

Testimonials and Comments from Residents and Regional Trail Users that support the Three Rivers Park District 2022 RAISE Project

Gathered from master planning efforts for Project components, and from volunteers and supporters

Source	Testimonial / Comment	Regional Trail	RAISE Merit Criteria							
			Safety	Environmental Sustainability	Quality of Life	Mobility & Comm. Connectivity	Economic Comp. & Opportunity	State of Good Repair	Partnership & Collaboration	Innovation
Master Plan	"Missing link trails, last mile, etc. - that is money well spent compared to adding completely new corridors. The trail system is pretty good right now in most of the metro, with a few missing links here and there. Pretty soon it will be mostly about maintenance. Glad to see this finally happening. Rode this trail a few years ago and was disappointed in abruptly ended after Hwy 100. "	Bassett Creek		X		X	X	X		
Master Plan	"As a Minnetonka resident of nearly 25 years I applaud this strategy to create a north-south connection for active travel and outdoor recreation. We currently have challenges with finding pathways for our children to safely travel in these directions by bike or on foot. This will add significant value to our western suburb community and I completely support it."	Bryant Lake	X	X	X	X	X			
Master Plan	"As a young professional and one half of a married couple who's looking to buy a home and start a family in the coming years, living in an area with bicycle-friendly infrastructure is extremely important to me. Because being able to bike to work is a top priority, we are only considering purchasing a home in places with bike lanes and paths. Plus, in considering future children, we'd like to live in a neighborhood with infrastructure where we don't have to worry about distracted drivers or our kids' safety as they learn to ride... The creation of [CP Rail Regional Trail] opens up suburbs I previously hadn't considered living in and will absolutely have my cyclist friends and I patronizing businesses along the trail on weekend training rides. I hope that this project moves forward!"	CP Rail	X		X	X	X			
Master Plan	"The plan looks great! I can see the plan incorporated many comments from earlier public input opportunities. It is well-thought through and I can't wait for construction completion!"	Eagle Lake							X	
Master Plan	"So glad to see the possibility of a path out my back door! Not only convenient, but much safer for the kids to and from school and the bikers as traffic flows get heavier each year."	Medicine Lake	X		X	X				
TRPD supporter	Along with a \$1,000 donation to the Three Rivers Park District Foundation, a community member shared this story: The community member biked through French Regional Park and along regional trails for 15 years on his daily bike commute to Honeywell for work. Once he retired, he decided that it was time to give back and has joined our foundation to help raise money. The Foundation's current focus is helping raise money to increase access to underrepresented community groups. Recent activities include accessible bicycle programming, mobile community engagement equipment, program support and transportation funds for participants in our Pathway Internships program.	Medicine Lake, Bassett Creek, Various			X	X	X		X	X

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Master Plan	“Both the trail along the creek itself and any connections it can make to nearby parks and commercial areas would be a huge boon for all of south Edina and for the City as a whole... It can be unpleasant, difficult and dangerous for any non-motorist to venture out onto collectors and arterials. There are just not a lot of places kids and families can bike together safely. There are not a lot of places people can walk or bike to do errands... we know how important those modes of recreation and transportation are to our quality of life, we should not miss a chance to bring them back. The trail will maximize people's ability to ride and walk safely with minimal conflicts with cars. I know it will increase quality of life... Trails are efficient infrastructure. Unlike streets, they need very little upkeep and need not be rebuilt for a generation, if ever. I'll take my kids on a ride the year it opens and they may be able to take their kids riding on the same surface a generation later... It's a wonderful investment to make in these difficult times.	Nine Mile Creek	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Master Plan	“We have 3 small children and are always encouraging them to get outside, be active, and exercise. But, when we get out to do these things as a family, it usually involves driving to Minneapolis to enjoy the paths around the lakes and along Minnehaha creek. It would be a huge improvement... The majority of people we speak with feel exactly the same way.”	Nine Mile Creek	X		X	X				X
Master Plan	“As a real estate broker who has sold many home in this community, I know the positive economic value that the Nine Mile Creek trail has brought to properties in the neighborhoods around it. The trail is a major selling point to young families -- right up there with the good schools in our town. and the bike trail even goes straight to the school! I'm looking forward to more trails in Edina!”	Nine Mile Creek			X	X	X	X		
Master Plan	“Projects such as this are priceless in their potential to improve the environment, reduce medical costs through improved physical and mental health, and support communities by connecting people to key destinations (parks, shopping, etc.).”	Shingle Creek	X	X	X	X				
User Survey (2019)	When surveyed by Three Rivers Park District, Rush Creek users cited improving safety at road crossings as their top suggestion to improve the trail. Users gave Rush Creel Regional Trail poor marks on safety of road crossings and sightlines at road crossings. The Winnetka Avenue crossing was among the highest-ranking crossings of concern systemwide.	Rush Creek	X					X	X	X
TRPD supporter	From a local business owner who donated \$500 to the Three Rivers Park District Foundation: “I bike to work on the trails through Elm Creek [connections to Rush Creek and Medicine Lake Regional Trails] all the time”	Rush Creek, Medicine Lake				X	X		X	

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Project supporter	"I like being able to get just about anywhere in the metro by trail. With the way the trails connect, it is pretty easy to create very long-distance routes. I can take a 65-mile ride from my house and be on Three Rivers trails for all but six miles. Riding on trail is so much safer than having to be on the roads. I am very aware of this after getting hit by a car while biking on a street last summer. I like the signage, which helps keep me apprised of where I am and where I can explore. Having rest stops and bike repair tools periodically along the trails is very helpful. And the fact that most of Three Rivers' trails are well landscaped, makes you feel like you are in the woods, even though you may be in the middle of town."	Various	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Project supporter	"The interconnectivity of the regional trail network allows people to transit from one area to another. I get into areas/communities that I wouldn't usually get to. I get to experience the natural world in those areas. It's positive for the mental and physical health of trail users. It gives older adults (active or not) opportunities get out from in front of their televisions."	Various	X	X		X				