



Monday, February 26, 2024

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Commissioners,

After robust community engagement, including over 478 individual survey responses and several board meetings with extensive dialogue, the East Isles Neighborhood Association (EINA) believes the Met Council's summer 2024 stormwater sewer construction work should not include any modifications to The Mall Park. Further, proceeding in this fashion would not violate The Mall Park's master plan, and would be in keeping with the normal course of business for a Met Council construction project.

EINA's focus continues to be on the livability of our community and, most importantly, public safety. Making major modifications to the roadway without a proper traffic study is a mistake and could even cost lives. As a result, EINA believes it is in the best interest of the larger community that no modifications to The Mall Park are made at this time.

Furthermore, when the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has sufficient resources to implement the entire plan for The Mall Park, there should be additional community engagement to ensure the plans remain appropriate/relevant enhancements for the park system and our community. We look forward to those conversations.

EINA strongly supports this park, the park system, and green space in our community. This is why most residents of East Isles choose to live in this area of Minneapolis. We love our parks and appreciate all you do to maintain them.

As you may know, the EINA Board, with the support of our neighbors, does monthly cleanups around Lake of the Isles, the Greenway, and The Mall Park. We have leveraged significant neighborhood funds to improve The Mall Park, including new park benches, lighting, and flower bed plantings along the pathway. We have also invested in buckthorn removal around Lake of the Isles, improvements to the MPRB's Lake of the Isles warming house, Triangle Park improvements, mobile park benches, trees in the parks, Earth Day Cleanups along the Isles shoreline, and public safety, to name just a few efforts.

EINA is helping to protect our lakes and the Mississippi River. Working with Lowry Hill East/The Wedge, we fostered the expansion of the Adopt-a-Drain program in Minneapolis to help prevent contaminants from reaching the lakes and river via the stormwater system. Our community of volunteers now leads the nation with the highest number of adopted drains.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope you will reflect the wishes of those who live near the park and help maintain the park by not making modifications at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Erlandson".

Mike Erlandson, Board President

East Isles Neighborhood Association

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