opens sight lines – as well as connectivity, dispersed infrastructure, and signage – will greatly enhance the number of people using these areas in respectful ways that benefit the many diverse peoples and species and that call Minneapolis home.

Currently, Cedar Lake is surrounded by degraded and underused natural areas. Comparatively, Lake of the Isles is heavily used, but managed in an outdated way that compromises ecological health and human enjoyment of native ecotypes. The Living Lakes Concept would correct this imbalance. I am concerned that the hub model of the Unique Lake Experiences Concept would further the bipolar way that amenities and use are currently distributed throughout these green spaces.

Welcoming people to these green spaces at the new light rail station is very important, and I encourage MPRB to do this in a way that invites people to use these spaces widely, rather than spending resources on larger-scale built infrastructure that concentrates people in one place rather than on the improving green spaces themselves. I live near the Wirth Lake Beach Area and am heartened to see black and latino groups using the small picnic areas in the section of Theodore Wirth Park on both sides of Glenwood heavily throughout the year. Use is spread throughout small picnic areas, while the beach house and the pavilion are only lightly used, and hundreds of acres of mowed lawns are only almost never used. I would love to see more light infrastructure picnic areas surrounded by native habitat that invite underrepresented user groups throughout the Cedar and Isles green spaces by increasing connectivity through a combination of unpaved and paved pedestrian paths, bike routes, dispersed parking, bus routes, and light rail throughout these corridors. I **believe** any larger **infrastructure** investments should prioritize amenities that help underrepresented groups enjoy these green spaces comfortably **and** safely in winter months when our parks are most segregated.

Finally, I would encourage you to consider long term stewardship, including education and volunteer stewardship, in the way these plans are implemented. MPRB has a reputation for developing inspiring plans and implementing restoration and improvement initiatives, but not following up with long term management, including ecological stewardship and maintenance of infrastructure. In Bassett's Creek Park and several other Minneapolis green spaces, MBRB is successfully partnering with local communities and volunteer groups to work together to welcome more diverse users to green spaces and work towards

ecological and infrastructure goals. In the long run, this can result in a much more efficient way to care for parks, but requires MPRB to invest in the partnership model with personnel and resources over time. I feel this is a MUCH more beneficial, sustainable, and farsighted approach than large onetime investments in infrastructure.

Thank you for considering my input and for your work to care for and improve the parks Minneapolis loves!

Ryan Atwell



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**From:** [Eliza Beth Fox Larsen](#)  
**To:** [Paulette Emma B.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Lakes plan  
**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:34:40 PM

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Hello Emma,

I am writing today regarding the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan.

It is my firm conviction that lake and ecosystem resilience is the number one priority for any design that is implemented. For this reason, I do not support the "Distinct Lakes" plan (Plan B) and could support a modified "Living Lakes" (Plan A). I have four main concerns that apply to the entire project. They are

- #1 Priority: Preservation of Lakes Ecosystems.** If we do not protect and conserve these already overused natural resources, they will be depleted and ultimately cease to be usable by anyone including the plants and animals who call them home. For this reason, I support a modified "Living Lakes" plan (Plan A).
- Natural vs. Built Recreational Environment.** The "Distinct Lakes" plan (Plan B) builds significantly more hardscape into natural environments unique to our city. Why do we need more paved boardwalks and infrastructure if the purpose is to create access to and enjoyment of the outdoors? We have already have plenty of paved trails around the Chain of Lakes.
- Equitable Access.** These plans, that have yet to be priced out, require more investment in an already built up, economically prosperous area of the city. If equity is truly a priority, shouldn't we be investing in parks in neighborhoods where safe, beautiful, natural spaces are scarce?
- Saddling Future Generations with Maintenance Costs.** MPRB cannot afford the infrastructure it has today. How can it afford to add more costly infrastructure to its portfolio? What is the long-term maintenance plan for keeping the infrastructure usable and safe? And how will we pay for it if we already are stretched to maintain what we have?

Thanks for your consideration, Emma.

Regards,  
Elizabeth Larsen  


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**From:** [Laurel J.](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]LOI Park Designs  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 6:36:11 PM

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Hi Elizabeth,

I have walked around Lake of the Isles, a cherished place of serenity, through every season for decades. I felt both anger and heartache while reading about Concept A and Concept B. I am opposed to both proposals. I have no objection to water quality improvement or shoreline restoration (provided that it's minimal and maintains as much green space as possible). But I have strong objections to rerouting traffic or building any type of structure / activity hub / event space. The less that can be done, the better. Concept C should be: Better maintain the paths and structures that currently exist and leave nature alone.

Thank you for forwarding my feedback to those involved with this project,

Laurel

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**From:** [Cakers](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External] LOTI proposals  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 4:43:37 PM

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We are 12 year residents at 2305 Newton Ave. South. Living near Lake of the Isles was a huge draw for native St. Paulites to make the move. It's a user-friendly sanctuary and a magnet for people throughout the metro seeking a peaceful, low key connection with nature. We use the walking path daily and biking path frequently.

We've studied the plans and watched the videos. Clearly, work has been done, apparently to implement ideas from A to Z. However, aside from restoration of native plants, we are opposed to the following:

- Rerouting of LOTI parkway
- Two- way traffic on the bike path
- Any building of structures
- Boardwalks- unnecessary

"If it ain't broke" comes to mind.

Please consider input from the surrounding neighborhoods and the beyond. Many people appreciate the serenity of Lake of the Isles—an amazing place adjacent to a downtown area.

Thank you,  
Nancy and David Kath

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Julie Tanaka](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Minneapolis Lakes redevelopment  
**Date:** Saturday, March 5, 2022 10:02:18 AM

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Good morning Emma. I understand you are responsible to receive feedback regarding the lakes redevelopment. I am in support to improve the surrounding ecosystems as the #1 priority but am concerned about additional infrastructure, especially boardwalks on either lake. More infrastructure, including boardwalks, does not serve the natural environment. I bet hearing first had that there is some concern about having enough money to maintain natural ecosystem. I think the bigger concern is how to pay for all this work when we really don't need it or want it. I am opposed to any non-natural infrastructure to accommodate walking around the lakes where we already have enough paths. I strongly disagree with disrupting the lakes the shores and any infrastructure that will require maintenance and not add any value to the ecosystem.

I live in Burnham Road, our house abuts the major redevelopment of the light rail that has infringed on our backyard including the fence that has been knocked over several times by the workers vehicles. I have always been a proponent of the light rail because it helps the community and brings prosperity to those who require this mode of transportation. This shows I am not just throwing darts at infrastructure and trying to cause problems. I'm probably one of the few I know that hasn't put up a big fight against the light rail. I see its benefits, however, I blatantly disagree with spending money we don't have on infrastructure we don't need so request that you go back to the drawing board and do what is critically essential to maintain but not modify it unnecessarily.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julie

Julie Tanaka



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**From:** [Tracy Hudson](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External]Park Proposals  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 4:53:54 PM

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Dear Park Board members, and Mayor Frey,

As a resident on Irving Avenue since 2001, a daily walker around Lake of the Isles for the last 21 years, a parent who has raised two children in this neighborhood that attended Kenwood Elementary, I hope my experiences and observations provide some insight into the reality of what would make our park/neighborhood better.

1. Two way bike traffic around the Lake of the Isles. Makes sense, Safer for all. One way traffic increases the speed at which cyclist ride. This makes is scary for pedestrians, and scary for less skilled cyclist of different abilities. Puts bikes on streets with cars and that is less safe.
2. Boardwalk paths. Trip hazards, due to contracting and expanding of moisture from Lake and weather. Harder to clear the snow off. Fixing the tree roots that have been marked with orange paint for the last few years would be an affordable great idea! Would improve aesthetics and make it safer.
3. Instead of a warming hut. Create a big skating rink like the ones that exist in other parks over on the fields between the tennis courts and the school, (not on the baseball diamond). The Kenwood recreation center could be a warming hut, there could be real bathrooms. And it would be a safer place for families to skate for a much longer season. The season for safe skating is very short, ice is either to thin, the temps too cold, or the hut is never open anyway. Again this I know over the last 21 years raising two girls here, and us getting to enjoy it so infrequently.
4. Killing the flow of Lake of the Isles circumference by diverting traffic to Irving. Irving not only gets traffic which “organically” heads that way due to the avoidance of Hennepin which is so congested, there would be no option. The hill on Irving is such a steep grade that some cars have to accelerate aggressively, and during the snowy season there are many cars that can’t get up all. And going down Irving with adverse conditions has been quite scary at times too. Additionally the intersection of Irving and Franklin is one of the riskiest four way stops. I have witnessed many car accidents and near misses and have always warned my children to “expect cars to NOT stop” because so many cars run that stop sign. Especially coming from the north side of the street heading westbound on Franklin.

I am all for progress and for city and park improvements, but right now what we need to focus on first and foremost is city safety and park safety. I have neighbors who won’t even get gas or groceries here, let alone go for a walk... or some like me who take very little with them when they leave the house. So in closing the BEST PARK is the one you FEEL SAFE to visit with your friends and family.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Tracy Hudson  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [Sally Fefercorn](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Shaffer](#); [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor Jacob Frey](#); [Mychal Vlatkovich](#); [Lisa Goodman](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Proposed Lake of the Isles Traffic Rerouting  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 2:54:12 PM


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Dear Commissioner Shaffer and Ms. Pachuta,

It's David and Sally Hyslop. We are long time Minneapolis residents and reside at 2019 Irving Avenue South in Lowry Hill.

Having reviewed the proposed plans to redesign Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake, we'll keep our comments short and to the point and say we vehemently oppose the Cedar-Isles Master Plan proposal to re-direct traffic to Irving Avenue South to Franklin Avenue. Current traffic on Irving from all directions to Franklin is already dangerous for residents of all ages and to contemplate added vehicle traffic per the design proposal is unfathomable.

David and Sally Hyslop



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**From:** [Kathleen Vohs](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Proposed redesign for Cedars LOI  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 4:15:57 PM

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Dear Emma,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed redesigns of Cedar and LOI.

I worry about the traffic and safety risks that will accompany closing off LOI to cars and rerouting traffic to residential streets.

Already cars go way too fast on Humboldt, Irving, etc and this move will make those roads major thoroughfares. I worry about our children and the risks that will come from such an increase in traffic.

Concept A will bring more people and yet with fewer options for traffic circulation, making for a perfect storm of disruptions and risks for the neighboring areas.

Sincerely, Kathleen Vohs

Kathleen Vohs  
[website & downloadable papers](#)  
Land O'Lakes Chair in Marketing  
Distinguished McKnight University Professor  
Marketing Department Chairperson

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**From:** [David Bryan](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Re: Cedar Isles Design Proposals  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 12:26:42 PM

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Minneapolis Park Board Commissioners -

I have some concerns about the proposal changes around Lake of the Isles. As a 40 year resident of Euclid Place, I have seen many changes over the years.

Three major concerns are:

Increased traffic and parking along Irving Avenue. This street is not wide enough for two cars to pass when there are cars parked on both sides of the street. You can't drive more than a block or two on Irving without having to wait and dodge with oncoming traffic. This street needs either less traffic or parking only on one side.

The deterioration in water quality in Lake of the Isles. This lake is now pea soup green during most of the time it isn't frozen.

The loss of trees. Triangle Park, for instance, used to be a shady oasis of elm trees. Now the only shade in the areas where parents sit is a spindly little tree of uncertain species.

Poor maintenance of bike paths. Very often the paths are not repaired until they are so cracked and lumpy that even bicycling on them is uncomfortable. This is now the case along the Cedar Lake Trail.

In terms of the Cedar Isles Development Plan:

Remember that the walk around Lake of the Isles is one of the most popular in the Twin Cities. It is already a tremendous success. Please don't mess it up by trying to "improve" and commodify it with unnecessary infrastructure. Let it just be a walk around a beautiful lake like it is. There are plenty of other lakes in your system that have fast food stands and parking lots. You don't need to do that to Lake of the Isles. Plant more trees, keep the bike paths in good shape and for heaven's sake, work with the City to restore its water quality.

And please don't close or narrow Lake of the Isles Parkway. Closing the parkway will force more traffic onto already overloaded streets like Irving and drive more traffic by Triangle Park, which is not wise or safe for children. By the way, the misguided Hennepin Avenue plan will also force more traffic onto Irving. If your goal is to drive residents away, doing both of these things would be a good tactic.

Don't be misled by designers and planners trying to peddle their latest ideas. Don't waste public money to fix stuff that isn't broken. Don't dabble in unnecessary change. Different is often not better.

Identify the big issues. Help parks in low income areas first. Improve water quality. Add more trees. A livable city is a city green with trees not a city where public money is squandered by putting junk food stands in every park. And speaking of green, let's reduce carbon emissions by promoting public transportation, electric cars, walking and bicycling but not by making war on automobiles, parking and local businesses. And what about your buildings? The Park Board does not want to publish the energy use intensity of its buildings because most of them are energy hogs. Spend your money (our money) on making your buildings energy efficient. Then you can be transparent and be proud about your building performance. And the pandemic has shown us that we have real long term challenges regarding indoor air quality that need to be dealt with. Improve ventilation and filtration. Be responsible; protect the

occupants of your buildings while you make them more sustainable and resilient.

Dave Bryan, AIA, LEED AP  
Third Level Design



[www.third-level.com](http://www.third-level.com)

*Taking Performance To The Next Level*

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**From:** [Winthrop Rockwell](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External]Re: Lake of the Isles Concepts  
**Date:** Thursday, January 27, 2022 5:38:54 PM

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Jim,

Thanks for these points. I encourage you to raise them during the public discussion portion of today's meeting.

Win

Win Rockwell

[REDACTED]

On 1/26/22, 1:58 PM, "[REDACTED]" > wrote:

I have attended, via Zoom, most meetings of the CAC related to a long-range plan for Cedar Isles Dean. To date, the process has been mostly presentation and not much deliberation. Here are some thoughts I offered to Win Rockwell.

As to water quality, a foundational question is whether water quality can be meaningfully improved without eliminating milfoil. We can move the littoral edge all the way out to the Parkway and fill the Lake with marsh and floating wetlands, but if we still have milfoil, what will we have accomplished?

Expanding the littoral edge may make some sense, but for cost/benefit purposes I would like to hear the evidence for it. Second as one of your CAC members observed, it would not have to be as expensive as described. We could simply roto-till the ground inside of the pathway and plant it. No need to reconstruct the shoreline and the footpath.

The marsh and boardwalk in the north arm of LOI seem restricted. Flexibility of use should be a key principle. A board walk is the antithesis of flexible, and BTW is expensive. If I understand the design concept correctly, anyone going around the Lake would be forced to use the board walk. Think how frequently one sees walkers, walkers with dogs, and runners veer off the pathway onto the grass when the pathway is congested. How does one veer off the boardwalk? For that matter, how does one veer off into the littoral edge? And where do dogs poop? Most dogs do not choose to poop on hard surfaces, but will if they are without options, as they would appear to be on the boardwalk.

Also the Parkway is shown as closed on the east side of the north arm. How does that happen? By schussing the East Parkway traffic up James? For forty years, traffic on that block has been one way south to reduce commuter traffic on neighborhood streets. Post COVID — and post redesign of Hennepin Avenue to one-lane traffic each way -- one could expect commuter traffic levels on the Parkway to return, and even increase.

I do not have any views on where the skating rink should be, but flexibility dictates that its location should not be not fixed by the construction of a permanent building. With global warming, the length of the skating season is growing shorter but it has never been longer than two months during the last 50 years. A permanent building is an added expense, a maintenance headache (as a graffiti and vandalism target) and impairs future flexibility.

Two-way bicycle traffic may make sense but only if we first define our objective. Are we trying to attract more serious cyclists to the bike path, more commuters, more families? The current bike lane is one-way mostly due to lack of space for two lanes within the roadbed of the old two-way Parkway. Adding a lane will require elimination of parking along some stretches of the Parkway and certainly some trees, and we would still have serious pinch

points, for example, on the bridges and the Point. The current bike lane was designed for recreational bicyclists like families and children and has a corresponding speed limit of 10 mph. Commuters and avid bicyclists, of course, travel at speeds twice that limit, namely the new limit on the Parkway, 20 mph. Many avid cyclists now bicycle in the Parkway, as they should, and should not be restricted to 10 mph. If we are not precise in defining our objective and design, we could generate a serious safety issue with more bicyclists at higher (or different) speeds in two directions aside auto traffic.

My primary concern is that we are pulling a lot of ideas off the shelves without a coherent vision of what the mix will give us. As someone on the CAC said some time ago, many of these concepts may be good ideas standing by themselves, but may not fit together coherently. We need to have a consensus on what that end result should look like. I think simplicity and flexibility should be the guiding principles. The existing configuration of LOI works pretty well, in significant part because it is simple and flexible.

Jim Stephenson

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**From:** [Steve Kotvis](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Steve Kotvis](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Thank you and thankful  
**Date:** Monday, December 20, 2021 10:39:31 AM

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Hi Emma,

I just wanted to thank you for hosting your citizen event on Saturday. There were a lot of people and I'm sure you got an earful.

What I feel like I failed to say at that event is I am grateful for the plan's conceptual design to support a natural woods at Cedar Lake Point Beach. After leaving, I realized that while I provided what I hope might be constructive input, I failed to acknowledge my thrill that there are no plans that substantially alter the "natural" use of this area. So that is wonderful, from my POV.

Thanks again,  
Steve

Steve Kotvis  


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**From:** [EDWARD KODET](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Sustainability, Lake of the Isles and Parking  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 5, 2022 10:07:23 PM

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I viewed the video on the two alternatives and studied them closely. I will have a more detailed comment later. Concept A is total mess and should be dropped. Closing a segment of Lake of the Isles and destroying the water with board walks is beyond help.

Concept B has great possibilities and has a lot of benefits and some very good ideas. I don't think the ice rink should be moved but the reasons for moving it have merit. Currently it is located to reasonably good parking and people like the location.

All the schemes spend too much attention to bikes. The one -way bike path works great now. It might be a bit wider so those that bike fast have room to pass. Passing is more important than two-way.

The study makes no mention of parking. I guess all will walk or bike. This is a major oversight.

I know the design is for those 20 to 50 years old. However, there are a few people that are a bit older and accessibility and the ability to use Lake of the Isles is more and more restricted by every new amenity added. Many enjoy the park for its simplicity. Not every square foot has to have changed. Turf and open water are also very good areas to have. Sitting and relaxing has always been one of the Lake of the Isles attractions.

Regarding parking. I have not seen one idea on how to address the parking that the new light rail station at 21st and Southwest transit is going to generate. People will be parking for blocks in all directions and walk to the light rail station. The streets are now filled and when the light rail is finished this area will be a mess.

Over-all the attention is going to draw a lot more people and I don't see any reason for that. Minneapolis lakes do not have to be a metro wide park amenity. It should first serve the residents and do so in way that we are not crowded out. We do not have to have a State Fair in Minneapolis every weekend.

Clearly the focus is on all the amenities and not environmental or water quality. The lake edge is a mess and there are major elements to fixing just the existing shorelines and developing a long-term sustainable solution to maintaining what is there. This is brushed off as a small part of the Master Plan and it should be number one.

Thanks for your attention to my comments.

Ed Kodet



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**From:** [Leah Harp](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Lake of the Isles water quality  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 2:01:50 PM

---

Ms. Patucha,

I spend a lot of time on in and around Lake of the Isles. I would be so happy if the water quality of Lake of the Isles could be part of the new plan. My teenage son and I regularly bring our trash grabbers and pick up trash out of the water by 27th st where the storm drains empty into the lake on the east side. We also clean gutters around our home on 26th and Irving. We pick a lot of needle on drug paraphernalia out of the lake which I find especially disturbing.

Trusted friends of the lakes have specific recommendations which include the following statement which I fully support. I like all the ideas about boardwalks and natural spaces -- anyway we can make the lake more enjoyable and accessible for the public the better! But when the shore on the east side and others is filled with plastic, bottles, cans, and needles, that has a strong impact on public enjoyment, let alone on the wildlife we get to enjoy trying to live there. Thank you for your attention.

Leah Harp  


As you develop plans, please mandate cooperation with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Please coordinate with the City of Minneapolis, the Clean Water Partnership, and Minneapolis Public Works to improve infrastructure. Could aeration features reduce algae blooms? Could the City ban lawn chemicals near lakes?

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**From:** [EDWARD KODET](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [External]Sustainability, Lake of the Isles and Parking  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 10:53:15 AM

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Emma

Thanks for your patience on the Zoom call. It was my fault on the sound. I was in a spot where there was no way I wanted to activate the video, so I did not take a chance on the sound.

The comments were very good, and we appreciate the session, and it was handled very professionally. We have lived in the neighborhood for some time.

As you can tell, as well as others, we like the lake. Of course, things have to be improved. Our feelings are that Lake of the Isles should be one of the lakes where it is not programmed. I have found that often the unprogrammed spaces are used the best.

Unprogrammed spaces allow for:

1. Setting out blankets and reading, sunbathing, and relaxing.
2. There is open space for frisbee
3. Families can picnic.
4. People can chase their dogs
5. People set up their own activity games
6. Often people bring their own small watercraft and use the shore.
7. Open areas for yoga and other exercises.
8. Many other spontaneous activities that change as times change.

I do think the road around the lake needs to be open and not ever closed off. There are many places to close off parkways, but Lake of the Isles needs to be available for the activities I mentioned above. There are many people who like to take a slow drive around the lake to people watch. Many cannot walk well or just want to site see.

In short, if given the space people will creatively invent and make use of it. To me Lake of the Isles is that park. Of course, the water quality needs to be good and there needs to be good turf to do this.

Thanks for your work on this.

Jan and Ed Kodet

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Pachuta, Emma R. <EPachuta@minneapolisparcs.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 7, 2022 2:12 PM  
**To:** EDWARD KODET <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: [External]Sustainability, Lake of the Isles and Parking

Hi Ed,

Thanks for your thoughtful comments on the initial park concepts for the Cedar-Isles master plan project. I will make sure they are incorporated into the engagement we're collecting this round. I'm glad you were able to join the open house last night, too, although I'm sorry that we weren't able to hear your verbal comments. There are a couple more open houses planned in January and I believe we will be extending the engagement period into February, so I do hope you're able to stay connected to the project as we move forward.

Gratefully,  
Emma

**Emma R. Pachuta**

Pronouns: she . her . hers

Senior Planner | [Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board](#) | 2117 West River Rd. Minneapolis, MN 55411 | work cell: 612-499-3711 | [epachuta@minneapolisparks.org](mailto:epachuta@minneapolisparks.org)



*MPRB staff is currently working through virtual meetings. Thank you for your understanding.*

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**From:** EDWARD KODET [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 5, 2022 10:07 PM  
**To:** Pachuta, Emma R. <EPachuta@minneapolisparks.org>  
**Subject:** [External]Sustainability, Lake of the Isles and Parking

I viewed the video on the two alternatives and studied them closely. I will have a more detailed comment later. Concept A is total mess and should be dropped. Closing a segment of Lake of the Isles and destroying the water with board walks is beyond help.

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older and accessibility and the ability to use Lake of the Isles is more and more restricted by every new amenity added. Many enjoy the park for its simplicity. Not every square foot has to have changed. Turf and open water are also very good areas to have. Sitting and relaxing has always been one of the Lake of the Isles attractions.

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Clearly the focus is on all the amenities and not environmental or water quality. The lake edge is a mess and there are major elements to fixing just the existing shorelines and developing a long-term sustainable solution to maintaining what is there. This is brushed off as a small part of the Master Plan and it should be number one.

Thanks for your attention to my comments.

Ed Kodet

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [Kevin Gale](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Re: Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles Master Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:43:07 AM

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Hi Emma,

Just following up on the previous email.

**Kevin Gale**

*UMN Medical School – Class of 2022*

*Pronouns: He, Him, His*

On Thu, Jan 13, 2022 at 10:57 AM Kevin Gale <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Emma,

This is Kevin Gale writing, I live super close to both Isles and Cedar.

I was running by Isles the other day, and I saw the sign advertising this project.



Question: is it too late to put a small outdoor fitness center somewhere in this region? There are NO pull-ups bars in the area. Something as simple as one of these somewhere:

- <https://gfoutdoorfitness.com/2-level-horizontal-bars/>
- <https://gfoutdoorfitness.com/3-person-static-combo/>
- <https://gfoutdoorfitness.com/6-person-static-combo/>

Thanks!  
Kevin

**Kevin Gale**

*UMN Medical School – Class of 2022*

| *Pronouns: He, Him, His*

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**From:** [MARY HARLOW](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Lake of Isles/Cedar Lake  
**Date:** Friday, January 14, 2022 2:51:52 PM

---

Writing to request that you prioritize water quality in all future MPRB planning for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake. Without assurance of clean water, no one can enjoy the lakes safely.

Thank you,  
Mary Harlow

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** [John Gruen](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [External]20 year plan for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake Park: Community Comments  
**Date:** Friday, January 14, 2022 12:26:16 PM

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Hello Emma, I am Cathleen's husband and I'd like to add a couple of comments. We moved here from New York City 3 years ago. What separates the Twin Cities from just about every other large or large-ish metro area are your beautiful lakes. There are other great features, but this is the dominant and unique one. ( Mississippi River? Every big city has a river, that's where they all started) If you let these lakes erode to the point of severe pollution - can't swim, can't boat, can't fish, shouldn't skate, algae swamp, etc - you will destroy these treasures for all time. You will become Omaha, St Louis MO, or Indianapolis.... commonplace, featureless.. it would be like removing Broadway theater from Manhattan.

Also and separately, people who live contiguous to one of the lakes should not, by law, be allowed to use phosphates or similar applications on the landscaping. Their beautification "gain" is at the expense of everyone else.

John Gruen

On Fri, Jan 14, 2022 at 10:12 AM Pachuta, Emma R. <[EPachuta@minneapolisparks.org](mailto:EPachuta@minneapolisparks.org)> wrote:

Hi Cathleen,

Thanks for your thoughtful email about your vision for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles. Your feedback has been incorporated into the engagement we are currently compiling for this initial design phase.

I hope you choose to stay involved as the project moves forward!  
[www.minneapolisparks.org/cedar-isles](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/cedar-isles)

Best, Emma

**Emma R. Pachuta**

Pronouns: she . her . hers

Senior Planner | [Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board](#) | 2117 West River Rd. Minneapolis, MN 55411 | work cell: 612-499-3711 | [epachuta@minneapolisparks.org](mailto:epachuta@minneapolisparks.org)





**Minneapolis  
Park & Recreation Board**

*MPRB staff is currently working through virtual meetings. Thank you for your understanding.*

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**From:** Cathleen KB Gruen <c[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:00 AM  
**To:** Pachuta, Emma R. <[EPachuta@minneapolisparks.org](mailto:EPachuta@minneapolisparks.org)>  
**Cc:** John Gruen [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External]20 year plan for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake Park: Community Comments

Dear MPRB,

Please include these comments in the 20 year plan for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake Park. Please put water quality first in park planning. I am concerned about plastic trash entering Lake of the Isles directly through storm drains, multiple algal blooms on Cedar Lake, and the aging design/possible inadequacy of the Cedar Lake Wetlands. I am concerned about deteriorating water quality on both lakes. As you develop plans, please mandate cooperation with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Please coordinate with the City of Minneapolis, the Clean Water Partnership, and Minneapolis Public Works to improve infrastructure. Could aeration features reduce algae blooms? Could the City of Minneapolis ban lawn chemicals near lakes? Thank you! Your planning is important endeavor. We need the MPRB to create a collective vision of cooperation with all the agencies involved in clean water.

Sincerely,

Cathleen KB Gruen

St. Louis Park, MN. 55416

[https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-12\\_Cedar-Isles\\_Initial-Park-Concepts\\_final.pdf](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-12_Cedar-Isles_Initial-Park-Concepts_final.pdf)

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**John Gruen**



**From:** [Christy Marsden](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar-Isles Feedback!  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 6:58:32 PM

---

Hi, Emma!

I had to leave tonight's Open House early, and we didn't have enough time to get to the access before I left. I wanted to have a voice towards the two way bike trail that is separate from the car traffic - mostly for safety! As a neighbor, I'm not worried about what cars will do - when we consider the environment, the less time we spend in cars, the better the environment (and water quality) will be. I hope that the focus on habitat from these listening sessions isn't being used as a shield for avoiding change. I don't think folks understand that having cars (and honestly people and our houses) are bigger issues .... but hey, we do our best!

I also think a permanent warming house would be really cool, especially if it is accessible via transit - where the current one is now is not as accessible. But that would be a dream.

I am also in very strong support of connecting the new light rail station to the current paths and places to visit on the lake. Future consideration is really important.

And lastly, I wanted to share strong support for a better connection between Bde Maka Ska and Lake of the Isles for pedestrians and bikers. How it stands now feels very unsafe.

I have also taken the survey. Thanks so much!

Cheers,  
Christy Marsden

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**From:** [Steve Kotvis](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Steve Kotvis](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Park design concepts  
**Date:** Thursday, December 16, 2021 8:30:48 AM

---

Hi Emma,

I'm a volunteer doing much of the buckthorn clearing on Cedar Lake North Point. I work under the Cedar Lake Park Association stewardship agreement. According to discussions with Sherry Brooks, who as you probably know, coordinates volunteers with the MPRB, next year's stewardship agreement will likely be directly between me and MRB.

The more than 150 hours in that area over the past 12 months has provided me with plenty of time to observe, converse with passerby's, and contemplate this area. I have not participated in past citizen input sessions, but have been generally tracking this project throughout its planning process.

I saw an initial design plan and wish to provide some general input.

- Entry-points/Gateways: I found it odd that the entry to the parkway at Cedar Lake Parkway and 21st Street West is not considered a gateway. The parking lot is often occupied throughout the year, and it more than fills up during the summer months. In the peak of beach season, the parking lot overflows all the way to and along Drew, where I live. It's fun to watch how many different kinds of inflatable floaties they make these days. Moreover, the beach adjacent to the parking lot is a major entry point to the lake. Dozens of paddlers launch from this informal beach spot. REI sets up their trailers and vans to unload kayaks for classes there weekly. And from a pedestrian standpoint, this marked crosswalk is a major entry-point for those walking the lake. I don't know what you are using as a metric to establish the volume of traffic that an area needs to reach to qualify as an entry point, but I would expect that this area might be reasonably considered a gateway.

- Pathways: There is an unpaved path around the perimeter of North Point peninsula. But referring to this as a pathway is less than accurate. I would suggest that it is a barely maintained service road. The path is more than wide enough for the trucks that service the porta-pods at the beach. They are rutted, uneven, wide and out of scale with the area. Moreover, the lighting along the path is not pedestrian oriented. There are very tall street sized lamp posts that light the way. and the light colors don't match, one with a yellow hue and the other blue. I wish this path was more friendly to pedestrians, with lighting that was more in scale with pedestrian walkways, and narrower and better maintained paths that could still accommodate service vehicles.

- Seasonality: This area is used 365 days a year. While I understand that the portable toilets and trashcans are removed because the beach is less popular in the winter, I hope we can view this area as being a year-round attraction. The same goes for Cedar Lake Parkway. Many of the trash containers are removed in the winter. I don't think the usage goes down all that much throughout the year, and it would be nice for residents who frequently (daily or more) visit the area, many who use the area to walk dogs, had trash bins throughout the year.

- Woods/Natural Area: Removal of buckthorn is what brings me to this area most every week of the year. The area is "natural" but its unmaintained servicing resulted in the invasive buckthorn taking over the area. The process of eradicating buckthorn is being done with the idea of making this place more welcoming and safer for visitors, and more importantly to support a healthy ecosystem for the area including lake system water quality.

I look forward to keeping up with the project updates and reading up and providing input as possible. In working in the area, I get asked a lot of questions about what is happening. I try my best to communicate what I can. Please don't hesitate to contact me for any follow up discussion.

Thank you

Steve Kotvis

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [Mark J.Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]A consistent message and a technical bulletin  
**Date:** Monday, December 20, 2021 12:40:33 PM

---

Emma

Overall I think you are off to a good start but may at times may need a more consistent and detailed message.

I am trying to be supportive and constructive in what I say. Sometimes I am too direct. Anyway here we go.

You have done an excellent job telling the public you have listen to their desire to have Cedar Lake be “natural”.

It may not be clear to your most critical audience such as those environmental groups that will review your plan that you have listened to all of the recommendations they have made in the Life section of Ecological Systems Plan. The other day at South Beach an environmentalist asked me “what happened to Phase 2?”

Using a common language and periodic technical bulletins may help.

For example, the introduction of the term Rewilding may lead to confusion and uncertainty since it is not a program highlighted in other MPRB plans.

The concept of Rewilding is new to me and process of Rewilding seems a little overwhelming.

Rewilding Earth Welcome - Home of the Rewilding Institute

<https://rewilding.org/>

It may be better to convey the work you are doing to build upon what the the Park Board has already done than to introduce a new and more complex program such as Rewilding

If we use terms such Native Plant Communities, Planted Natural Areas , Ecological Rank, Phase 2, and triage that are already discussed in other Park Board Plans we have a common local understanding with a legacy we can build on and it will be obvious that you are listening.

The Oak Savana mentioned in your video may serve as an example. It is clear that you have assigned the area a favorable Ecological Rank and have done the equivalent of a Phase 2 triage. You need convey that is what you have done using the Park Board's own language so we know you have listened to and are are integrating the Natural Areas and Ecological System Plans.

Rather than attempting to Rewild the Oak Savana we should make certain it is identified as a “Natural Area” with all the rights and privileges of all the other Natural Areas in the Park Board and is managed by a single system wide Natural Areas Program that includes and oversees Forestry, Asset Management, and Volunteer Services.

There may be two audiences, the general public and the “environmentalists”. Somehow we need to strike a balance.

You are doing well communicating with the general public

You could have a separate technical bulletin and video with periodic updates that anticipates critical review.

Local environmental groups that were influential in helping with the Life section of the Environmental Service Plan will be asking detailed technical questions

External sources of revenue will be needed to fund the restoration and reclamation of the vast amount of anthropogenic soil within the Park. Technical bulletins could anticipate and be a framework for future grant proposals.

Mark

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**From:** [Jeanette Colby](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Linda](#); [Elizabeth Shaffer](#); [Claire Ruebeck](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Reactions to the Draft Plan -- Cedar/Lake of the Isles  
**Date:** Monday, December 20, 2021 12:55:22 PM

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Emma and team,

Thank you for all your good work on the Cedar Lake / Lake of the Isles master plan so far. You captured many of the important values and community priorities. Below are my initial thoughts and questions. It's pretty long, so thanks in advance for taking the time to consider them.

All the best,

Jeanette Colby

### **Both concepts / General comments**

#### **1. Financial Implications**

Please consider the financial implications of specific recommendations if you actually want them to happen -- and if you believe they *should* happen assuming limited resources. The MPRB has many needs and wants across the system, in both neighborhood and regional parks. Regardless of which "pot of money" is tapped, it seems important to set priorities for spending public dollars.

#### **2. Adding Amenities — Maintenance**

Please include a realistic, funded maintenance plan within the master plan. Maintenance is a critical success factor. Within a few years, signs, picnic shelters, lake decks, boardwalks, activity hubs — as well as new plantings — start looking shabby without it. The MPRB has a mixed record on maintaining assets. And in the meantime, please find a way to maintain what we have.

#### **3. Vehicle Traffic**

Cars are not going away anytime soon, and today the Parkways are pretty important to getting from point A to point B. Closing parkways or making them one-way will push more cars onto neighborhood streets. Please remember that when parkways were closed during the initial phase of the pandemic there was a stay-at-home order; many fewer people were going anywhere by car. Going forward, temporary closures likely make a lot more sense than permanent changes.

#### **4. Permanent Activity Hubs**

Please consider the cost of building, maintaining and staffing permanent buildings. What would the staffing model be? The proposed hubs are within a 10-minute walk from the Kenwood Rec Center; will this influence future budgetary decisions? Was a new *temporary* facility for winter ice skating considered? Is there a true need or market demand for a permanent facility?

#### **5. Respect for History and Character**

To what extent should either Cedar or Isles replicate the amenities at Bde Maka Ska or Lake Harriet? It seems more inclusive to provide alternatives for people who want different lake experiences. More respectful of previous work and historical integrity as well.

#### **6. Gateway signage**

There's a balance between adding helpful signage and creating negative visual impacts. Especially since signage looks bad if it is not maintained.

#### **7. Safety at Cedar Lake - Hidden Beach**

A master plan should address the safety issues that have existed at Hidden Beach for many years, especially in the summer. Improvements in safety over the last few years have been the result of volunteer efforts. We can't assume volunteer labor will always be available. The problem of drug dealing and drug and alcohol use in the park may get worse with the addition of a light rail station.



## 8. Nice Ride stations

Nice Ride stations were installed recently on both lakes. Should their location be considered in this plan?

## 9. Public Input

The holiday season and dead of winter probably aren't the best times to get comprehensive reactions to these draft concepts.

## Concept 1

### Lake of the Isles

A winter skating loop should be easy and fun.

Regarding permanent closure of part of Lol Parkway, what is the basis for saying "We don't anticipate this reconfiguration to significantly impact vehicle use or access in this area"? Also, have you considered the impact on neighborhood coherence if many dead-end streets are created?

In the winter, lots of people (including families with young kids) access the current skating rink by car. And park by the rink.

I wonder if it's even possible to have a permanent "activity hub" where it's proposed (current warming house site). The shoreline is very narrow there and the ground is soft.

The picture included of the "lake deck" doesn't look very usable for people with mobility issues. Maybe lake decks are better in reality than this photo makes them look. They would require maintenance.

An on-street painted bike lane would solve the two-way problem. Please do not propose stanchions, however — they are obtrusive and require constant maintenance. They also create snow removal problems. It would be far less expensive to create an on-street bike lane around Lake of the Isles than to narrow the parkway to create a two-way bike path.

I personally like boardwalks, but they limit accessibility.

Dog walkers make up a relatively large proportion of park users around Lake of the Isles. Many people appreciate space to veer off the path to avoid having dogs interact.

### Cedar Lake

It's not clear to me from the video and maps what "accessible trails" means. Are these proposed to accommodate both bikes and walkers? Are they paved?

Would drivers who currently use Cedar Lake Parkway use France/Ewing Avenue if CLP is made one-way? What effect would that have? I'm not opposed, just raising the question.

Cedar South Beach was JUST redesigned. Is another structure (picnic shelter) really wanted and needed there?

Adding a "mobile comfort station" at the Bryn Mawr/Penn Ave light rail station should be carefully considered. This is an entire conversation in itself.

## Concept 2

### Lake of the Isles

Prairie planting seems out of place; Isles was a wetland / swamp prior to human intervention, wasn't it? The recent renovation (2009?) created garden nodes. These are currently maintained by volunteers; wouldn't a commitment to funding maintenance allow for improvement of these nodes as pollinator areas?

How is enhanced safety of street crossings achieved?

The two-way bike lane is associated with "Narrowed Parkway." Is that financially realistic?

In my opinion, a permanent building at the base of Kenwood Parkway, if it's possible to build here, would not be desirable from an aesthetic or historic standpoint.

Does the proposed activity hub area of the lake freeze as quickly and consistently as the north arm? The skating season seems to be getting shorter.

**Cedar**

A boardwalk south of Kenilworth Channel allowing for circumnavigation would solve the problem of full public access. It would need to be maintained.

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**From:** [Sandra Nelson](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Fwd: Cedar-Isles Redevelopment Designs  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 22, 2021 9:41:10 AM

---

Hello Emma,

Elizabeth Shaffer requested that I forward my comments to your attention.

Please let me know if you have questions or need clarification.

Thank you,  
Sandra

Hi Elizabeth,

Congratulations on your election win. I'm thrilled that you will be representing our community on the Park Board.

SW Voices published two proposed designs for Cedar Lake/Lake of the Isles this morning. It is the clearest and most comprehensive presentation I've seen to date:

[https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-12\\_Cedar-Isles\\_Initial-Park-Concepts\\_final.pdf](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-12_Cedar-Isles_Initial-Park-Concepts_final.pdf)

As a 44-year resident of Lowry Hill and Lake of the Isles, I'd like to share my feedback and ask a few questions.

### **Guiding Principles**

**PROTECT** — Agree 100%

**INVITE** — Sounds as if our treasured lakes are destined under this plan to become “an outdoors State Fair.” A broader audience? Our precious lakes are not a consumer product. Marketing jargon and marketing initiatives are not needed or welcome, and any attempts to commercialize the lakes are completely out of line in my judgment.

**CONNECT** — I do not know what this means. My friends and neighbors have never expressed confusion about “circulation networks” around city lakes. What is a “flexible” circulation network? Is there a plan afoot to move vehicular traffic to the bike or walking path?

**TELL STORIES** — I don't know what this means either, but surmise it's an effort to check every conceivable box on someone's “must have” list.

**CELEBRATE** — Again, poorly written. What does this mean? Is the plan to construct a history museum? A stage for plays? A shelter/building for picnics and late-night parties?

**RESPECT** — In my experience, residents and visitors already have a strong physical and emotional relationship with the lakes. Lake of the Isles has been accessible to residents and visitors since the 1880s. In 1989, thanks to 65 citizen activists, an abandoned railroad yard was turned into serene and scenic Cedar Lake in the heart of the city. If the MPRB wants to “tell stories,” I recommend commissioning a piece of public art accompanied by the story of each lake's inception. We should also discuss the importance of showcasing public art in our parks and near our lakes. To my knowledge, we have none. The art should reflect our times and be crafted by great artists. What better way to connect the past with today, and promote the immense creative talent we have as our neighbors.

Since I live a block from Isles, following comments pertain to Lake of the Isles.

## **CONCEPT A: LIVING LAKES**

- I approve and endorse all environmental recommendations.
- I strong reject all Activity Hubs; regardless of their design, this concept is antithetical to the beauty and serenity of the lake.
- I also oppose all lake decks. There is already a lake deck on the south end of Isles where there are no residences. I have never seen a line of canoeists, kayakers or paddleboarders waiting to enter the lake from this deck. This appears to be a solution in search of a problem.
- I am not in favor of the proposed Picnic Pavilion because people have been picnicking around the lake and in Kenwood Park ON THE GRASS for years. In my judgment, a permanent structure of any kind is an invitation for late-night parties and other public disturbances in, lest we forget, a residential neighborhood.
- If the plan is to move ice rink to Cedar, what is rationale/justification for a permanent warming house on Isles? It does not make sense, and the existing building is an eyesore, in spite of its “new windows” funded, in part, by the East Isles Residents Association.
- What is the rationale for a second street bike path adjacent to the existing path on Lake of the Isles Parkway? According to the map, the street path goes in the opposite direction...for a reason that completely eludes me. My partner cycles 20+ miles a day, nearly year-round, on existing paths around the city. I also have many friends and neighbors who cycle the lakes daily; I have never heard a negative comment about

Isles “bike circulation.”

## **CONCEPT B: UNIQUE LAKE EXPERIENCES**

- Approve ecological, water quality, shoreline restoration and protection.
- Oppose Activity Hub.
- Oppose relocation of ice rink, skating loop and year-round warming house to another residential area of Lake of the Isles for reason cited above.
- My cyclist partner advises that a two-way bike lane on Isles and Cedar lakes would be an accident waiting to happen without substantially widening the current bike path. On Isles, is the topography around the lake compatible with a significant increase in width of the existing bike lane? I am doubtful.
- Temporary Parkway closures? What does this actually mean? How often? What duration? What type of “programmatic” activity?
- Increase signage to promote an “inclusive welcome” versus what? An exclusive welcome? No welcome?

Apologies for the long-windiness. Concept B is slightly better than A, but there are major problems with both concepts...the first of which is the written narrative. From a former college writing teacher, much of the narrative behind these concepts is incomprehensible.

As with MPRB’s proposal for the Bde Maka Ska refectory site, these concepts are trying to make Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake “tourist” destinations. They are not and they should not be. This is not to say that visitors are are not welcome. They are and they have come, at times in droves. We are fortunate to live in a precious and treasured natural environment that very few cities in the U.S. enjoy. The primary job of the Park Board should be to restore, protect and preserve the lakes and the natural habitat surrounding them. If we’re interested in preserving the natural beauty of the lakes, we can’t commercialize it or make it a “tourist” attraction. Most of the Park Board’s proposals will distract from our lakes' natural beauty and their reason for being. Full stop.

Let me know if you have questions or need clarification.

Many thanks for your hard and productive work on behalf of our community.

Sandra

**Sandra Nelson**



**[External]** This email originated from outside of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [Angie Finkel](#)  
To: [Angie Finkel](#), [John D. Smith](#), [John D. Smith](#), [John D. Smith](#), [John D. Smith](#), [John D. Smith](#)  
Subject: [REDACTED]  
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 1:27 PM PT

Below is my previous email about the need for storm water mitigation for Lake of the Isles. A trucked up pile of plastic trash but flows directly off the west into Lake of the Isles accumulating yearly on the East side.

See comment 2 below at tail end of previous email and see attached photos.

No amount of Earth Day celebration will make up for an organized storm water mitigation strategy.

Is it true that the new master plan does not address storm water mitigation strategy?

Thank you  
Angie Finkel

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Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 3, 2021, at 12:15 PM, Sunday/Angie Patti/E. d. [REDACTED] wrote:

> Thank you so much!

> <image0.png>

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[illegible]

**From:** [Sandeep/Angie Patel/Erdrich](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 10:48:41 AM

---

Water Quality- Please Improve Infrastructure

Dear MPRB,

Please include these comments in the 20 year plan for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake Park.

Please put water quality first in park planning. I am concerned about plastic trash entering Lake of the Isles directly through storm drains, multiple algal blooms on Cedar Lake, and the aging /possible inadequacy of the Cedar Lake Wetlands. I am concerned about deteriorating water quality on both lakes.

As you develop plans, please mandate cooperation with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Please coordinate with the City of Minneapolis, the

Clean Water Partnership, and Minneapolis Public Works to improve infrastructure. Could aeration features reduce algae blooms? Could the City ban lawn chemicals near lakes? Thank you! Your planning is important endeavor but we need the MPRB to create a collective vision of cooperation with all the agencies involved in clean water.

Angela Erdrich

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**From:** [Cathleen KB Gruen](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [John Gruen](#)  
**Subject:** [External]20 year plan for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake Park: Community Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:03:52 AM

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Dear MPRB,

Please include these comments in the 20 year plan for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake Park. Please put water quality first in park planning. I am concerned about plastic trash entering Lake of the Isles directly through storm drains, multiple algal blooms on Cedar Lake, and the aging design/possible inadequacy of the Cedar Lake Wetlands. I am concerned about deteriorating water quality on both lakes. As you develop plans, please mandate cooperation with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Please coordinate with the City of Minneapolis, the Clean Water Partnership, and Minneapolis Public Works to improve infrastructure. Could aeration features reduce algae blooms? Could the City of Minneapolis ban lawn chemicals near lakes? Thank you! Your planning is important endeavor. We need the MPRB to create a collective vision of cooperation with all the agencies involved in clean water.

Sincerely,

Cathleen KB Gruen  
St. Louis Park, MN. 55416

[https://www.minneapolis-sparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-12\\_Cedar-Isles\\_Initial-Park-Concepts\\_final.pdf](https://www.minneapolis-sparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-12_Cedar-Isles_Initial-Park-Concepts_final.pdf)

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**From:** [SHEILA PETERSON](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Lake Trailand SWLR  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:37:05 AM

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Good morning.

As you are planning for improvements around Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake, I would like you to consider the wildlife that will be endangered by the presence of the SWLR. The area being destroyed by SWLR has for years been a safe haven for endangered bees, countless songbirds, coyote, fox, opossum, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels, deer and more. Now with a basic freeway cutting right through their homes, I am concerned of a massacre to come. How will you be protecting these animals from being killed by the SWLR?

Regards,

Sheila Peterson



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**From:** [Bonnie Carlson-Green](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar - Isles project  
**Date:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:45:46 AM

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Good morning!

First, thank you for the excellent communication and visuals backing this project. I am often working during the meeting times but appropriate being able to find information quickly and easily.

My concern is that I have not seen incorporation of swimmers (Cedar) and XC skiers (both lakes) into lake usage. There is lots about use of the land around the lake, but not actually people in and on the water--that is the draw!

Cedar is used by the MPLS parks for its Open Swim paid program. It is also used by many other swimmers, including the YWCA Uptown Master swimming program. It is used in winter (on the west side) for cold water immersion.

Both lakes are groomed for skiing by the Loppet Foundation when conditions are safe. Rather than adding a second ice rink at Cedar, why not add something (warming hut?) for skiers, walkers, etc).

Happy to talk further if that would be helpful. Again, thank you for your creative input into making our beautiful lakes better and healthier.

Best,  
Bonnie Carlson-Green

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**From:** [Tamara Kaiser](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Cc:** [Erik Storlie](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar/Isles plan  
**Date:** Monday, January 24, 2022 7:57:12 AM

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Dear Ms. Pachuta,

We are writing to express our thoughts regarding the plans for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles. We have reviewed the two proposals being considered and raise the following concerns. We will also be entering these words on the general form provided, but wanted to contact you directly. We would appreciate your sending our letter on to the other members of the CAC. And we are copying our MPRB representative, Elizabeth Shaffer, on this note to you.

As you know, the summary of public input for the C-1 master plan showed the following: 1. Concern with poor water quality 2. Strong interest in preserving and expanding the current natural and forested areas and 3. Strong appreciation for current programming and activities and interest in preserving the latter for flexible and organic uses. This specifically includes focusing on activities that don't need additional built infrastructure.

The general message of the results of this survey is that the most pressing issue is that we maintain and preserve our precious ecosystem.

We offer an historical example of what can happen when park land is mismanaged—in this case monetized for development. In 1952, 32 acres of Theodore Wirth Park adjoining Brownie Lake was sold to Prudential Insurance for \$200,000 (a steal at \$1,850,000 in current dollars). The Park Board was pressured by politicians and business leaders. A pristine oak-savannah terminal moraine was leveled. At Brownie, you now see muddy banks and green, stagnant water, a legacy of thousands of tons of earth bulldozed from steep hilltops and dumped close above the shoreline for a parking lot. Stretches of the lake bottom rose above water level, requiring extensive dredging. Natural springs dried up. A massive concrete structure rose, towering over Brownie and Cedar—now an empty, derelict office building. Once Cedar and Brownie were crystal clear, spring-fed, the beaches sandy and clean. Now both tend toward green with algae blooms covering sandy shallows and disrupting sunfish nesting areas.

Both of the current proposals for Isles and Cedar include the addition of permanent structures. While, of course, none are nearly as large and significant as the Prudential Building, and none require selling park land, these structures raise concerns. We already observe that the MPRB doesn't have the resources from the Metropolitan Council to adequately maintain the parks as they are. To offer a few examples, the structure recently erected at Bde Mka Ska to honor the Dakota is already showing signs of disrepair, as one of the large blocks has fallen and is now on the shore of the lake. The path on the west side of the lake has been eroding for years and has been blocked off, awaiting repair for quite some time. The Bandstand at Lake Harriet is in need of repair as well. Water quality, as noted above, is in danger on all the lakes. Several



beaches have needed to close for periods of time each summer because of danger to swimmers and one only has to look at the lake to see that often they are filled with algae and other plants, moving ever closer to the very sad conditions present on Brownie Lake.

We object to the over focus on providing entertainment at the parks versus a providing a desperately needed opportunity for people to be in nature. This is needed especially for those who don't have the resources to escape the city for the woods to cabins or resorts.

As is stated in the MPRB mission, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board *permanently preserves, protects, maintains, improves, and enhances its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations of our region including people, plants, and wildlife.*

We know that part of the motive for adding more structures and other amenities is to increase the number of people who use the lakes, in the hopes of getting more money from the Metropolitan Council. This is short sighted. Perhaps there will be more money, but there will also be far more need for it, thus leaving us in the same situation we are today or, likely, worse.

Please consider keeping these spaces clear of any more permanent structures, so that that money can go into protecting and repairing what is already there.

Sincerely,

Tamara Kaiser and Erik Storlie

District 4

CC Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer, District 4 Representative

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**From:** [Rolf and Chris Bolstad](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Suggestion for Lake of the Isles  
**Date:** Thursday, January 27, 2022 3:50:51 PM

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Those of us who walk the lake regularly find lost items and are at a loss as to what to do with them. We try to put them someplace where the loser can find them, but we have little hope. I'd like to see two or three "Lost and Found" baskets around the paths.

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**From:** [David Andersen](#)  
**To:** [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Cc:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [External]Cedar-Isles plans A and B  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 12:25:37 PM

---

Thanks for the feedback!  
--Dave

On Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 10:54 AM Shaffer, Elizabeth A. [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello David,

Thank you for your thoughts. I know personally about your geese observation (Emma- one of my first acts as commissioner-elect was to pull a dead goose out of LOI before the lake iced over per David's request)!

One perspective I wanted to share in regards to the two-way bike traffic off-road is that this would require an expansion of pavement – meaning a loss of some trees along the parkway. How many or which ones we do not have that level of detail for, but Emma may be able to tell you how much more width may be needed beyond what we have for the one-way now.

Thank you again for your input and patience in my response.

Elizabeth Shaffer

Commissioner, District 4

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** David Andersen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:51 PM  
**To:** Pachuta, Emma R. [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Shaffer, Elizabeth A. [REDACTED]

**Subject:** [External]Cedar-Isles plans A and B

Hi Emma,

As a daily lake walker I observe the ducks and geese a lot. I thoroughly enjoy their presence. I don't think that a walkway on the shoreline will interfere with ducks and geese passing between the water and the shore because they rarely if ever walk between the water and shore. Instead, they fly.

I prefer the bikeway to be two-way and not on the street. Moving cars within 3 feet of my handlebars is too dangerous. Two-way traffic allows round trips. For example, I can bike to Lake Harriet band concerts and return by the same route.

My wife described how uncomfortable it is for a woman to use an outhouse in freezing temperatures. Providing a permanent indoor heated toilet on Lake of the Isles would encourage a lot more ladies to walk the lake. Better for me too.

Consider designing the permanent warming house to resemble a Japanese tea house or a Swiss chalet or maybe even a northern Minnesota log cabin. A full cafe menu might be too much but coffee house pastries while seated on a deck on the water would be heaven.

Also consider a foot bridge across the water at the current warming house location. It would shorten the walking distance around the lake and shorten the distance to the new light rail station.

Thank you for all the excellent work you do in this project. Very well done. It is so appreciated. You are making history.

Best wishes,

--David Andersen

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**From:** [Jean Dahlke](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Lake  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 7:47:57 PM

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Each of the lakes in the Chain of Lakes offers unique experiences. Cedar Lake is unique in the number of trees surrounding the lake, the amount of wildlife that frequents this lake and the experiences that people in the city may only see in a zoo. Deer, fox, turkeys, hawks and eagles oh and the loons in the spring are all sighted frequently on walks around the lake making it so different from all the other lakes. Please do not create changes that would damage habitat and viewing of these creatures. People in the city need to relax in a peaceful beautiful environment.

Thank you,

Jean Dahlke  
St Louis Park

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Comments on Cedar Lake Project Plan  
**Date:** Monday, February 14, 2022 10:20:29 AM

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Hello:

My name is Heather Thayer and I live at 3504 W 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, on the west side of Cedar Lake. Therefore, I read the project plans with great interest. I am strongly in favor of Plan A, with one exception which I discuss in detail below. I liked Plan A because the wild nature of the north east side of Cedar Lake, and the inaccessibility of the south east side should be preserved as setting the lake apart from other lakes and preserving the lake as primarily a swimming, paddling and fishing lake – I believe that Plan A achieves that, while restoring the natural balance of the lake (and hopefully the water quality), yet making the lake safer and more accessible for all. The one aspect of the proposal that I have a concern about is the one way stretch of Cedar Lake Parkway from the railroad bridge down to 21<sup>st</sup>.

First, it might be helpful to have a description of how traffic flows on Cedar Lake Parkway and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cedar Lake Parkway is, while not a major thoroughfare like Lake Street, a busy street. It is the primary way for people from points south (and also slightly east and west) to get to and from the Northside, Bryn Mawr (including the elementary school and Anwatin), 394, Glendale, and Highway 55 --and vice versa. Because it is a shortcut, emergency vehicles coming from Fire Station Station 22 also use the Parkway as the fastest way to get to emergencies. Despite the 25 MPH speed limit, traffic tends to go 30-35 MPH on the Parkway as people go back and forth from home to work to school and errands. At rush hour, Parkway traffic can back up quite a bit going both north and south. West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street is, on the other hand, two blocks of relatively quiet residential street. While it is one of the few streets where traffic can go through from France/Ewing to the Parkway and it is a primary way to access smaller streets in the neighborhood, traffic (except on summer weekends) is low. It is the kind of street where on summer evenings the neighbors gather in the street chatting while the kids ride their bikes in circles until someone shouts "car!" and we pause to let the car through, then resume being in the middle of our quiet street.

Summer weekends are a different story – starting early in the morning and going until late afternoon/early evening, people drive from all over the city to fish, swim and paddle. Since 22<sup>nd</sup> is close to Point Beach, and because the stop sign at 22<sup>nd</sup> and France/Ewing is the only traffic control from the railroad bridge to Lake Street, 22nd is a popular place for families to park when going to the beach – I particularly appreciate the diversity of the families – Black, Asian, Hispanic and White, who come to use the beach. Hundreds of people also park on West 22<sup>nd</sup> to paddle – paddleboards, canoes and kayaks are all popular, and there is a good place to put in between 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. In addition, many people (again diverse), park here early in the morning and in the evening to fish (the deep water here is a prime fishing spot). There are also bikers and walkers who drive, bike or walk here and use 22<sup>nd</sup> Street as their entry to the park. An aside – thank you to the Park Board for putting trash and recycling cans at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Cedar Lake – it really reduced the amount of trash we had to pick up every day – dirty diapers BLECH! In any event, on summer weekend days

the relatively narrow street is full of people and families parking, loading and unloading cars, kids, canoes, fishing gear, bikers etc.

However, the proposal to make Cedar Lake Parkway one way from the railroad bridge to 21<sup>st</sup> is going to shunt the Parkway through traffic onto 22<sup>nd</sup> or even smaller side streets, which will not only change the character of the neighborhood, it is dangerous and non-inclusive. If the Parkway were to become one way going southbound, all of the northbound traffic that will still use the Parkway as shortcut (this minor deviation will not eliminate the shortcut) will have to turn left (across the southbound traffic) at either 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>. Not only will the left turn be dangerous, but that will put all of the northbound traffic either onto 21<sup>st</sup>, which will then result in a people being in a tangle of small, winding residential streets – or the savvy drivers will realize that 22<sup>nd</sup> shoots straight through to Drew, which connects up close to the bridge, or to France/Ewing, which is a little more of a detour, but at least there is a stop sign.

Having the traffic on the Parkway be one way going northbound means that people taking advantage of the shortcut will have to take a left turn from Ewing/France onto either Drew, then come down to 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, or a left turn at the stop sign onto 22<sup>nd</sup>. Having the traffic be one way going northbound also could be perceived as a microaggression, that people from the Northside are not welcome coming to Cedar Lake for recreation.

In any event, having that Parkway through traffic shunted onto the residential streets on a regular day will be dangerous, because from experience with 22<sup>nd</sup> being used as an occasional detour, that through traffic goes FAST – even faster than normal because people taking an unnecessary detour become irritated. On a weekend when the residential streets are narrow with lots of parked cars and people (including lots of children), having all of that extra traffic trying to get through could be a disaster.

The option shown in Plan B of keeping the Parkway two way but closing it for events is very appealing. Despite the personal inconvenience, I loved having the Parkway closed at the start of the pandemic – it was so quiet, particularly at night. I will say that if this becomes a more than occasional thing, there needs to be clarity about how parking works at the ends of the closed streets. Some people treated the closed ends as a spot to park “head in”, which made it difficult for cars trying to leave to turn around, and also made it difficult for emergency vehicles to get through. For some reason that is inexplicable to me, many people also seemed to think that because the street was a dead end that meant I wasn’t using my driveway and during that time I had to run out and catch people before they left their cars blocking my driveway (?).

Also, Plan B has a way to deal with the problem of the shared bike path/pedestrian path from Point Beach to the bridge – a boardwalk for pedestrians that hugs the shore from the beach to the railroad is very appealing. Even leaving the short shared path would be acceptable, and I say that as someone who walks that stretch nearly every day.

So – love Plan A (living lakes) but replace the permanent one way on the Parkway with the boardwalk and occasional Parkway closure from Plan B.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

**Heather Thayer** (she/her)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From** [REDACTED]  
**To** [REDACTED]  
**Subject** [REDACTED]  
**Date** Thu, 05 May 2022 13:40:36  
**Attachments** [REDACTED]

The attached photo of that map look on, he can have top of Lake of the lakes above you at least one reason the Park Board should not put more a garage and other one a (I guess) a better lake area and better around Lake of the lakes. I hope you - anyone - will agree that the attached shows what we are not doing. It is the Park Board's work around on doing things like that that will see my first step about what to be prepared in both concept plans for LOTS.

I hope you/ I had a chance to look at the (back of) maps of the parks on the MPRH website. In a day and age where my own map was a lot more accessible, but thinking there is no ability and necessary price of infrastructure, as I probably need more before I would like to be able to look at a map of each park on I am showing a future and talk and also ideally be able to see where I am a park on an app when I'm there.

It looks like there are some that using the A. more app  
<https://get2.safelinks.com/...>  
or for the A. more app  
<https://www.themore.com/...>

Thanks  
Kathy Low

-----Original Message-----  
From: Kathy Low [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 11:05 PM  
To: Kathy Low [REDACTED]  
Subject: Kiosk

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**From:** [Laura Hanson](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar-Isles Project Plan Feedback  
**Date:** Monday, February 21, 2022 4:47:08 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to share some feedback on the Cedar-Isles project plan.

1. I would be DEVASTATED if walking paths were added along the Kenilworth channel. That channel is my absolute favorite place in Minneapolis - I love paddling through it in the summer and walking/skiing through it in the winter. One of the best parts of the channel is that it is secluded, quiet, and peaceful. Adding walking paths along the channel would ruin the magic of that unique and special place.

Walkers already have world-class walking paths at Cedar, Isles, Maka Ska, and Harriet, and for those who need to get between Isles and Cedar, Dean Parkway already provides sufficient and scenic connection.

2. I would be very disappointed if the road along the west side of Cedar became a one-way road. I understand that the combined walking and biking paths are too narrow and therefore unsafe along that stretch...could the existing path become a bike lane and a new boardwalk be added for the walkers along that portion of the lake? A boardwalk would make space for the walkers and bikers without sacrificing a much-needed road for residents who visit the lakes from the northern side of 394.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this project.

Laura Hanson

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [Bradley Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Lake of the Isles redesign  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 11:22:41 AM

---

Dear Ms Pachuta-

I reside at 1964 Penn Ave S, and have lived in Kenwood for almost 25 years. I have only recently (and utterly fortuitously) become aware of a proposed "redesign" of the Eastern and Northern sides of the Lagoon of Lake of the Isles, and specifically the proposal to abandon an enormous stretch of the Isles Parkway from 25th St on the east side of the lake to 21st st on the west side. Given that the Parkway was laid out before the turn of the 19th Century, well over 100 years ago, to call this a redesign is a bit of a misnomer, as it really amounts to a radical alteration of the entire scheme of the park and the surrounding neighborhoods.

There currently are two existing routes into Kenwood from the south and east of the city: the Isles Parkway and Franklin Ave. The plan appears to propose permanently closing the Parkway at 25th on the eastern side of the lagoon, ultimately running the parkway traffic onto Irving, thence up to Franklin, then south on Penn (directly in front of my residence), then east on 21st St and back to the Parkway at 21st. This means that virtually all the traffic (residential, commercial and municipal) seeking to enter Kenwood would be directed onto Penn Ave, and finally onto the tiny narrow street of 21st.

This will unreasonably increase traffic on Penn Ave in Kenwood, a roadway which is already carrying a large volume of traffic, as it must necessarily handle all the traffic (buses and otherwise) for Kenwood Elementary when school is in session. Further, the idea that all of the Parkway traffic would be forced onto the already congested intersection of 21st and Penn is simply preposterous. This forced redirection of the Parkway will radically degrade the quality of life in Kenwood, and substantially impact in a negative way the small businesses at the corner of Penn and 21st, to say nothing of the implications for the administration of the school.

It also appears that the idea behind all this is to construct a new recreational building at 21st and West Isles Parkway. There is already a rec center in existence for Kenwood Park (with restrooms) at the corner of Penn and Franklin, approximately 200 yards to the east of the proposed new facility. So there is no real need for a new public building in the proposed location, especially when one considers that there are no facilities on the south side of Lake of the Isles.

Has the (relatively unused) soccer field on the south side of Isles been considered for such a facility? Construction there would not involve such a radical alteration of existing roadways and traffic patterns. Surely that makes far more practical sense than the abandonment of a road grid that has been relied upon for a hundred years, an abandonment that necessarily and substantially increases traffic onto half a dozen residential streets in both the East Isles

and Kenwood neighborhoods!

As for those park users (many elderly and tourists) who elect to enjoy the park by driving around Lake of the Isles (or the entire chain of lakes for that matter), the redesign means that they will go from having a scenic lake route with a single stop sign to a trip through winding residential streets (which they may not even be familiar with) with 8 stop signs. This inconvenience cannot be blithely dismissed as inconsequential. Further, the proposed abandonment of the Parkway means that such park visitors will no longer even be able to SEE Lake of the Isles for a substantial segment of their drive. This is not "creating more lake access", whatever your survey may assert.

I strongly oppose this redesign and ask that this letter be placed in whatever public comment section exists.

The Isles Parkway has been in existence for over a hundred years. It has become an essential piece of traffic infrastructure for the west side of Minneapolis, on which hundreds of houses in both East Isles and Kenwood have developed a reliance interest. The redesign will route traffic from houses which were built and purchased with knowledge of the existing Parkway traffic and shift it onto residents who who purchased without any reasonable expectation that they would have to accept such a traffic burden. This is patently unfair.

It seems to me that there are equally feasible alternatives to the current proposal. And even if there are not, this radical alteration of the existing Parkway is unreasonable and unworkable.

thank you for your consideration,

Bradley Anderson



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**From:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**To:** [Heidi Johnson](#)  
**Cc:** [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [External]Cedar-Isles designs  
**Date:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:44:00 PM

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Hi Heidi,

Thanks so much for taking the time to share your feedback and concerns about the initial park concepts for the Cedar-Isles master plan. No final decisions have been made so this is a great time to share your thoughts. Your comments will be included within the feedback shared with the Community Advisory Committee during this phase of design.

You may already receive email updates, but in case you don't, you can sign up to receive updates at [www.minneapolisparks.org/cedar-isles](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/cedar-isles) under the Get Involved tab.

Thanks again, Heidi!

Best,  
Emma

**Emma R. Pachuta**

Pronouns: she . her . hers

Senior Planner | [Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board](#) | 2117 West River Rd. Minneapolis, MN 55411 | work cell: 612-499-3711 | [epachuta@minneapolisparks.org](mailto:epachuta@minneapolisparks.org)



**Minneapolis  
Park & Recreation Board**

*MPRB staff is currently working through virtual meetings. Thank you for your understanding.*

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**From:** Heidi Johnson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 8:13 AM  
**To:** Pachuta, Emma R. <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Shaffer, Elizabeth A. <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar-Isles designs

Dear Emma,

I'm writing to express my initial concerns about the design proposals for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake.

I'm very worried about the part of the proposal that closes the northern part of the Parkway and reroutes traffic to Franklin, Penn, and 21st. Arrival and dismissal at Kenwood Community

School are already congested, snarly times of day, and I can't imagine how dangerous the streets might become if Parkway traffic were rerouted to three sides of our school. Additionally, our playground isn't completely enclosed by a fence, and we've had children run into the street without regard for cars on several occasions. This would become a perilous situation with heavier traffic passing through the neighborhood.

A final concern I have is related to Lake of the Isles Church, which has been a generous neighbor to our school community. It serves as our emergency shelter in the event of an evacuation and has provided its basement space and stage for many performances and community-building gatherings for Kenwood Community School students and families. It's discouraging to think about the impact closing part of the Parkway would have on this important community institution.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Heidi

Heidi Johnson (she/her)

Principal

Kenwood Community School

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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To: [REDACTED]

Hello Rev. Haug

Thank you for your input. Your thoughts are exactly what the project designers need to hear at this time as they move from two design concepts to drawing up one proposed plan (which will also be vetted for public input).

Please email your concerns asap to Emma Pachuta, Cedar-Isles project manager: [epuchuta@minneapolisparks.org](mailto:epuchuta@minneapolisparks.org). You could also petition your neighborhood organization to respond as well. Another gentleman you could share this with is Win Rockwell, who is chairing the community board that is working on this. I cannot share his email but you could probably find his contact info or may know someone knows him (lives near the channel).

Thank you for reaching out.

Elizabeth Shaffer  
Commissioner, District 4  
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
m: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 20, 2022 3:25 PM  
**To:** Shaffer, Elizabeth A. [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External]Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church

Dear Elizabeth,

John Larson at 2000 W. Lake of the of the Isles Pkwy shared with me the proposal for the closure of the parkway in front of church at the corner or 21<sup>st</sup> presented in the Cedar-Isles Plan This is detrimental to the livelihood of our congregation. I am in absolute disbelief that the school, fire department, police or and other service would find this an acceptable action. It would force all traffic into the neighborhood. We have no parking lot- which has been the nature of the neighborhood church for nearly 90 years. It would force wedding parties, concerts, book readings and Sunday Services to find alternative venues. This proposal simply does not serve this neighborhood.

Sincerely, The Rev. Dr. Arden D. Haug  
Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church

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**From:** [Lori Smith](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Lake of the Isles/Cedar Lake Redeisgn  
**Date:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:39:32 PM

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Hi Emma,

I wanted to reach out in regards to the redesign proposals for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles. I really appreciate all that the park board is doing to ensure that we keep our wonderful park system relevant and useful to our communities.

My concern is with the proposals about closing parts of the parkway along Lake of the Isles. As you may know, Kenwood School is very close to the lake/parkway and if traffic is rerouted closer to the school it could be extremely unsafe. The streets around the school are quite busy, especially at the beginning and end of the day. There are buses, cabs, day care vans, and cars (as well as people walking) picking up and dropping off children and it is already congested. To imagine more traffic travelling through the area is difficult. Already there are people who either come to a rolling stop at the intersections or go right through without stopping or slowing down.

Our playground is partially fenced, but not all the way. There are occasions that balls and playground equipment find their way out to the street. In addition, our school utilizes the park across the street for gym class, extra recess and other events.

I urge the park board to reconsider any option that would involve directing traffic towards the elementary school. If there is an online feedback form I would be happy to fill that out as well.

Thank you,  
Lori

Lori Smith (she/her/hers)  
Family Liaison - Kenwood Elementary School

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**From:** [Pamela MacKinnon](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Rerouting of traffic in new Cedar-Isles plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 8:57:13 PM

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Good evening,

I attended a meeting of the Site Council of Kenwood School today and was made aware of the draft plans for improvement for the use of our lakes and parks. Whereby I am in favor of some of your plans, I urge you to examine the re-routing of traffic and the impact on Kenwood School. As I looked at your plans it would seem that the rerouting of traffic, particularly the northern tip of Lake of the Isles Parkway would be closed to traffic, and that traffic would be routed around Franklin, Penn, and 21st. It seems as if the traffic from Lake of the Isles Parkway would now get routed around the school. There are crosswalks used by students and their families that would have more traffic, creating a concern for safety.

Has a traffic study been done? What do you know about the number of cars you would be rerouting? What do you know about school bus access to Kenwood School? I would be curious to know the data you are using as you change road configurations.

I walk either Lake Calhoun or Lake of the Isles 5 days a week and appreciate, every day, how lucky we are to have a park and lake system that supports outdoor experiences.

The favor of a reply that you have heard my concern and any studies you can point out that would show clear evidence that this change in traffic has been analyzed through the lens of students and families having safe access 170 days of the year to their public school would be greatly appreciated and in my mind, best practice.

Many thanks,  
Pam MacKinnon



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**From:** [rob.lefevere](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Kenwood Elementary  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 6:11:42 PM

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Hi Emma,

I'm the Site Council Co-chair for Kenwood Elementary and I wanted to write you about the proposed changes to traffic around the northern tip of Lake of the Isles. If I understand right, all the traffic from the northern tip of Lake of the Isles Parkway would be routed around 3 sides of the school, crossing all the crosswalks that our walkers use twice a day. I'm sure this is an oversight, but this seems like a very dangerous situation and the risk to the students/walkers outweighs the potential benefit of closing that short stretch of the parkway.

Moreover, the streets around the school (especially Penn and 21st) are so congested in the morning and afternoon that they're barely passable to residents. I can't imagine those streets could accommodate the additional traffic from the parkway.

I want to thank you in advance for this consideration. The Park Board has always been sensitive to the needs and safety concerns of the school, and I hope you're able to find another solution that doesn't put the students' safety at risk. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Rob LeFevere

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External]Long Range Isles Planning  
**Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022 3:29:40 PM

---

Dear Emma,  
Thank you for your service to the city and its constituents.

I would like to forward our sincere objections to the complex set of ideas for changes at and around Lake of the Isles.

We have lived at 2412 West Lake of the Isles Parkway for 41 years and have watched the evolution of this treasured Pastoral Lake.

Some 20 years or so ago, the Park Board felt it necessary due to a group of expensive Landscape Architects, to fill in 18 inches to the century compacted soil around certain parts of the lake. In doing so, the legality stated that there had to be two parts of water to every part of land fill that was applied. That would have made excessive water and less parkland available for city residents to enjoy. Consequently, we worked diligently, through legal means, to mitigate and get dispensation from the DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers to change the requirements for the benefit of the city's constituents. Keeping the water as is and doing the landfill as needed.

At that time, there was also the plan to add cement vistas that would protrude into the lake from the shoreline. And there was the thought of a permanent structure that would defy the intent of the founders for a Pastoral Lake, unlike the Recreational purposes that Calhoun and Harriet are noted for.

We had the cement vista idea replaced by natural limestone steps. We saved room for the walking path around the lake, with less water mitigation and we rejected a proposal for an island with a 10 foot access road to it.

So much of what you are presenting today is not acceptable for the purpose of supporting a Pastoral Lake and has been discussed at length previously.

We object to any permanent structures or additions that would take away from this unusual, peaceful, pedestrian and family friendly Pastoral, Lake of the Isles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea and Ken Hjelm

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**From:** [Elisabeth Hurliman](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Lake of the Isles Park proposed changes  
**Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022 1:04:31 PM

---

Dear Ms Shaffer and Ms Pachuta,

I am writing with great concerns regarding the proposed changes to Lake of the Isles Park. As LOTI church member and resident in the Lake of the Isles neighborhood, I feel these changes would affect our beautiful lake as well as the adjacent LOTI church with its historic beauty and would irreversibly negatively impact our neighborhood. I am certain I am not alone in this view amongst our neighborhood and church community, and hope our voices can be noted and these proposed plans will be reconsidered.

Best,  
Elisabeth Hurliman, MD PhD

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]CHANGES LAKE OF ISLES PARK  
**Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022 1:43:15 PM

---

Good Afternoon Ms. Pachuta & Ms. Shaffer

I am writing to you with regarding proposed park changes that would negatively affect our church Lake of the Isles Lutheran. Council President, Marty Carlson, has sent a letter to you dated February 22nd, outlining several major concerns. Highlighted below are the main issues I also agree with.

### **ROADWAY ACCESS IS ESSENTIAL!**

We are members and commuters from Shoreview and already experience difficulty in finding close parking for Sunday worship. Easy front door handicap access is a must for our seniors. Because of its location and beauty our church is used monthly for weddings member/nonmember. Parking for 150+ and limo service out front is expected. As is parking for funerals and hearses.

### **LOTI IS A GOOD COMMUNITY MEMBER!**

The doors are open daily to AA, concerts, lectures, bible studies etc. - a space that the community gathers in often. Minneapolis has suffered on many levels the last two years. Support us to be available to continue to spread hope and light.

### **THE CHURCH BUILDING IS IMPORTANT TO THE PARK!**

Our quaint new church bells ring throughout the neighborhood/park as a reminder we are here for all. How many times has this church been photographed!! It is a beautiful structure that needs to be incorporated as an asset along with the parks proposed changes.

### **WE ARE A COMMUTER CHURCH!**

Members arrive from all over the twin cities not just walking from the neighborhood. We need the parkway as our primary public access.

### **ABANDONING THE PARKWAY WOULD VIOLATE CITY CODE!**

There are laws protecting some of the proposed changes.

### **PROPOSED ACTIVITY HUB AND WATER TREATMENT PLANT SHOULD NOT BE LOCATED DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH!**

Obscuring LOTI/s historic site lines both from the church and from the park when other options are available need to be considered.

Appreciate your time and consideration in these matters. Some of the changes/upgrades to the park are indeed exciting. Please not at the expense and negative impact on our lovely and important church. We will be following developments closely.

I have enclosed a few pictures that capture the church's beauty and even a large wedding that demonstrates its continuing role in our community to member and non members alike.

Best,

Julie Gallop (Scott)













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**From:** [laura.nortwen](#)  
**To:** [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#); [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Lake of the Isles Proposed changes letter  
**Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022 1:23:42 PM

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February 25, 2022

Elizabeth Shaffer, Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner  
Emma R. Pachuta  
Project Manager Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board  
2117 West River Road Minneapolis, MN 55411

Dear Ms. Pachuta and Ms.Shaffer,

I am a member of Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. I was horrified to learn of some of the proposed changes to the Lake of the Isles park area in close proximity to the church, and I am hopeful that more research and thoughtful discussion can avoid some very handicapping aspects of the plans.

Vehicle and foot access to the building is essential. Both entrances have unique purposes, and neither should have limited use. The historically narrow 21<sup>st</sup> street is the only handicapped entrance, and my 92 year old mother (also a member) would never be able to approach the building if that thoroughfare was clogged due to overuse.

Closing access would not only prohibit our members from getting to the church, but also concert audiences, wedding guests, support group attendees, not to mention our own pastor's family! Also, since traffic is directed only one way around the lake, blocking off access to the north part of the lake would be totally detrimental to vehicle and foot traffic around all of Lake of the Isles.

The aesthetics of this beautiful, historic church would be tarnished by the addition of a water treatment plant directly in front of the main entrance; can't the park board see how ridiculous that placement would be? Many people use that area as photography scenes, wedding photos, art installations....any additional buildings or "park" equipment would be totally out of place. Why not consider utilizing land in the already existing park that houses the tennis courts and other equipment?

PLEASE reconsider the proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Laura Nortwen  


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**From:** [Aagaard, Pam](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Proposed redesign of the parkland  
**Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022 12:31:05 PM

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Dear Ms. Pachuta and Ms. Shaffer,

It was brought to my attention, earlier this week, that the park board is considering closing the parkway in front of our beloved Lake of the Isles Church for an activity hub and water treatment plant. As a member of LOTI, I felt a personal blow, but the impact of this proposal would truly be felt by numerous people outside the church **and** city of Minneapolis. Lake of the Isles Church is a beautiful, historic, structure that not only adds to the magical ambiance of the area, but has also been a generous community member, serving as a regular gathering spot for numerous activities outside of the church's "day-to-day".

**My understanding is, that abandoning the parkway would violate the city code. So, from a legal perspective, it should be a non-issue, which I truly hope is the case.**

Personally, I don't think an activity hub/public restrooms are necessary, period. They are an eye sore to a landscape who's beauty comes from the vegetation and historic homes that grace the Isles area. The location you're proposing is one of the most special spots on Lake of the Isles. Multiple generations of Minneapolis residents have enjoyed this pretty vista on their daily walks and drives around the lake, in addition to celebrating weddings, baptisms, and saying final farewells to loved ones. The view of the lake has enhanced all these experiences whether it be from an aesthetic perspective, or the peace that comes from calm waters. Proposing to landlock the parsonage, obstruct the view from the church and making access to the church extremely limited deeply saddens me.

I sincerely hope the park board can find a more appropriate, discreet, spot for the proposed activity hub and water treatment plant. Your project shouldn't be at the expense of choking the life out of a church that has served the community so well. I can't believe the City of Minneapolis, and surrounding communities, would be supportive of such an action.

Thanks, in advance, for your time and consideration,

Pam Aagaard

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Cell:** [REDACTED]

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**From:** [Pauline Haug](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Proposal Redesign  
**Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022 4:09:06 PM

---

> Dear Ms. Pachuta,

>

> I am a sister of the Pastor Arden Haug at Lake of the Isles Church and a member of the church. My brother has been the minister for the past 8 years and truly has made an impact on the life of the church. When he started it was a struggling time for the church. He has been able to turn things around and LOTI is again referred to as the beautiful church on the lake. Countless weddings and most are not members have been married because of the location and of course the minister. Our membership continues to grow. I might be bias, but he is excellent and you should come to a service.

>

> The church also owns the house next door which was in dire need of repair. It was voted on to repair the neglected property and now is a livable home and a wonderful addition to the church. My brother and sister-in-law are blessed to live in the home. With this proposal, I fear for my family as they live in an older home (parsonage). I pray to God nothing happens and they are cut off of needed assistance.

>

> I live in Eagan and I commute on Sunday and Wednesday mornings. I along with most members do not live in the neighborhood. Access to the church would clearly be impacted by this proposal. We have a great number of elderly members and this would be very difficult for anyone to park on very narrow streets to attend worship, funerals, weddings, concerts, and other meetings safely.

>

> I hope you will re-evaluate your plans. I have a personal item to share. During the George Floyd unrest in the city of Minneapolis, our sister had a knee replacement. She was fortunate to stay at the parsonage. When the movement was moving closer to the Uptown area, my brother, sister-in-law, and my sister took turns during the night to keep watch on the church. Thankfully all was peaceful.

>

> Thank you for listening and come enjoy all the beauty and wonder that Lake of the Isles Church has to offer and listen to our bells.

>

> Peace.

> Pauline Haug

>

> Sent from Pauline's iPhone

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**From:** [Sandeep/Angie Patel/Erdrich](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [Susu](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Fwd: Cedar Lake Development Plans: A Comment  
**Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022 9:43:44 AM

---

Dear Emma,

I would like to introduce you to Susu Who is a writer and water activist. She asks that her comments be included in the comments for the Cedar Isles Master plan.

Susu has been speaking out about water quality and the history and importance of Cedar Lake and historic issues with the chain of lakes and the drying up of (plugging?) of Bassett Creek and the interruption of Spring fed lakes, etc.

I thought perhaps Emma might have time to talk with you, Susu.

I mentioned to Susu that I was impressed with the knowledge of the CAC members s d felt they were prioritizing water quality but had limited authority (can barely mitigate) to make the multi-agency changes that are most needed.

People are concerned about board walks interrupting the purpose of wetlands. I am concerned that board walks might be a problem for wildlife (bringing humans closer to the birds and turtles who have zero need for human interaction) but not sure if they might be better than what we have now which is eroded paths close to the water.

Also bike paths seem bad for natural areas but better if they prevent what we have now around Cedar which (people mountain biking through dirt paths in the woods).

Thank you -hope you can talk.

Angie

On Feb 23, 2022, at 9:04 PM, Susu Jeffrey  
[REDACTED] wrote:

Cedar Lake Park Board Development

Comment by Susu Jeffrey

The Minneapolis Park Board is planning to develop Cedar Lake and has offered two plans at [https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-12\\_Cedar-Isles\\_Initial-Park-Concepts\\_final.pdf](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-12_Cedar-Isles_Initial-Park-Concepts_final.pdf). Scroll down to view the concept maps of Plan A, "Living Lakes," or B "Unique Lake Experiences."

Plan A describes a "rewilding" walk and bike

path which should be called "unwilding" since it would solidify former marshland. The area was wetland, lakes and hillocks, not savanna. The proposed "prairie" is also historic wetland. In fact the area is mostly filled wetland. Increased rainfall is predicted with climate change, particularly super storms with "rain bombs."

Plan B is more potentially destructive with hyper development. Both plans seem to exist without consideration of the history of the land.

## **How to Save Cedar Lake**

### **Wetlands**

Reinstate some of the lost wetlands that formerly made Cedar "the cleanest lake in the city." Wetland buffers west of Bde Maka Ska certainly helped to clean that lake until Calhoun condo developers dumped illegal underground garage runoff into the lagoon that fed into the lake. New wetlands enhance the life of the lakes for all animal and plant life.

### **Shoreline Restoration**

The city owns the shoreline and 12-feet up from the water onto the land around Cedar. This is public, not private property. Planting indigenous vegetation preserves the lake edge, cuts erosion and pollution, provides fish, bird and other wildlife habitat, it blooms and changes with the seasons and sweetens the air.

### **Aerators**

There is an algae problem at Cedar Lake which is a water quality, a close-the-beaches

problem. It can kill dogs who ignore warning signs and jump in the lake for a drink or to cool off or to fetch. A floating lake aerator, like a lawn sprinkler in mid-lake, reduces the growth of algae and circulates oxygenated water. Lakes without proper aeration cannot break-down nutrients quickly enough which turn into muck on the bottom and fuel algae blooms.

### **Education & Conservation Laws**

Uneducated home owners around the lakes often hire expensive yard service companies that apply chemicals instead of organic lawn treatments. It's faster but not cheaper because the chemical treatments are addictive. Smart cities invest in education campaigns and outlaw nutrient-rich yard applications. [Chemical lawn treatments in our city are comparable to refusing COVID vaccines.]

### **Plant Trees**

Join the earth effort to mitigate climate crisis by planting some of the 6-billion trees needed to absorb carbon. Additionally trees provide shade, wildlife habitat, beauty, suck up excessive rain, hold soil in place and studies prove that treed neighborhoods have less crime.

### **Cedar Lake History**

Cedar Lake is situated within an ancient Mississippi River path that was rerouted by glacier growth and retreat thousands of years ago. In the 1860 map notice the creek in the northeast where the Lake formerly emptied into what is now called Bassett Creek.

Before European settlement Cedar was much larger than it is today. The lake was surrounded by a marshy area unfit for farming. Wetlands are nature's water cleansers. That is why "in the 1890s, it was



known for the clarity and purity of its water. Ice harvesting became a big business."

The contraction of Cedar Lake and filling of its surrounding wetlands resulted in stagnation, pollution and loss of clarity. Today we take for granted that we cannot see into the water or see our feet when we wade.

In 1867 a railroad causeway was filled-in on the east side of Cedar and the southern end of nearby Brownie Lake. Another rail company laid tracks on the east side of Cedar and constructed a maintenance and repair yard in the northeast section.

In 1883 J.J. Hill built a double track on the north end of Cedar. In the same year Brownie's surface area was reduced by a third with the expansion of the railroad embankment in the southwest part of the shrinking lake. By 1903 "local residents claimed Cedar had gone down seven-feet over the previous decade." Hill filled the north shore of Cedar with sand and locomotive hotbox cinders where a huge industrial rail yard metastasized.

In 1913 Cedar was lowered another five-feet by the Minneapolis Park Board to artificially connect it to Lake of the Isles to create a "Chain of Lakes" in order to service the romantic row boat craze allowing young people to be private together but in public view. The Park Board traditionally develops new facilities in response to the latest athletic fad like longer connected bike trails or pickle ball.

Brownie Lake was reduced by more than half with the 1916 channel connecting it to Cedar and Isles. A century later, 2016, a mountain bike trail was introduced on the west side of Brownie's steep donut hole profile. Mountain bike trails are notoriously erosion-prone.

Because Brownie became so sheltered from

the wind by 1925 the lake no longer “turned over” by wind action oxygenating and mixing the bottom and top layers of water. Fish can only live in the upper, oxygen-rich, part of Brownie. Lakes turn over spring and fall when the dense colder bottom water mixes with the warmer, lighter upper level.

Cedar Lake also lost circumference. “As the waterline receded, Cedar Lake’s east bay dried...and became a backwater. The area was held in such disregard that in the 1950s and 60s, the city of Minneapolis used the old dried-up east bay as a garbage dump. Eventually the earth covered over the garbage and a hilly cottonwood forest arose.”

Until about 1980, the vast rail yard that dominated the north and east sides of Cedar Lake ceased operations. In the mid-1980s, the railroads began pulling up hundreds of iron rails that crossed the filled former wetlands, now flatlands polluted by years of hazardous industrial dumping. There’s a story about a train carload of paint that was simply trashed in situ during World War 2 because the train car space was needed.

In 1989 a group of Cedar Lake neighborhood visionaries met to discuss how to create parkland out of the old railroad yard. Cedar Lake Park Association raised private money to purchase the former wetland which was turned into a prairie with an on-top bicycle path and donated to the park board. Otherwise up-scale housing developers were eyeing the property with a spectacular view of sunrise over downtown Minneapolis. “On-top” construction was essential so as not to disturb toxic and hazardous wastes lurking under the surface from a century of railroad dumping.

Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) is currently aimed through this historically poisoned and reclaimed land. Even worse, SWLRT is routed through Cedar Lake, actually *through* the lake, in a tunnel. As it

happens the project is three years behind schedule and almost \$2-*billion* over budget. The project is reputed to be currently on-hold but advocates argue that it has cost so much, so far that it would be defeatist to not complete it—the government habit of throwing good money after bad.

Cedar Lake as a living body of water cannot exist surrounded and constricted with compacted walking and bike trails and boardwalks constructed into the lake. Cedar Lake is not an isolated puddle unconnected to a natural system where wind twice yearly turns over the lake and year-round the groundwater moves and flows in and out.

Furthermore Cedar Lake is at the top of the Chain of Lakes. Most of Minneapolis drains into the Chain, meanders through the city carrying road runoff, dog and yard waste, erosion, litter—which is why vegetative buffers can help to save our lakes for swimming, fishing, boating and the future.

For the hundreds of local residents stuck in rush hour traffic the inconvenience of outlawing two-way vehicular traffic on Cedar Lake Parkway would be even more of a daily drag. Steep geography of the area and several impassible rail line crossings north, east and south block timely entrance and exit. Fire, police and ambulance would need extra time that could be the difference between life and death.

In addition 100-car railroads carry explosive ethanol through the neighborhood toward the Twins baseball stadium and then through downtown Minneapolis. Without thru-traffic on Cedar Lake Parkway the thousands of daily commuters are trapped and limited to east-west egress on Interstate-394, north from the Penn Avenue dead end, or locally west and south through the neighborhoods to Lake Street.

The hubris of designing a landscape without

knowledge of the history and geography of the land guarantees pre-failure. Let us begin with the precepts of do no (more) harm and work with nature.

---

Note: Quotations are from *Cedar Lake Park Association: A History*, Neil Trembley, Cedar Lake Park Association, 2012, pp. 3; 7-8; 4.

<img006[2305843009366593972].jpg>

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**From:** [Bill Fredell](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]New Plan Ideas for Lake of the Isles  
**Date:** Sunday, February 27, 2022 6:47:14 PM

---

Hello: I spent time today listening on YouTube to the design ideas that are part of the Park Board's redevelopment program of Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles. Many of the aspects were nice improvements. One feature, however, is NOT AT ALL a good idea.

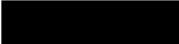
Closing Lake of the Isles at the north end, near W. Franklin Avenue will cause undo hardship to members of Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, 2020 W. Lake of Isles Parkway. As it now stands, there is limited parking for our congregation, and it is not unusual to have to park as far away as Kenwood School to attend services. Many of our members are elderly and cannot walk that far; some use walkers and canes. Aside from the problems of the older members, you must know that without easy access to our church, your plan will diminish our congregation and our mission to the community.

May I suggest that your team attend a coffee hour at Lake of the Isles Church at 10:45 a.m. on a Sunday morning to gather first-hand information about how this plan will affect adversely our congregation. I travel to and from church on this street. If you close it off, less-traveled residential streets will get busier and have more parking problems.

Again, there are some positive aspects to your overall plan, but closing Lake of the Isles Parkway in places is just a BAD idea. Please reconsider. Ask lots of people who live nearby, work nearby, worship nearby, and attend schools or use businesses in the area.  
Sincerely, Bill Fredell

--

Bill Fredell

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**From:** [Bruce Carlson](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Cc:** [Carlson Marty](#)  
**Subject:** [External]CedarIsles Park Concepts  
**Date:** Sunday, February 27, 2022 4:15:38 PM

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Dear Ms. Pachuta and Shaffer,

I have recently become aware of the plans for the proposed reconfiguration of the shorelands around Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles and would like to comment as both a member of Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church and as one who writes books about lake biology. First, I applaud your looking at improving the habitat around the lakes. Many of the measures that you suggest make sense and would certainly improve the overall quality of the lakes and their associated shoreland habitat.

I would suggest that you view the two lakes through different lenses. Because of its overall configuration and the nature of the access points, Cedar Lake is an excellent candidate for some serious habitat restoration. Lake of the Isles is quite different. I view it as more of a “city” lake, and to me, it makes sense to view habitat improvement in a slightly different context. This is a lake which is heavily used by folks who either walk, run or ride around its entire circumference. Because of that, it will never support the type of animal community that could be the case for Cedar Lake. I fully support removing the grass and replacing it with vegetation that would provide a buffer for incoming phosphorus.

As a member of Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, I don’t see that a trade-off between any ecological benefits obtained from closing off the segment of Lake of the Isles Parkway and the negative effects of cutting off access to the street from homes and the church is tilted in the favor of the ecology when all factors are taken into consideration.

My professional recommendation would be to tilt initial resources into improving habitat around Cedar Lake and also substituting the lawns around Lake of the Isles for something more ecologically friendly, especially a mix of vegetation that would keep geese in check. If the Cedar Lake improvement seems to be working out well, then a second generation plan could concentrate on Lake of the Isles with a goal of overall habitat improvement while maintaining its use character as a more “city” lake.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce M. Carlson  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Michigan

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**From:** [Heather Jacoby](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Concerns regarding Lake of the Isles Plan  
**Date:** Monday, February 28, 2022 5:43:36 PM

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Hello - I am writing to express my concerns with proposed plans for the north end of Lake of the Isles.

First, closing the parkway off will greatly impact the beautiful community church located just around the bend. This church has been a wonderful community asset for many, many years. My children went to Kenwood school and the church supported school activities time and again.

Next, why does there need to be yet another activity center? Can we simply have calm and beauty on at least one of our lakes? All can still enjoy walking, running, canoe rides, kayaks (all of which can be rented at one of the connecting lakes). I think it's a classroom that's proposed. Simply enjoying the unobstructed beauty should be a lesson in and of itself.

Thank you,

An increasingly concerned Mpls resident

Heather Jacoby

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**From:** [David Bryan](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Kate Fisher](#); [Carla Pardue](#); [Jim Young](#); [Elizabeth Shaffer](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Isles Design Proposals - Ice Skating Rink Relocation  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 1:58:27 PM

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Dear Park Board -

I am one of the organizers of the Luminary Loppet.

If the skating rink is moved to the canoe dock area near where Kenwood Parkway meets Lake of the Isles Parkway, the move may be fatal to the Luminary Loppet.

The canoe dock area is our work/storage area. It allows us to drive and park nearby so that we can load/unload all the materials and equipment necessary to put on this event.

The freezing and hatching process for the luminaries requires easy access for storing and moving equipment. Where will that happen if the rink and a concession stand is near the canoe dock?

The current rink location on the east side of Isles does not provide a place to load and unload vehicles or store equipment. It is not suitable to be our work area.

The Icecropolis is a landscape feature and was designed to fit into the bay near the canoe docks. Building the Icecropolis involves 5 separate tasks that take place over the month of January as the weather dictates. If there is a skating rink there, the Icecropolis could not be built without interfering with the use of the rink. And if this area of ice is plowed, it will no longer be suitable for walking and skiing during the Luminary.

So the Icecropolis would need to move somewhere with easy access to stored equipment and short term parking. Where will that be?

Putting the rink and concession stand at the canoe docks will likely end the Luminary Loppet, at least at Lake of the Isles. We've held it at Wirth a couple of times but all of the ice features cannot be built there and it is not the same spectacular community event it is when on Lake of the Isles.

I would suggest leaving the rink where it is. I live near to the rink and do not see a problem with its current location.

Before deciding to proceed with this plan, perhaps you'd like to meet with the Luminary organizers to see if there are options that would also work for the Luminary.

Feel free to contact me.

Dave

Dave Bryan, AIA, LEED AP  
Third Level Design



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**From:** [David Andersen](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Storm sewer water at Plan B location  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 12:26:55 PM

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Hi Emma,

I see a potential problem with locating the skating rink to the NW bay of Lake of the Isles.

There is a major storm sewer drain at that location. It pours salty water from the streets into the lake. Storm sewer locations tend to have standing water in the winter and signs warning of weak ice.

Today there is standing water at the proposed Plan B location of the skating rink.

How will the storm sewer affect the quality of the ice on the skating rink? I suggest that you check with the experts.

Thanks for all your hard work.

--David Andersen

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From: [Ellen Archibald](#)  
To: [Elizabeth Shaffer](#), [Pachuta](#), [Emma R.](#)  
Subject: [External]MPRB: Feedback by Friday  
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 5:52:48 PM

Ladies - I walk daily around LOI and responded to the survey. The best comments I've seen are Steve Goldsmith's, <https://www.hillandlakepress.org> (1/21/22), highlighting both proposals' adverse effects. I agree with Goldsmith's critique that both proposals would completely alter Cedar Lake & Lake of the Isles. On Lake Harriet and Bde Maka Ska, I bike and enjoy concerts, food and watching sailors. Please don't destroy the quieter, elder-friendly walking/running/biking atmospheres of Cedar and LOI!

Helping people from other parts of town enjoy Cedar & LOI is good - many would likely enjoy the same peaceful walks I do. Increasing congestion in traffic and parking is bad. A permanent ice rink at the corner of Kenwood Pkwy and LOI Pkwy would obviously create 2-street-crossing congestion; I don't see even 1 planned safe crossing there. Both Cedar/LOI proposals are at cross-purposes with Minneapolis 2040, <https://minneapolis2040.com/overview/>, which tries to create opportunity with new zoning: aside from residents, the 2 plans would wreak havoc with remodelers' parking.

Instead, Met Council plans for increased bus service to bring people to SWLRT at 21st St., a stop also serving Cedar Lake. Buses could bring more people to SWLRT and both lakes by stopping at Kenwood Park and LOI's north end. Transit to SWLRT *as well as* 2 quiet lakes would increase ridership *and* reduce nonresidents' parking near and around Cedar and LOI, where residents of East Isles and Kenwood even now struggle to find a spot.

Thank you for protecting our wonderful parks!

Ellen Archibald

On Feb 28, 2022, at 3:37 PM, Elizabeth Shaffer <[\[REDACTED\]](#)> wrote:

[View this email in your browser](#)

2

**Our park district. Our neighborhoods.**

Bryn Mawr, Cedar-Isles Dean, Downtown, East Bde Maka Ska, East Isles, Elliot Park, Kenwood, Loring Park, Lowry Hill, Lowry Hill East, North Loop, Stevens Square, Whittier

**Thanks for being a part of the team!**

**Cedar-Isles Design Feedback**

Friday is the deadline!

Water quality initiatives, relocated ice rink, activity hubs, floating wetlands, traffic flow changes, lake decks, littoral edge expansion, boardwalks, permanent warming house....just some the ideas included in this master plan!



We want your input before the two proposed [Cedar-Isles concept designs](#) become one preferred plan. You may use the [online feedback tool](#) or send your thoughts to Emma Pachuta, MPRB project manager at [epachuta@minneapolisiparks.org](mailto:epachuta@minneapolisiparks.org). I would love to know your thoughts as well.

I look forward to working with you the next four years. I will periodically share neighborhood park updates - I hope you do the same with me!



Elizabeth Shaffer, Minneapolis Park Board, District 4  
[eshaffer@minneapolisparks.org](mailto:eshaffer@minneapolisparks.org)

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Elizabeth Shaffer for Parks 1776 Colfax Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55403-3007 USA

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** ["Elizabeth Shaffer"](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Feedback on the proposed plans for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake  
**Date:** Monday, February 28, 2022 8:04:47 PM

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Ms. Pachuta,

I completed the survey questions for the parks but wanted to provide some additional feedback:

- Water quality is an extremely important issue. Isles is very shallow in many places and there are several pools of the blue/green algae.
- Neither of the plans discuss parking which I believe to be a huge "miss." People drive to the lake in the summer with their kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards or come with picnic supplies. In the winter they drive to use their skis or go skating. There needs to be ample parking close to the lake.
- I have no understanding of why the warming house would be located in front of any residence home and not have ample parking. If you walk Isles the only place to have a permanent building and have ample parking is the north side.
- If you have been around the lake in the summertime on the weekends and watched families bike with small children it is clearly obvious that two way biking would be extremely dangerous along with a bike path on the road. There does not appear to be any advantage to offer two way biking.
- The walking and biking paths should have ample space between them.
- I do not agree with closing any of the roads for events around the lake.
- There is no itemized cost of what each specific concept would cost or what the building materials would be.
- Offering locations for learning and activities assumes that the city will provide the budget for staff, has this been discussed.
- Is the city behind the increased use? Increased usage with current events would require an increase in the Park Patrol of the Minneapolis police.
- We live on the lake and our only access to our residence is the parkway, what is the plan to access homes and the park during any construction.

Sincerely,

Evan Boyd

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**From:** [Ellie Holmquist](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External]Lake of the isles Parkway  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 3:14:44 PM

---

Dear Ms. Pachuta,

I'm writing to you as a longtime member of Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, imploring you to please reconsider the proposal to close Lake of the Isles Parkway at the north end of the lake. I am 78 years old and have attended LOTI my entire life. In my family we've had countless weddings, baptisms, and funerals. My home church! Already parking is very difficult and I have often been forced to park a block, even two blocks from the church. I drive to the city from Plymouth so, like many of our members, driving to church is a must. Closing the parkway would have a huge negative impact on our church by making it an undesirable choice for weddings, funerals, and concerts due to the limited parking. Even our membership would likely decline.

The proposed activity hub and water treatment facility in front of LOTI would be an eyesore. What a shame it would be to ruin the beautiful lakeshore property. There must be a more favorable location for this building. Placing it at the south end of the park across Franklin Avenue, or at the south end of the lake, would be options less impactful on the beauty of the lake.

This proposed project has more negative aspects than positive. The land between the lake and the road is very adequate for walking and running, for biking, and for picnicking, or just sitting to enjoy the lovely setting in the middle of Minneapolis. Please don't spoil it.

Thank you kindly for considering these issues.

Sincerely,

Ellie Holmquist  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [John Larsen](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [Elizabeth Shaffer](#)  
**Cc:** [Mike Stewart](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Feedback about Park Plans  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 3:09:54 PM

---

Hello Emma and Elizabeth,

Thanks so much for asking for our feedback about the Cedar-Isles concept designs. There's a whole lot to review!

For us on the whole, most of the proposals seem really interesting and not much seems particularly objectionable. Many neighbors think otherwise, but we're okay with a lot that's being proposed.

We really like a few ideas, most especially a permanent warming house for the skating rink (wherever it ends up).

There are several things that might take getting used to (like the Lake of the Isles Pkwy road closure). I think the park board should think a lot about how to accommodate extra parking if you close the road and eliminate the parking spaces. This would be especially true for the Lutheran Church at Lake of the Isles Pkwy and 21st. And to think hard about what happens to the traffic that does go around the lake that would have to exit on 24th or another street on the east side of Isles.

There are only a few things that we really wouldn't like:

- Building a significant structure on the lake (other than the warming house). we're concerned about what "outdoor classrooms" at the shores look like and how they would interfere with views and the natural surroundings we have around the lakes at the moment. The outdoor classrooms sound obstructive to us, especially on the lake.
- We'd also want to be really sensitive about the extent of the proposed boardwalks and docks on the lakes (especially N Lake of Isles). We'd like to keep the open water as much as possible at the north end of Lake of the Isles, though some boardwalks could be lovely. On that note, anything you can do to keep more open water at the north end of Lake of the Isles while removing some of the millfoil would be great. I wonder about dredging the center if you plan to construct boardwalks at the edges.
- In the same vein, we think it would be really strange to see a boardwalk in front of the private properties on Cedar. We would prefer that not happen.

Again, thanks for asking for input. I hope you're all safe and well and enjoying a few minutes without masks on.

Best,  
John (and Mike)

--

**John Larsen**, Assoc. AIA  
Design Forty Five, LLC



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**From:** [Michael Berkland](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Leah.Berkland;](#) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External]lake of the isles project plan  
**Date:** Monday, February 28, 2022 8:14:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Good evening Emma,

I've been reading about upcoming changes to Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake parkland, and wanted to share my opinion with you.

I'm really excited about certain aspects of the plan, including replacing some of the existing turf with oak savannah and other more native plantings (while preserving some turf for recreational activities). My biggest concern is around accessibility to Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church. We are south Minneapolis residents and members of the church, and I'm concerned about handicap access to LOTI within the new plans (we have a special needs daughter and it's difficult to walk far with her, particularly in winter). Please try to preserve as much access as possible to LOTI within the overall park plan.

Thanks  
Mike

**Mike Berkland**

Sr Director of Pricing  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [Noelle Turner](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]lake of the isles  
**Date:** Monday, February 28, 2022 9:51:22 PM

---

Hello

Just commenting on some of the ideas for lake of the Isles. I am not a fan of any permanent structure for warming house. The lake is too small and too narrow at the location they are thinking about. The contemporary bathrooms are an eyesore....way too big and too contemporary ..they are way too prominent. Cant they find a more discreet location ? OR put them over by the tennis courts hidden into the hill. it was hard to tell the exact location they are putting them.

i would be happy with a water fountain that worked longer into the season!! They cut it off WAY too early!! skip the bathroom and give us water! I just think this plan is over kill. Lake of the isles is a quiet lake. Please do not commercialize it!

Thanks for your work on this ...

Noelle Turner

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**From:** [sigf72](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Minneapolis Park Board Master Plan for Lake of the Isles  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 2:23:39 PM

---

Dear Ms. Pachuta:

My note to you is going to be brief and "to the point". My wife and I just learned of the proposed redesign concerning the north arm of Lake of the Isles. Alarming to both of us, is the mere existence of a possibility that direct roadway access to Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church (LOTI) would be eliminated under the Master Plan. We live in West Bloomington and choose to commute to LOTI. Unfortunately for me, my mobility is a challenge and losing frontage road access/parking to the church, is disheartening. If there needs to be a "Master Plan", I would hope that it doesn't destroy a beautiful thing - the Church, the neighborhood, and our quality of life...

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Sigurd & Tracy Finks



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**From:** [tfrontera](#)  
**To:** ["Elizabeth Shaffer"; Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]RE: Feedback by Friday  
**Date:** Monday, February 28, 2022 6:38:28 PM

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Hi Elizabeth and Emma,

**Protection of the lakes**, the plants and their natural health is what I feel should be the main goal of the lakes plan along with maintaining the current walk and bike paths. The concept words invite, connect, tell stories, celebrate is what we the people have been doing when we use the parks. And lots of people use the parks. I don't think we need too concern the park board with these activities nor should we spend the money. And the words put with the concept of respect is confusing. Yes-respect the parks, but the wording that is put with respect doesn't really spell this out....the words seem to imply respect is to respect the proposed plan.

Bottom line, I see no need for structures, viewing platforms, road closures, etc. But do see the need to try to implement ways to curb and prevent milfoil, harmful algae, clean up litter (my husband and I "fish" several garbage bags of garbage out of Lake of the Isles from our kayaks at minimum annually). My impression of the mission of the lakes was to preserve nature within the city. The proposed plan seems to have too many other extraneous plans.

Thank you for reaching out.

Tina Frontera  
Resident on East Lake of the Isles Parkway

---

**From:** Elizabeth Shaffer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2022 3:37 PM  
**To:** Tina [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Feedback by Friday

[View this email in your browser](#)



**Our park district. Our neighborhoods.**

Bryn Mawr, Cedar-Isles Dean, Downtown, East Bde Maka Ska, East Isles, Elliot Park, Kenwood, Loring Park, Lowry Hill, Lowry Hill East, North Loop, Stevens Square, Whittier

Thanks for being a part of the team!

## Cedar-Isles Design Feedback

Friday is the deadline!

Water quality initiatives, relocated ice rink, activity hubs, floating wetlands, traffic flow changes, lake decks, littoral edge expansion, boardwalks, permanent warming house....just some the ideas included in this master plan!



**We want your input** before the two proposed [Cedar-Isles concept designs](#) become one preferred plan. You may use the [online feedback tool](#) or send your thoughts to Emma Pachuta, MPRB project manager at [epachuta@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:epachuta@minneapolisparcs.org). I would love to know your thoughts as well.

I look forward to working with you the next four years. I will periodically share neighborhood park updates - I hope you do the same with me!



**Elizabeth Shaffer, Minneapolis Park Board, District 4**  
[eshaffer@minneapolisparks.org](mailto:eshaffer@minneapolisparks.org)

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**From:** [Jana Lindberg](#)  
**To:** [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#); [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]STOP THE PROPOSED INSANITY ON LAKE OF THE ISLES  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 5:59:50 AM

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Good Morning

As a home owner on LOI I OPPOSE this proposal.

1. The road closure will cause more traffic in an already narrowed street neighborhood. If you drive around Kenwood you know what I am saying. There are many cars that park on the street and walking in the neighborhood can be treacherous the way it is. When people start to get lost because of a road closure it will be even worse. We pay HIGH taxes to live in this neighborhood. This will be a big problem.

2. An activity center that no one will use is a fine example of how to waste money. Have you walked around the lake in the summer? The water quality is bad and at some times of the year it smells. NO ONE will use it. **A better use if the funds is to Clean up the water quality.**

3. LOI is as accessible as any of the lakes. It is quiet and calm. Let's keep it that way.

4. The small Lutheran Church on the north end is an ICON and all these proposals will seriously impact it. You two may not feel that a church is an important part of a community but many of us do. Not having access to the church via roads or building some structure in front of it is WRONG.

The city is in disrepair in part to some poor choices made regarding the park management. Please DO NOT CONTINUE THIS CYCLE.

Jana Lindberg

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**From:** [Mark J. Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]PICNIC TABLES, TURF GRASS AND SERVICE ROAD AT SOUTH CEDAR POINT  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 10:11:51 PM

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Emma

The lower picnic area adjacent the boat ramp at South Cedar Point could be relocated and the area with it's turf grass converted to prairie.

The upper area picnic tables adjacent the parking lot could remain and even be enhanced with a small timber frame picnic pavilion .

The views from the upper picnic area are spectacular. It's location away from water also makes it safer for young children to picnic.

As I mentioned earlier the service road should be relocated to an area of landfill on the east side of the lake.

The area were the service road now is could be converted to prairie with a small natural path to give the boaters a way to haul their craft from the parking lot to the lake.

The majority of South Cedar Point should be a "Managed Natural Area"

At some point I want to walk through the area with you and share some other ideas.

There is a public comment deadline coming up so I thought I should at least get this in since a picnic pavilion is mentioned on the concept plan.

Mark

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**From:** [DAVID KLOPP](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Lake Plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 11:22:40 AM

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Hi Emma,

I wish to comment on the two plans presented.

I think we can do better with protecting the water quality at Cedar Lake. Cedar Lake should have been planned alone and not included with Lake Of the Isles. Lake of Isles was a wetland area prior to being made a lake.

If we really want to have swimming lakes....

1. Restore wetland areas surrounding lakes.
2. Plant more trees
3. Restore shoreline areas with native plants
4. Ban using groundwater for air-conditioning on High rise next to Brownie Lake
5. Limit salt next to lakes
6. Educate residents on lawn care chemicals
7. Increase oxygen with aeration
8. Forget about the SWLRT tunnel Cedar Lake needs this fresh groundwater or stagnation will allow blue green algae to move in.

And for the traffic flow....

1. Grand Rounds need to be continuous parkway in north and south directions. I was on bridge committee and we all felt this way. It needs to be a "No Brainer" for the motorist driving the Grand Rounds. Don't make someone think about turning off the parkway. I am not in favor of one way traffic on NW corner of parkway.
2. Cedar Lake Park Association believes in nature conservation zones on north and northeast sides of lakes. We are not in favor of making trails loop lake. Cedar Lake is special to chain of lakes. Lets manage it differently.

Minneapolis can not afford to lose the Lakes water quality. Our tax base depends on it. We want to remain "City of Lakes" not the "City of Stormwater retention ponds"

Thank You.

David Klopp  
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**From:** [Greta Schmitt](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]School Traffic  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 1:09:44 PM

---

Hello, Ms. Pachuta,

I am writing as a parent and resident of Kenwood. I am very concerned about the proposed changes to traffic patterns in the plans being discussed for this area, specifically as relates to safety around Kenwood School. The streets around the school (Franklin, Penn, W 21st) are already congested, fast, and dangerous for pedestrians — especially small ones. Routing even more traffic through that space seems very likely to end in tragedy.

I fully support the goal of improving lake access and decreasing environmental harm to the lake area, but ask sincerely that another way be found.

Best,  
Greta Schmitt

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Lori Mittag](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External]Feedback Regarding LOI Concept Plans  
**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 12:49:30 PM

---

Emma and Elizabeth,

As a 32 year resident of Kenwood (2217 Newton Avenue South), I'd like to share my feedback regarding the concept plans for LOI and ask a few questions. I have thoroughly reviewed the plans, watched the videos, and have also shared this information with my neighbors.

I would like to begin by reiterating the ultimate mission of the Park Board--to preserve and protect green space. That must always be the driving force behind any proposed changes. From what I gleaned from the concept plans, much of the green space, especially along the north end of LOI, would be lost to structures--activity hubs, pavilions, interpretative center, "event space" and "programmatic space." I am not even sure what some of these structures are. What exactly is an "activity hub?" What is "programmatic" and "event space"? Who gets to use it? It appears that the interest is more in creating a circus atmosphere or commercializing our lake, rather than preserving and protecting it. I oppose all structures on LOI. They are unnecessary and will destroy the pastoral beauty and serenity of the lake. Folks flock to this lake because of its simplicity and beauty, not to be entertained! The Park Board has an obligation and duty to keep it that way.

I am strongly in favor of the environmental recommendations, such as improving the water quality, shoreline restoration, preserving natural habitat and planting more native plants. These recommendations are hard to argue with and are squarely within the Park Board's mission. Native plantings that would attract bee pollinators and monarch butterflies would be at the top of my list.

I am also very concerned about a two-way bike path. To that end, I am interested in knowing how familiar you are with the previous Chain of Lakes Committee's work back in the late 1990's and early 2000's. Much of what is being discussed currently was already vetted by this committee over the course of several years. As individuals involved with such extensive plans to redesign the lakes, I hope you have done your homework. For example, the two-way bike path was vetted and it was decided that it would be way too dangerous. Nothing has changed in that regard. What has changed is the use of electric scooters and e-bikes along the paths in the park system making the paths even MORE dangerous. The PB should be focusing on these motorized vehicles as they are extremely dangerous to include on any bike trail.

I also have HUGE issues with closing/rerouting traffic from LOI. It is my understanding that it has been proposed to close LOI at East 25th Street to West 21st Street. The proposed route would then be Irving, to Franklin, to Penn to 21st Street. Frankly, anyone who proposes this, or supports this, is out of touch with the area. The suggestion is insane and puts the safety of children and the neighborhood at risk.

This area already has serious traffic problems. There is an elementary school, rec center, park, art studio for children, art studio for adults, bookstore, restaurant, and TWO churches. Currently, the amount of traffic for such a small area is overwhelming. To add hundreds of more cars along this route would only create added congestion and, more importantly, put the safety of children at risk (not to mention the added traffic and safety concerns throughout the

neighborhoods along Irving and Franklin Avenues).

I would like to know if a traffic study has been conducted. It seems necessary and appropriate. I would also like to know what the rationale is for closing the north end of the lake. I think a much better approach would be to shut down the entire parkway once a week, on the same day and at the same time, for recreational purposes. Back in the day, this is what the PB did--a fabulous suggestion. Let's look and learn from the past.

The proposed plans beg many questions -- how much will these changes cost, how will they be paid for, and, who will maintain all the changes and infrastructure? It seems the PB has plenty of issues already with budget and maintenance.

I appreciate your work on the committee and trust you will take into consideration the feedback from our community. Thank you for your attention to this email.

Lori Mittag

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**From:** [Pam Hockenberry](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Lakes plan  
**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 12:58:01 PM

---

I already commented on the plans but I missed the detail of closing part of Lake of the isles parkway and redirecting traffic into the neighborhoods. While I want focus on a healthy lake system with preservation of natural and native spaces, closing part of the parkway is unacceptable and can not go forward. We have too much traffic in our neighborhoods and the changes to Hennepin Ave are going to make it even worse. You can't increase traffic around a school! Safety!!!

Leave the parkways for car movement around the lakes especially as you draw more folks to the lakes and we have the Kenilworth train.

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Tom Hockenberry](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Remnant Lands  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 10:50:08 AM

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I recently filled out the Survey Monkey for the Cedar-Isles master planning process but I wanted to share the same feedback with you directly. I really hope that you will incorporate the SWLRT "remnant lands" into the Cedar-Isles master planning process. I'm very concerned that we aren't valuing our remaining open spaces for biodiversity as a society in whole. The small remnant of 38 acres represents an opportunity to keep aside an vital corridor for wildlife to move through and call home. My understanding is that, after SWLRT is completed, these 38 acres of land are intended to be retained in public ownership according to the MOA between the Met Council and the City of Minneapolis.

I think this is an absolute treasure and that it must be preserved for future generations. If we dig it up, pave it over and build on it we will lose all of the psychological and ecological services that it provides to humans, plants, insect and animals forever.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tom

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**From:** [Nicole Frost](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Comments on Concepts for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 6:18:57 PM

---

Dear Emma,

I live in Kenwood very close to Kenwood school and I have been looking over the redesign concepts for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake. Here are some thoughts I would like you to consider.

Please do not permanently close Lake of the Isles Parkway from East 25th Street to West 21st Street and reroute traffic through the neighborhoods. This will have a significant negative impact on our neighborhoods. There is already too much traffic going down those streets where our children are trying to ride their bikes and walk to the park. This would be dangerous and disruptive. The proposed traffic route goes around three sides of Kenwood School - another terrible safety hazard. I don't know how the lake would benefit, but it would be really disruptive to the neighborhoods. We have had enough disruption lately and need to consider the families that live on that traffic route and the schoolchildren who need to play safely. The plans look beautiful in many ways, but that part is a really terrible idea. Just keep the parkway open to traffic all around the lake.

Secondly, please incorporate the SWLRT "remnant lands" into the plan. Please restore and maintain the land as forest and prairie so that it can never be sold and always remains natural land for the health of our communities and natural environment.

Please do whatever you can to ban lawn chemicals in Minneapolis and St. Louis Park. Also, consider ways to keep plastic trash from flowing from storm drains directly into Lake of the Isles, such as working with the Clean Water Partnership.

Please keep the ice skating rink on Lake of the Isles. It will be more accessible to more people if it stays on Isles rather than moving to Cedar.

Thank you for considering my thoughts, especially the VERY important point about NOT closing Lake of the Isles parkway to auto traffic and rerouting past the school and through the neighborhoods where children run and play.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Frost

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**From:** [Leah Harp](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Concerns about the park redesign plans  
**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:07:57 AM

---

Greetings Project Manager Ms. Pachuta,

I live on Irving ave south. We have two concerns about the park plans.

1. Irving is a small residential street. We already have people avoiding Hennepin by speeding down Irving. If they redo Hennepin we will have more people speeding on Irving and parking on Irving. If the park redesign shuttles people to take 25 th, which is a really small residential street not made to be a thorough fare, we will have more people using Irving as a through street and it already has too many.
2. The three streets around Kenwood Elementary are already congested and small. I do not understand how it is safe to shuttle traffic around an elementary school. The site council, the Principal, and the family liaison have already expressed their concerns.
3. My son and I spend a lot of time picking trash, including drug paraphernalia, out of the water around 27th where the sewer pours into Lake of the Isles. Specifics have not been provided how this will be addressed.

Please Ms. Pachuta. I know the park is trying to make improvements. Lake of the Isles already is a haven for people all over the city. Please, things are so tough right now having this additional entirely avoidable source of stress on our neighborhood and our elementary school just is too much.

Sincerely,

Leah Harp  


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**From:** [Mark J.Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]remove and relocate maintenance boat ramp and service road at South Cedar Point  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 8:57:39 AM

---

Emma

Please consider removing the maintenance boat ramp and service road from South Cedar Point and relocating them on the east side in the area of landfill that cannot be reclaimed to a natural area.

The boat ramp and service road are now used mainly to manage the milfoil removal equipment at Cedar Lake. Occasionally a water quality monitoring boat is launched.

These maintenance functions are taking up valuable land that could easily be converted to natural areas. The ramp could be restored to lakeshore. The service road could be converted to bird and pollinator friendly grassland.

A small portion of the existing gravel service road could be replaced with a more natural path that could give the kayakers and canoeists access to the lake.

The landfill on the east side will be very difficult to reclaim. There are several spots where a maintenance road and boat ramp could be constructed.

Mark

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**From:** [Charles VanDeWeghe](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#)  
**Cc:** [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Feedback on Cedar/Isles Master Plan  
**Date:** Saturday, March 12, 2022 2:07:55 PM

---

Emma. Elizabeth Shaffer encouraged me to send you my feedback on the two concepts being considered for the Cedar/Isle master plan. I prefer to leave the existing bike path intact. As such, I prefer Concept A in this regard. On the other hand, I am hesitant to see any permanent closure of the current parkways – mostly because I feel like this will drive traffic and parking into the surrounding neighborhoods. As such, I prefer Concept B regarding the parkways. Is there any opportunity to create a Concept C that includes this mixture of ideas?

Thanks for “lending an ear” on this matter.

Chuck Van De Weghe

Mobile [REDACTED]

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**From:** [erik Storlie](#)  
**To:** [Pachuta, Emma R.](#); [Shaffer, Elizabeth A.](#)  
**Cc:** [Tamara Kaiser](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Cedar Lake and Isles Plan  
**Date:** Saturday, March 5, 2022 2:16:06 PM

---

Dear Emma Pachuta and Elizabeth Schaffer,

As longtime residents of Minneapolis and users of our parks, what we see in the Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles MPRB plans are solutions desperately searching to find problems. It seems the prior board was eager to make changes without much understanding of the history of the system or the original and primary goal of the parks to protect and make natural spaces available for recreation and relaxation as urban life became more crowded and stressful, especially for those working long hours and confined indoors. Worse, the prior board seemed eager to commercialize and even monetize our world class jewel of a park system.

We were very distressed that the previous board was willing to turn parks into homeless shelters. We badly need answers to this problem, but the charge of the parks is not to solve them. I fear there are areas now where dirty hypodermic needles will be showing up for years. We hope the current board and planners will set aside much of this work and review proposals carefully before moving forward.

Among our many concerns:

Instead of creating more green cover and permeable soils, the plans call for more paved paths to accommodate bikes, even though we are now several years into a pro-biking experiment that, viewed objectively, has failed; this is a winter city, yet even in good summer weather, the city bike paths carved out of our streets are mostly empty.

The plans call for more buildings, even though what is needed is more wild and natural space for “forest bathing” and calm—and tree cover to mitigate the urban heat island. Meanwhile, existing buildings, as well as soccer, baseball, football, tennis, and other fields are in disrepair.

We urge attention to the old adage: *“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!”* For example, we see no reason to move the skating rink from Isles to Cedar, nor to build a permanent warming house that will have to seek a use in summer. If neighbors on the North Side need more access to skating, flood an area in North Commons or, as was done years ago, in Bryn Mawr Meadows.

A crying need is attention to the water quality in our lakes, Minnehaha, and Bassetts Creeks. Year by year we see degradation. Cedar has now become a green lake, while at one time it was crystal clear. Litter piles up on beach shorelines and is rarely cleaned up.

We could add more, but we know you are hearing from many residents on these matters. I hope you will listen.

Sincerely,

Erik Storlie and Tamara Kaiser

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January 28, 2022

Dear Ms. Pachuta:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft initial park concepts for the Cedar-Isles Master Plan. As you know, these lakes are in the Chain of Lakes Important Bird Area and provide essential habitat for migrating and resident birds, as well as other wildlife. Our coalition of local bird and wildlife conservation groups hopes that these comments will help ensure the most ecologically and recreationally sustainable plan for this area, consistent with the results of community engagement and the need for climate resilience.

It's clear from the Community Engagement Summary report that community input overwhelmingly favors protecting these lakes, improving water quality, and minimizing new amenities. People greatly value these lakes as special places to find solitude, beauty and wildlife. Most people who gave input believe the lakes don't need changes as much as protection, especially in the context of climate change and the anticipated influx of more visitors when the Southwest Light Rail Transit begins operation. The general themes reflect deep and broad appreciation for "what is already at these parks" including the wildlife who rely on habitat in this area for their survival.

We think that the "Living Lakes" concept (A)—with modifications—better responds to the community's vision and prioritization of water quality, and to the urgent and growing imperative for climate resilience and environmental protection now and in the future. The focus on nature-based solutions is a key strength of this concept, since natural solutions are more effective and sustainable in the long run, and consistent with the widely-preferred view to manage causes rather than symptoms. Expansive rewilding and nature-based water quality improvements will also support outdoor recreation and build stronger relationships among humans, wildlife and the lakes. Visitors will be able to access the lakes and enjoy nature-oriented experiences as well as amenities that improve accessibility and year-round use.

We recommend these changes to the draft Living Lakes concept in order to maximize ecological benefit and enrich visitor experiences:

1. **Expand littoral edges and native plantings while minimizing disruption to existing trails.** While we strongly support creating expanses of littoral zones to expand habitat and improve water quality and ecological function, we think further analysis is needed to identify the optimal spaces available for plantings that manage stormwater and create habitat. In general, we think the expense and disruption of constructing boardwalks (shown in concept A at Lake of the Isles) are not justified, especially given valid questions about the usability of boardwalks during winter months. For example, the proposed extensive boardwalk in the northern arm of Lake of the Isles would be very costly (including the maintenance burden) and would fragment and diminish wildlife habitat. In some areas, curving the pedestrian trail away from the lake could be a better way to find additional space for plantings. In the northwest area where the other boardwalk is shown for Lake of the Isles, more land is available to move the walking path closer to the bike trail, rather than building a boardwalk.
2. **Cluster amenities and limit activities in specific areas to protect contiguous habitat.** Many species of birds and mammals require large contiguous habitat areas for foraging and nesting. Large contiguous natural areas provide the most benefit to wildlife and humans, including stormwater infiltration, and are less susceptible to invasive species and other ecological issues. We request that areas with current and potentially high habitat value be prioritized for conservation and minimal disruption by humans. For example, the entire eastern side of Cedar Lake (including the marsh area) provides one of the best opportunities for quality unfragmented habitat that benefits all. We support the plan to restore pre-

settlement vegetation in this area, including prairie, oak savannah and mesic oak forests. At the same time, concentrating and limiting human trails and activities is essential to ensure that habitat is as large and contiguous as possible in order to provide the most benefits. In line with public input, we suggest a recreational focus on environmental education and Nature experiences in this sensitive area, rather than duplicate amenities at Cedar Lake (such as the ice skating rink and warming house available at Lake of the Isles). As shown in the Living Lakes concept sketch, we support restoration of the southeast shore of Cedar Lake, without trails or structures (some needing removal) to maximize littoral edges. And offering only unpaved pedestrian paths through the area north of the Kenilworth channel will best maintain the habitat and ecology of this natural area and its value for human recreation and well-being.

3. **Minimize hardscape and impervious surfaces and use natural surfaces wherever possible.** Minimizing hardscape will greatly contribute to the community's main goal to improve water quality, while still meeting the goal to improve safe connections between trails at the two lakes. For example, since safe and easy access from the SWLRT station to the Cedar lakeshore is necessary, we recommend unpaved paths and minimal, naturalistic amenities on soft surfaces to facilitate access and circulation there. We oppose widening the paved bike trails around Lake of the Isles to create two-way biking, since wider paved trails would increase impervious surfaces (adversely affecting water quality), reduce land available for rewilding, and diminish the safety and recreational use of the bike trails. Widening the paths would also lead to increased speeds, which is not compatible with nature-oriented experiences. As noted in the draft concepts, on-road bike lanes can be used on existing parkways to improve bike traffic flow without reducing automobile access that is needed and enjoyed by many people.
4. **Acknowledge and honor the existing character and history of each lake.** From public input, we know that people greatly value the unique experiences that these two lakes currently provide. As part of the Chain of Lakes regional park, both lakes offer uncommon experiences of the beauty of Nature and outdoor recreation in the city, which the Living Lakes plan should preserve. Selective turf reduction for re-wilding to improve ecological function at Lake of the Isles can be achieved without sacrificing the pastoral and historical qualities so valued there. Similarly, the undeveloped and natural character of Cedar Lake should be maintained and guide a primary focus on restoration, rather than on redundant amenities, such as performance and gatherings spaces already available at other lakes in the chain.

Finally, we oppose plans in both draft concepts to reconfigure the parkways, because road closures (either temporary or permanent) do not contribute to the vision or guiding principles of this plan. According to the Park Board, the Grand Rounds is "one of the country's longest continuous systems of public urban parkways and has been the preeminent urban parkway system for more than a century." Closures would diminish this historical open access and would actually conflict with the Celebrate principle to "honor the many ways all people use parks." The goal of flexible and clear circulation networks can be met by maintaining this system rather than creating disruptions in established traffic patterns and neighborhoods by complicating access and fragmenting the parkway for space for programs and activities available elsewhere in the Chain of Lakes.

Please let us know if we can provide any additional information that would be helpful in considering our comments.

Thank you,

Keith Olstad, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Stephen Greenfield, Friends of Roberts Bird Sanctuary

Wendy Haan, Minnesota Citizens for the Protection of Migratory Birds

Kay Hansen, Friends of Minneapolis Wildlife