

**From:** Trudy Hanus  
**To:** [Edina Mail](#)  
**Cc:** [Gary Hanus](#)  
**Subject:** For Mayor, City Council, and copy to Director of Parks (about Arden Park Plan)  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 05, 2017 3:04:18 PM

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We are writing in favor of the Arden Park plan. Please vote to APPROVE it.

- 1) The skating "bunker" needs replacing to provide a year round, attractive building to be used more than 2 months of the year. Love the idea of having it face the Creek with stepped patio to meet the water!
- 2) Reroute the Creek to become more curvy in order to improve the water quality, provide more fishing locations and help with the spongy fields that have been mushy and unusable for most of the summer.
- 3) Protect the good trees (including the weeping willows and hardwoods). Get rid of the buckthorn! Open up some vistas to the Creek. We live at the corner of 54th and Brookview and only can only really see the Creek in the winter.
- 4) Please retain the natural feeling of the park including the small play structure area.
- 5) Be thoughtful about any lighting to be added; please keep lighting in scale. Be kind to nocturnal wildlife!
- 6) Take advantage of the partnership with the Minnehaha Watershed District. It makes sense to share the fiscal responsibility!
- 7) Yes, we will miss the "waterfall," but it sounds like a compromise was reached to retain some rapid water with boulders. That would be lovely!

We have lived at 5336 Brookview Avenue for 30 years and don't recall any major investment in our neighborhood park during that time. It's time to improve our park for the neighbors and the city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Trudy and Gary Hanus  
5336 Brookview Avenue  
Edina 55424

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** tgholmes@juno.com  
**To:** [Edina Mail](#)  
**Subject:** Arden Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 05, 2017 5:30:01 PM

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Dear Mr Hovland and Council Members:

Last night I was walking my dog around Arden Park and we spotted three deer below the trees at the center of where the ice rink is. Later I spotted what looked like a muskrat hurrying down the street to the creek. A great blue heron was spotted just before dark. This was all last evening, Sept 5, 2017. I have lived across from Arden Park since 1960. The abundance and variety of wildlife has never been as rich as now.

I have watched children fishing at the bridge since 1960. They used to catch only carp and bullheads. Now they are catching all kinds of game fish. I have watched a number of park renovations, and it always takes a while for the wildlife to recover.

This new project will remove those trees under which I saw the deer. The trees we love to skate around and through. It will remove the beautiful weeping willows and other trees that make the north park a haven for bald eagles and red pileated woodpeckers, all of which I have seen many times there. It will remove the trees that provide a fascinating semi-wild place for children to have many adventures. I know because I played there when I was eight.

This project is meant to improve the creek, but I believe it will harm it, destroying the heart of Edina. The Minnehaha Watershed district wants to remove the low head dams. This will destroy the eddies and aeration that currently make the fishing so great. Next will be the dam at 50th street and after that the dam on Lake Minnetonka. I imagine the homeowners on Browndale and Lake Minnetonka will be greater advocates to protect their lawns and views the the wildlife of Arden park can be for their homes.

Arden park is a flood plain, and the creek will do what it has for hundreds of years. These plans will not prevent the floods and the creek eroding new paths over time. We will still have wet walking paths.

I urge you to vote no on this project. Not only will that save our tax money, (remember the matching dollars from the Watershed district are also our tax dollars), but it will save the wildlife and preserve a unique resource for all Edina residents.

Sincerely,

Todd Holmes  
Arden Park resident for 57 years

**From:** Mary Rogers  
**To:** [Edina Mail](#)  
**Subject:** Planned changes for Arden Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 06, 2017 1:46:12 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council members,

I'm a longtime Edina resident whose children grew up here. I would like to voice my displeasure at the proposal for changing the creek and Arden Park area. Please don't pursue this destructive course, destroying ancient growth and wild life habitat, as well as terrific fishing hole for neighborhood kids.

Thank you,

Mary Rogers

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Edina Talks  
**To:** [Edina Mail](#)  
**Cc:** [James Hovland](#); [Robert Stewart](#); [Mike Fischer](#); [Kevin Staunton](#); [Mary Brindle](#); [Scott H. Neal](#); [richard@novackfamily.com](mailto:richard@novackfamily.com)  
**Subject:** Press Release - Edina to decide Removing Historic Minnehaha Creek Waterfall  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 06, 2017 1:50:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [Press release - Edina deciding to Remove Historic Minnehaha Waterfall.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Mayor, Council Members, and City Manager

This is to inform you, for the record, that various media have been invited and/or spoken to, inviting them to tonight's council meeting.

See attached PDF – which includes the city's deceptive email notice.

There have been over 12,000 actual Facebook Page *Edina Talks* views – by persons inside Edina – of Various Posts and a video that have been running on Facebook over a few weeks.

As many of you know, I administer the site. I have especially promoted this issue because City communications are deceptive in the least. Certainly residents would be in favor of Arden Park renovation. However, nowhere that an average Edinan can detect does the city mention Removal of the historic 4 foot waterfall / dam that residents treasure. Somewhere in a 467 page agenda is not the place to reveal it.

*Edina Talks* also links all 3 of Steve Timmer's in depth articles and analysis – which have heavy views. One of the top viewed posts is my own post making recommendations. Kevin Staunton has replied after reading a version of it.

I don't plan to appear tonight. I hope I have gotten you a great turnout and a pile of emails.

For myself, I see no reason to remove the waterfall at all. Meanders and riffles can be done without the removal. Any fish swimming the few hundred feet upstream toward the Mill Pond dam will not have enough depth to survive the winter so fish will start anew every year anyhow.

Please view *Edina Talks* on the topic – and make a decision your residents want, not what outsiders want. Thanks

Thanks  
Dick Novack



Dick Novack  
Admin: Facebook Page Edina Talks  
[EdinaTalks@Edinamoderates.org](mailto:EdinaTalks@Edinamoderates.org)  
612-998-9025  
but I'm not the best one to  
interview. This is a tip

*Edina Talks*

# Press Release - News Tip

## City of Edina, Public Hearing Tonight on removal of Minnehaha Waterfall

That's not what the city's deceptive announcements to residents say:

1. {See attached City of Edina email to residents screen shot}
2. Official Council Notice: "PUBLIC HEARING: **Concept Plan for Arden Park**"  
{Agenda link: <https://edina.novusagenda.com/AgendaPublic/DisplayAgendaPDF.ashx?MeetingID=802>}  
agenda is 467 pages long.

Posts and videos on Facebook Edina Talks have had over 10,000 views of persons inside Edina. There is a lot of surprise amongst residents who do not follow the council closely. City Announcements and resident emails make no public mention of removing the waterfall - just Arden Park Renovation and maintaining natural rustic character. Removing the 4 foot waterfall should be highlighted as it is a big deal to local residents. The Watershed district and city staff have already previously presented the council with their plan to remove the historic waterfall on Minnehaha Creek, and have hired a consultant firm whose main business is removing falls and dams..

- Consider this a news tip. On a very controversial but hidden agenda issue
- Consider interviewing those involved, such as Steve Timmer whose 3 published articles on the subject have been linked on the Edina Talks page and have received a lot of views.
- Or just showing up at the hearing. It should be interesting. Edina Talks has been promoting attending or contacting the council.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Public Hearing Sept. 6 on Arden Park Concept Plan**

**Edina, Minn., Aug. 18, 2017** – The Edina City Council will hold a public hearing Wednesday, Sept. 6, on the proposed Concept Plan for Arden Park.

The plan includes restoration of that section of Minnehaha Creek along with improved park access, new trails and recreational opportunities while maintaining the natural, rustic character of the park. The project is a joint effort of the City and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

People can give testimony at the hearing, which is part of the 7 p.m. City Council meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Those who cannot attend but want to submit comments should do before the hearing date by sending an email to [mail@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:mail@EdinaMN.gov) or mailing a letter to Edina City Council, 4801 W. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Edina, MN 55424.

To learn more about the project, visit [EdinaMN.gov/ardenparkconceptplan](http://EdinaMN.gov/ardenparkconceptplan) or [minnehahacreek.org](http://minnehahacreek.org).

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