



Three Rivers Park District Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail Project

When complete, the 15-mile Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail will span the cities of Hopkins, Minnetonka, Edina, Richfield, and Bloomington. Significant portions of the trail are complete, but the largest gap is through Edina. (See www.ninemilecreektrail.org for more information.)

Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) and the City of Edina undertook an extensive planning, public outreach, and route assessment process in 2009 and 2010 that ultimately led to a creek-based regional trail route being approved by the TRPD Board of Commissioners and the Edina City Council. The City Council approval (dated December 7, 2010) included several conditions, including the following:

- "That the final design shall minimize property impacts and be subject to Council approval."
- "That Three Rivers Park District take reasonable steps to minimize the amount of boardwalks in the complex balancing act that also attempts to minimize the impact on the environment (wetlands, water quality, and vegetation)."
- "That Three Rivers Park District offers to provide homeowners with principle residences adjacent to the proposed regional trail edge the option to have buffers where reasonable and at Three River's expense. Buffer options are fencing or vegetative screening (trees, shrubs)."

TRPD retained a consultant in January 2014 to provide preliminary engineering services for the entire 7.5-mile Edina segment. The key task associated with preliminary engineering is to take the approved creek-based route and refine it based on the City Council conditions listed above and the regulatory requirements of the various agencies having jurisdiction over the project and fundamental engineering principles. Based on these constraints, the project team is finding that the preferred route as shown in the master plan is generally accurate and that there is relatively little room for variability within the approved corridor.

Therefore, the public participation efforts for the project moving forward will largely focus on meeting the City Council approval condition related to trail screening. TRPD has set the threshold for providing screening when the proposed trail edge is within 50 feet of the property line of a residential property. Previous regional trail projects have only offered screening when the home itself is within 50 feet of the trail edge. In addition, TRPD will offer screening to residential properties that are outside of 50 feet but are bounded by other properties being offered screening in the interest of being as fair as possible to property owners and providing corridor consistency.

Your property is within approximately 50 feet of the trail alignment, or bounded by others within 50 feet, and is therefore eligible for a fence or vegetative screening between your property and the trail.

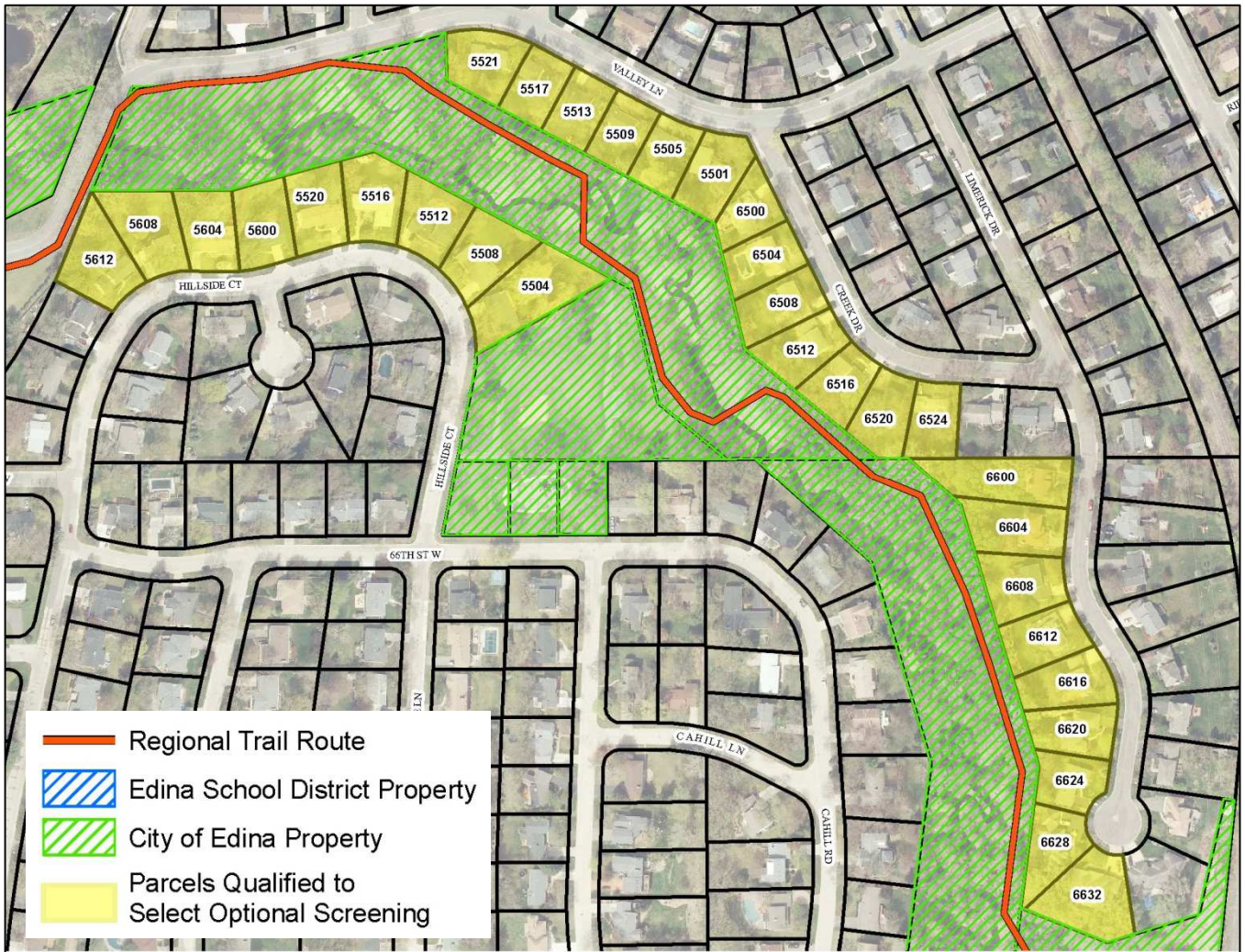
If you wish to have fencing or vegetative screening installed, Three Rivers Park District will pay for the materials and installation. Your eligible neighbors are being offered the same options, and you may choose to have the same or different screening as your neighbors, or nothing at all.

If you choose a fence or vegetative screening, it will be installed along your property line, and only for the section of your property that runs along the new trail. Ownership and maintenance of the fence or vegetation will be your responsibility.

Who gets screening? Map of eligible properties in your neighborhood

This map shows the properties in your area that are eligible for screening.

D1-A Creek Dr, Hillside Ct, Limerick Dr, Valley Ln



What will the new trail look like? Trail in your neighborhood

As shown below, the new Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail will be a constructed wooden boardwalk in wetland areas; otherwise it will be a paved asphalt trail.



When is all this happening? Project schedule

- Trail preliminary engineering: January-September 2014
- Screening selection: By June 6, 2014 in order for the information to be factored into the preliminary engineering
- Begin trail construction: Spring 2015
- Screening installation: Fall 2015

What screening is available? Screening choices

Each property owner may choose from the following screening options (described in detail with photos on the following pages):

- No screening
- American Hazelnut
- Techny Arborvitae
- Spartan Juniper
- Emerald Arborvitae
- Cardinal Dogwood
- Dwarf Korean Lilac
- Split Rail Fence
- Wood Privacy Fence
- Black Chain Link Fence

Conditions:

- If you choose vegetation or fencing, TRPD will install it along your property line on the property owner's side
- The screening will be installed *only* for the section of your property that runs along the new trail
- This offer is for new or replacement shrubbery or fencing for this section of your property.

Warranties, maintenance:

- 1-year warranty for both planted materials and fencing
- Maintenance, repairs, or replacement after the 1-year warranty period are at the owner's expense

***How do I make my choice, and by when?* Online selection form, deadline**

In the interest of making the screening selection process as easy as possible for the affected property owners, TRPD is offering an online process that allows you to make your selection and also see the choices your neighbors are making. However, the Park District will make arrangements to meet with property owners that wish to review the information in-person.

To choose screening through the online selection form:

1. Go to this online link: <https://doodle.com/stcwykrwz8riuqwq>
2. Enter your property address
3. Select "No screening" or one of the shrubbery or fencing options
4. At the end you will be asked for additional information
 - a. Your name, address, and phone number are *required* so we can contact you to verify the screening choice for your address
 - b. Including your email address will make contact faster and more secure; if you prefer not to share your email, please enter the address of the TRPD project manager, enelson@threeriversparkdistrict.org
5. You may return any time before the deadline to change your selection or see others' responses

To make arrangements to discuss the screening options in-person: Contact TRPD Project Manager Eric Nelson at enelson@threeriversparkdistrict.org or 763-694-2060.

The deadline for selecting screening is **June 6, 2014**. Property owners who do not select a screening choice or contact the TRPD project manager will be assumed to have chosen ***no screening***.

In order to aid property owners in making their decision about screening options, TRPD plans to survey the proposed centerline of the trail and the property corners of the properties being offered screening. The surveyors should be able to do their work from public land and not need to enter your property. In the event that accessing your property is necessary, the surveyors will request your permission prior to doing any surveying.



Photo credit: Bachman's

American Hazelnut (summer, fall)

Corylus americana

**Planted 8' on-center along property line
Height: 12 feet Spread: 8 feet**



Photo credit: Bachman's

Techny Arborvitae

Thuja occidentalis 'Techny'

**Planted 8' on-center along property line
Height: 15 feet Spread: 8 feet**



Photo credit: Northern Family Farms

Spartan Juniper

Juniperus chinensis 'Spartan'

**Planted 7' on-center along property line
Height: 15 feet Spread: 7 feet**



Photo credit: Gagg Farms and Nursery

Emerald Arborvitae

Thuja occidentalis 'Smaragd'

**Planted 4' on-center along property line
Height: 12 feet Spread: 4 feet**



Photo credits: Knecht's Nursery and Baltezer's Nursery

Cardinal Dogwood (winter, summer)

Cornus sericea 'Cardinal'

Planted 10' on-center along property line

Height: 8 feet, Spread: 10 feet



Photo credit: Bachman's

Dwarf Korean Lilac

Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'

Planted 5' on-center along property line

Height: 4 feet, Spread: 5 feet

See fence options on next page



Split Rail Fence

**Installed along property line
Treated pine
4' high**



Chain Link Fence

**Installed along property line
Black vinyl coated
5' high**



Wood Privacy Fence

**Installed along property line
Cedar board-on-board
Unfinished – no paint or stain
6' high**

For More Information

- Three Rivers Park District project manager Eric Nelson at enelson@threeriversparkdistrict.org or 763-694-2060
- Project website: www.ninemilecreektrail.org