

# ATTACHMENT A: DAKOTA COUTY BOARD RESOLUTION

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

March 17, 2015  
Motion by Commissioner Gaylord

Resolution No. 15-156  
Second by Commissioner Gerlach

### Consider Adoption Of Revised Master Plan For Lebanon Hills Regional Park

WHEREAS, the County Board accepted the Final Report of the Lebanon Hills Citizen Panel at their January 13, 2015 Physical Development Committee (PDC) meeting and directed staff on specific revisions to the draft master plan, providing a thirty-day public review and comment period and returning with the plan and public comments to the March 2015, PDC meeting (Resolution No. 15-047); and

WHEREAS, the thirty-day public review of the revised draft master plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park was held from January 26, 2015, through February 25, 2015, with the revised draft plan posted on the County website and available at County libraries and the Lebanon Hills Visitor Center; and

WHEREAS, public comments were received from more than 600 interested parties; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has reviewed the new public comments, existing comments, public input, and the Citizen Panel comments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves and adopts the Lebanon Hills Regional Park Master Plan as presented to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole at its meeting on March 10, 2015, with modifications listed below as directed at the meeting; and authorizes staff to submit the modified master plan to the Metropolitan Council for its review and comment.

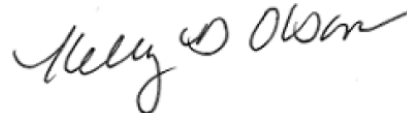
- Removal of Camper Cabins
- Removal of lighting for cross country ski trails
- Elevate invasive species management to a Tier 1 priority project
- Strike language throughout the document regarding a 20 mph design speed for the connector trail
- Delay implementation of Camp Sacajawea improvements until relocation study is complete
- Removal of Greenway language when speaking about the connector trail within the park; Greenway is to come to the park but not through the park
- Reduce width of connector trail to eight feet throughout document
- Replace the term "bikeway" with "connector trail" in sections of the document referring to the connector trail

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
County of Dakota

	VOTE
Slavik	Yes
Gaylord	Yes
Egan	No
Schouweiler	No
Workman	Yes
Holberg	Yes
Gerlach	Yes

I, Kelly Olson, Clerk to the Board of the County of Dakota, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Dakota County, Minnesota, at their session held on the 17th day of March, 2015, now on file in the County Administration Department, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal of Dakota County this 19th day of March, 2015.



Clerk to the Board

## ATTACHMENT B: PUBLIC COMMENTS

### PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON LEBANON HILLS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN (through July 22, 2015)

No.	Name	Date	Comments with concerns regarding the Master Plan <b>(verbatim—no edits were made)</b>
1	Kelly Griffitts #1	2/13/15	<p>I am distressed by the recent development regarding the 2015 revised draft Master Plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park, specifically the connector trail- a 6 mile, 10 foot wide asphalt path that is currently set to run through wooded areas of Lebanon Hills Regional Park. I think the park system in Dakota County should be evaluated as a whole in determining whether the goals of the Met Council are being met. I believe if you look at the park system as a whole, you will find that there are sufficient numbers of paved trails, picnic areas, and play areas within Dakota County parks. The goal of having multimodal parks is an important one, but, does every park and every area of that park have to be multimodal, or, should we be looking at the park system as a whole? The proposal of a paved bike trail through Lebanon Hills seems excessive as there are existing paved bike trails on Cliff Road, McAndrews, Johnny Cake Ridge Road Galaxy Avenue which do not receive ample use, but, boarder Lebanon Hills Park. There are currently paved trails in Lebanon Hills Park, as well. Additionally, the proposed trail runs through a deeply wooded and hilly area of Lebanon Hills Park in the North/middle side of the park. Although I hate to concede that a paved path is necessary at all, a path through the middle of the central area of the park would be less impactful to the environment and I believe it would be less expensive. However; looking at the park system as a whole, the Dakota County Park system lacks the pristine wooded natural areas such that exist in Lebanon Hills Regional Park. There are rarely used paved bike trails all over Dakota County. We do not need another. It was suggested to me by Pat Sullivan that a paved trail would be beneficial because there would be year around access in the park for hikers and runners. These words were spoken by someone who obviously does not use the park. There are runners, hikers, snowshoers and walkers in Lebanon Hills year around. Lebanon Hills Regional Park is a jewel that should be left alone. A paved trail through the park is an irreversible loss to Dakota County residents.</p> <p>I ask that you look for a connector trail that skirts Lebanon Hills Park and leave this park “Wild Forever”.</p>
2	Margaret Skelton (1)	2/13/15	<p>I am deeply concerned about the 2015 revised draft Master Plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park, specifically the connector trail- a 6 mile, 10 foot wide asphalt path that is currently set to run through wooded areas of Lebanon Hills Regional Park. There are ample paved trails, picnic areas, and play areas within Dakota County parks, city-managed parks, and the adjacent parks. What we don't have enough of are pristine wooded natural areas that give the feel of wilderness while being located in the suburbs. Our Lebanon Hills Regional Park is one such jewel. It gives us that rare opportunity to get out into the wilderness for an afternoon. If Dakota County fractures this jewel with paved trails, camper cabins, natural play areas, and picnic areas then they will have ruined our unique park forever. The draft's stated goal of “something for everyone” already exists in the multitude of park opportunities we are fortunate to have in Dakota County. What would actually be achieved by this proposal is “wilderness for no one”. It's a mistake and an irreversible loss to Dakota County residents. Further, it does not correlate to the Parks Departments motto "Forever Wild." The overwhelming voice of the people that use the park is to leave it pristine. If, for some reason, paving the park is required. The</p>

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			paved area should be around Schultz Lake that already has been partially paved.
3	Kelly Griffitts #2	2/19/15	<p>I have shared this information with the County Board of Commissioners. The overwhelming sentiment of their constituency as judged by the participation at Board Meetings and "Open Houses" is against a paved road through this park, yet, this portion of the plan persists.</p> <p>The Met Council's role according to Regional Parks System legislation directs the Council to take the leading role in providing for a Regional Parks System that will complement the recreational open space opportunities provided in the area by the federal, state and local units of government.</p> <p>State law gives the Council the authority to determine which parks and trails in the seven-county area are included in the Regional Parks System and to generally identify areas that should be acquired for the Regional Parks System. The Council is charged with determining whether these lands are regionally important and would collectively provide a balanced system of outdoor recreation for the region. The Council also contributes and administers funding to the regional park implementing agencies to acquire, develop and operate the Regional Parks System. Without the funding source controlled by the Met Council, the proposed Road through Lebanon Hills cannot be constructed. I am asking that the Met Council review this plan and conclude that the best use of Lebanon Hills is to keep the natural trail system and not destroy the ecosystem where the paved road will be placed.</p> <p>The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, appointed by the Council, uses its expertise to advise the Council on the review of regional park and trail master plans, grants for land acquisition and capital improvements. It also provides recommendations on updates and amendments to the Regional Parks Policy Plan. I am asking that you review the proposed Lebanon Hills Master Plan and deny their request for capital improvements such as the paved road proposed through the Park.</p> <p>The Met Council's 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan indicates that the Met Council will determine the manner in which the Park and Trail Fund dollars and CIP are spent. These are at least part of the funding sources for the paved road contemplated running through Lebanon Hills Regional Park, I believe. The legislature has provided the Met Council the power and authority to fund our Regional Parks. "The pressure of urbanization and development threatens the most valuable remaining large recreational open spaces in the metropolitan area at the same time as the need for such areas is increased. Immediate action is therefore necessary to provide funds to acquire, preserve, protect and develop regional recreational open space for public use." (Minn. Stat. 473.302). This proposed road through Lebanon Hills is the "pressure of urbanization" that threatens to open spaces that your Agency is designed to protect .</p> <p>Your office controls the money to fund these projects. The Dakota County Board of Commissioners are ignoring their constituency. I am not sure what their motivations consist of, but, they are certainly trying to attract Met Council dollars to fund capital improvements that the overwhelming majority of the public do not want. Again, looking at the park system as a whole, we have parks with paved trails, we have very few without paved trails. Taken as a whole, let's preserve the natural setting of Lebanon Hills as much as we can at this point and deny funding this road through this Regional Park.</p> <p>I am asking that the Met Council not fund this paved road through Lebanon Hills. The Dakota County Board</p>

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			has had their mind made up and closed for some time If you are not the appropriate person to express this sentiment (regarding Funding of the road through Lebanon Hills Regional Park) please direct me to the appropriate person, or, please forward this e-mail.
4	Dugaid Anderson	5/6/15	I have reading and hearing about the proposed development and I agree with the very large amount of people who want to keep it as a undeveloped park. I use it a lot and to make it like all the other parks around. The ADA argument is bogus too there is nothing in it to do with this park.
5	Katie Mosher	5/19/15	<p>I would like to express my deep opposition to any plan for Lebanon Hills Park that includes more than one mile of paved trails. This park is a treasure for the entire state due to it's wild and natural environment. The opposition from the public that uses this park has been overwhelmingly against it the current and previous master plan.</p> <p>Yet the park board continues to press on with their invasive and costly plan to pave the park. It does make one wonder who is profiting from this but I know for sure the taxpayer won't. With all the other needs in the state it would seem there are a thousand other uses for the 27 million this project is estimated to cost. I believe that doesn't even include maintenance on it over the years.</p> <p>There are many other ways to provide those with disabilities with access to all the trails in a way that they can also enjoy it's natural setting. Sharing a 8 foot trail with bikers and roller blades is certainly not any safe way for them to enjoy it.</p> <p>Please listen to those that use this park and have voiced our extreme opposition to this plan ever since it was first announced.</p> <p>Do you really want to be known as those responsible for changing the motto from "Forever Wild" to "Forever Ruined"?</p>
6	Jim Smola	6/1/15	Ms. Wulff, I am asking you to oppose any development in the Lebanon Hills Regional Park! I do not think paving and widening paths is the correct way to allow accessibility for disabled people.
7	Anne LaGoo	6/8/15	<p>I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Dakota County. My concerns are in regards to the paved trail that is being considered for Lebanon Hills Regional park. This proposed trail concerns me on so many levels and I am hoping it concerns each of you enough that you will vote against this trail.</p> <p>First of all is the cost of this trail. When I first learned about this trail it was going to cost upwards of \$16M to build. Since then, I've read that this trail is now costing tax payers over \$28M. This is just to build the trail and there is no consideration given to maintaining it throughout the year. I do not want my tax dollars to continue to increase to maintain a trail that I strongly oppose. To date, no one has been able to answer my question - where are the funds to maintain this trail going to come from? And, if we have funding to put into our park system, why aren't we using it to maintain it from the buckthorn and other invasive plants that are slowly taking it over? We recently laid off some of the park system maintenance workers due to lack of funding. Honestly, I can not understand how we can justify spending millions of dollars to support a paved trail when the majority of</p>

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			<p>the public (the taxpayers) are against this trail.</p> <p>In addition the natural hills along this path - the hills that add beauty to the surroundings - have been shaved down so the trail is not so hilly. Again - we are ruining our natural environment for the sake of a few people's use. I would like to invite you both to see the destruction of this park before supporting the destruction of Lebanon Hills in this same manner.</p> <p>Finally, Minnesota has some of the most beautiful trails and bike paths in the country. There must be thousands of miles throughout our state and in some of the most beautiful locations. Bikers and other users of the paved trail systems have plenty of wonderful options. I honestly am struggling to understand why we need to take one of our last great wilderness park preserves - one that is enjoyed by many hikers, walkers, horseback riders and other outdoor enthusiasts and turn it into yet another paved trail. We don't need to ruin this gem of a park for such a small population of individuals who already have wonderful trails around the area to use and enjoy. I don't understand why leaving Lebanon Hills as is - is not an option.</p> <p>Please re-consider this paved trail and vote against it for the preservation of this beautiful natural resource in the midst of our city.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
8	Scott Johnson	6/16/15	<p>To the Editor: (letter sent to ECM Publishers with a copy to the Metropolitan Council)</p> <p>In March 2015, Dakota County Commissioners approved the 2015 Lebanon Hills Master Plan, including the controversial 6-mile, year-round asphalt trail, requiring significant hill cuts and large scale tree removal throughout the park.</p> <p>Of the 690 ("unique, individual, non-formulated, hand written letters and emails" – per Commissioners Egan &amp; Schouweiler) public comments submitted to the Board -- only 22 supported this idea. The other 97% were ignored and the plan was moved on. There is no public outcry asking for this new pavement in the woods, rather – the outcry is to stop it. But this is not over.</p> <p>The Metropolitan Council is reviewing the plan, and will decide whether to adopt this \$28 million unpopular plan and thereby make it eligible for funding, or send it back to Dakota County for re-do with meaningful public engagement. Our roads, bridges, and sewers are crumbling. There are other transportation needs of this money that are more urgent than paving the hiking and biking trails in the hills and creating a needless multi-million dollar bridge street overpass and <u>trail into the Minnesota Zoo that duplicates five other nearby paved trails</u> with existing lighted crosswalks <u>just a block away</u> in all directions.</p> <p>It is time once again to let decision makers hear from you. If you do not want Lebanon Hills developed like so many parks we already have, tell the Metropolitan Council that Dakota County needs to be accountable to public input. Tell them not to adopt a plan opposed by 97% of the public.</p> <p>Submit comments now to <a href="mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us">public.info@metc.state.mn.us</a>.</p>
9	Richard	6/19/15	Please send the 2015 Labanon Hills Master Plan back to the drawing board.

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	Dillinger		
10	Patricia Dillinger	6/19/15	Please do not put the newly proposed paved trail through Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Dakota County. It will destroy too much of what makes the park precious to its visitors. We need to preserve the piece of nature for our children.
11	Jason and Paula Norgaard	6/19/15	My wife and I are frequent visitors to Lebanon Hills to hike. Please, please do not alter our park. I realize the need for paved trails at parks but Minnesota has many, many parks to accommodate those that need or wish to walk on pavement. Signed, Another Eagan citizen who feels it is a waste of funds when no change is needed.
12	Rick Graves (1)	6/20/15	In March 2015 Dakota County commissioners approved the 2015 Lebanon Hills Master Plan against the expressed opinions of 97% of those who expressed an opinion on the plan. I see that this plan is now part of Business Item No 2015-141 Set Public Hearing Date for 2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) on the Consent Agenda for the June 24, 2015 Metropolitan Council meeting. It is not clear to me when the Metropolitan Council considers the individual portions of this CIP but when such consideration does take place, I recommend that the Metropolitan Council reject the 2015 Lebanon Hills Master Plan and return that to Dakota County with instructions that Dakota County listen to the 97% of the comments received on that plan and update the plan accordingly. 97% of the comments opposed the wide connector trails and the paved trails that are proposed by the plan. 97% of those who commented on the plan preferred much less development in Lebanon Hill park than the plan proposed. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.
13	Pat Ryan	6/20/15	I am a resident of Dakota Country and want to voice my opposition to the needless "development" of Lebanon Hills, Dakota County's last open chunk of land that bears any resemblance to the world "wild". Why do we need another "developed" park? ALL the other parks are already developed! Can't there be one left "wild"? There have been hundreds of letters written, emails sent, and opinions voiced at meetings in OPPOSITION to this plan. We taxpayers do not want our tax dollars spent this way, nor do we want our park developed. Since few Dakota Country Commissioners are able to hear and appreciate our objections, I am turning to the Met Council to plead with them to send this Lebanon Hills plan back to Dakota County in order to get UN-CENSORED input from residents and come up with a plan that the residents can support. In addition we residents have little respect for these "planners" since we can see how they sold the 150 foot swath of trees and raped the land in their cut-and-fill "leveling" of the beautiful contours through the Spring Lake Park Reserve near Hastings under the guise of building a "trail", just like these scheming Commissioners plan for Lebanon Hills! Please see that this does not happen!
14	Chris Hjort	6/21/15	I am writing to let you know that I oppose the current plan to spend taxpayer money to pave more trails at Lebanon Hills.

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			<p>Our family has used the park and we love the natural setting and feel the money could be saved or used in a more appropriate fashion.</p> <p>Listen to the people in Dakota County who have overwhelmingly voiced their opposition to the paved trails plan. Thank you.</p>
15	Amber Garlan #1	6/21/15	<p>(via email and mailed letter) Please stop the Dakota County Commissioner's plan to build a six mile asphalt multi-use bike trail Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Please stop this plan and preserve the natural character of Lebanon Hills Regional Park.</p> <p>Wild spaces in the city are precious and must be preserved. Here are some of the reasons I am against the plan to build a bike path in Lebanon Hills Regional Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Bulldozing hills and significant tree clearance required for construction.</li> <li>· It would remove miles of existing woodlands and prairies, and disrupt and fragment wildlife habitat.</li> </ul>
16	Richard Dornfeld	6/21/15	<p>One of the slogans for Lebanon Hills Parks was "Forever Wild". Why destroy one of the best natural parks in the metro area with a 10 foot wide trail and removing countless trees and then paving this with asphalt. Of all the people that I have talked with NO one wants that trail. There are other paved trails that border this park so why cut through the middle and destroy this "FOREVER WILD" PARK..</p> <p><b>THIS TRAIL IS NOT NEEDED OR WANTED BY THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE THAT USE THE PARK.</b></p>
17	Susan and Jeffrey Hagman	6/22/15	<p>We love our "wild" Lebanon Hills park and want it to remain a place undisturbed by pavement through its heart. We are so proud to live in Eagan and feel it has been planned and operated in an environmentally and progressive fashion since we moved here in 1972. Thank you for your part in planning for a wonderful Eagan. We have wonderful paved trails for biking, strollers, wheelchairs and other wheeled conveyance. These trails take us through our neighborhood and to explore others if we want a paved trail. When we want to experience the natural world we drive to Lebanon and hike the "wild" dirt trails. We are then immediately part of Dakota County as is was before farming and suburbia took over. Ahhhhh! Let's keep it!</p> <p>As a member of the Met Council, we ask you to veto the Lebanon Hills Master Plan.</p> <p>Pavement, grading, and tree destruction through its heart is not preserving our wonderful county resource.</p>
18	Amber Garlan #2	6/22/15	<p>There are parts of Met Council's policy that many believe were violated by Dakota County, including their criteria to involve the general public in the master planning.</p> <p>The public in Eagan, Apple Valley and Rosemount should be involved regarding plans that effect the natural character of their park, Lebanon Hills Regional Park. The Dakota County Board of Commissioners have not fulfilled their duty in inform and involve the public.</p> <p>Please do not approve the plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park made by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners involving Lebanon Hills Regional Park until the public of Eagan, Apple Valley and Rosemount have been informed and involved.</p>

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19	Pat Ryan	6/22/15	<p>I am a resident of Dakota Country and want to voice my opposition to the needless "development" of Lebanon Hills, Dakota County's last open chunk of land that bears any resemblance to the world "wild". Why do we need another "developed" park? ALL the other parks are already developed! Can't there be one left "wild"?</p> <p>There have been hundreds of letters written, emails sent, and opinions voiced at meetings in OPPOSITION to this plan. We taxpayers do not want out tax dollars spent this way, nor do we want our park developed. Since few Dakota Country Commissioners are able to hear and appreciate our objections, I am turning to the Met Council to plead with them to send this Lebanon Hills plan back to Dakota County in order to get UN-CENSORED input from residents and come up with a plan that the residents can support.</p> <p>In addition we residents have little respect for these "planners" since we can see how they sold the 150 foot swath of trees and raped the land in their cut-and-fill "leveling" of the beautiful contours through the Spring Lake Park Reserve near Hastings under the guise of building a "trail", just like these scheming Commissioners plan for Lebanon Hills! Please see that this does not happen!</p>
20	Amber Garlan #3	6/23/15	<p>(On public comment voice mail)</p> <p>Please stop. Please vote no on the Dakota County Commissioner's plan to construct a 6 mile asphalt multi-use bike trail through Lebanon Hills Regional Park. It would destruct the natural wilderness area and it is not environmentally sustainable to construct this asphalt through this natural wilderness area. Please preserve the wild spaces in the cities. It is very important that Lebanon Hills Regional Park remains intact and undisturbed. Please vote no on the plan to construct a bike path through that park. Thank you and have a lovely day.</p>
21	Irene Kotula	6/23/15	<p>I am writing with regard to our beautiful Dakota County Lebanon Hills Park. Having lived in Eagan for over 40 years, I have enjoyed hiking and skiing with my children and friends and now my grandchildren in this wonderful, wilderness style park countless times. Just recently I took my cousin from New York City for a hike there to give her a feel of the Minnesota outdoors. There are plenty of paved trails throughout the twin cities for those who want to use those but few natural settings left for people to experience. It would ruin the whole experience having to watch for bikers and skaters whizzing by. Besides disturbing the wildlife, the quiet, peaceful setting would be gone forever for the generations to come.</p> <p>I have not heard any person in Eagan say this proposed change is wanted. We love our "free-style" park the way it is! (If anything, the park could use trail maps on the trails that people cannot scratch the trail numbers off of.....why they have to do that is beyond me.) Please, please reconsider changing Lebanon Hills Park. Thank you.</p>
22	Margaret Sorenson	6/24/15	<p>I am one of those that is so upset that you would put an asphalt trail through Lebanon Hills Park. I see no reason to disturb the natural environment. We have so little of it left. We must really work to save what we have. I do not want that trail to be asphalt and 8 feet wide.</p>



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23	Donna Watier	6/24/15	I'm calling about Lebanon Hills Regional Park and what some people want to do to ruin it. I want it stopped before it gets started. You have the power to do that.
24	DeAnne Dubbs	6/24/15	Please do not destroy what I so recently discovered. Last summer I went for a walk in Lebanon Hills Park and thought i'd stepped onto the Superior Hiking Trail. Soft, leaf strewn paths. Quiet. Birds. Wind in the trees. There are so few places like that. So special to have one close by. Not every public space needs to be 100% accessible to wheels on bikes, skates, scooters, wheelchairs, walkers. Leave some places wild so that we can dream that we are the first humans to visit. Once you put the asphalt down, it is there for at least our lifetime. So sad to explain it to the children why we couldn't leave it be as beautiful as it was when we first discovered it. Oh, Camp Sacajawea, what wonderful memories you gave me as a youth.
25	Paul Kraus	6/24/15	Authorizing the construction of a paved path through a woodland gem is advocating an ecological disaster. Please do not support the development of the paved trail through Lebanon Hills.
26	Jerry Kotzenmacher	6/24/15	Don't degrade our natural areas. Stop the pavement in the park.
27	Clara Ueland	6/24/15	Legacy money is not appropriate for the paving project in Lebanon Hills Park. It is meant to preserve Minnesota's natural areas, not damage them. Please do not fund this very unpopular and unwise proposal.
28	Lisa Quist	6/24/15	I am a user of Lebanon Hills Park and would like to register my opposition to the plan for a 6 mile asphalt trail. There are so few unpaved trails in the Twin Cities. We need this trail to stay natural. Thank you.
29	Christine McMichael	6/24/15	I understand that in mid-July you will consider Dakota County's plan to insert a 6-mile, 8-foot wide asphalt trail through Lebanon Hills Regional Park. As a resident of Dakota County for 27 years, a volunteer ski patrol for Dakota County and a person who frequents this park, I urge you to stop this proposed trail. There are many paved trails within Dakota County for all residents to use for an outside experience. I believe the proposed paved trail is a gross misuse of funds that will degrade a park that many people experience as the closest thing to "up north" without the long drive.
30	Mary Ellen Nichols	6/24/15	Please do not allow Lebanon Hills Park to have an asphalt bike trail. Surveys proved that people do not want the asphalt bike trail, yet county commissioners voted for it. I would be happy to meet any of you at Lebanon Hills Park and show you the undeveloped beauty of the park which you are looking at destroying with the asphalt bike trail. As Dakota County gets more developed,

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			<p>Lebanon Hills is a gift of nature that should be preserved for all to use and not have an asphalt bike trail. The asphalt trail will destroy nature instead of enhancing it. We need more green space, not less. Pope Francis just recently came out with his document that it's all of our responsibility, no matter what your religious affiliation, to protect the environment.</p> <p>The asphalt bike trail would be expensive and that money could be better spent on causes that people want and need. I am an avid biker but do not see the trail in Lebanon Hills as a fiscal responsible way to spend money. The intent of the 2008 Legacy Amendment is to help not destroy natural resources.</p> <p>The asphalt bike trail reminds me of the words to the song "They paved paradise and put in a parking lot.." Please do not allow the asphalt bike trail in Lebanon Hill Park. Thank you.</p>
31	Joshua Fahey	6/24/15	<p>I do not support Dakota County's efforts to use Legacy funds for the paving of a trail in Lebanon Hills Regional Park. I do not deny the convenience of having a paved trail through a forest, but I know it would significantly detract from the natural biology in the area. There are many other nearby paved trails in the area. It would be disrespectful to nature and a disservice to future generations to implement construction through a nature preserve.</p>
32	Tera Atkins	6/24/15	<p>I understand that in mid-July you will consider Dakota County's plan to insert a 6-mile, 8-foot wide asphalt trail through Lebanon Hills Regional Park.</p> <p>As a resident of Dakota County for 27 years, a volunteer ski patrol for Dakota County and a person who frequents this park, I urge you to stop this proposed trail.</p> <p>There are many paved trails within Dakota County for all residents to use for an outside experience. I believe the proposed paved trail is a gross misuse of funds that will degrade a park that many people experience as the closest thing to "up north" without the long drive.</p>
33	Jill Danner	6/24/15	<p>When was the last time you voted for something that 97% of 690 public comments were against the project? With 10 years experience on the St Paul Parks and Recreation Commission and 6 years on the West Side Citizen's Organization I can say I never did! Yet the Dakota County Board did vote against the public in favor of spending millions of dollars to destroy the wilderness aspect of Lebanon Hills. What is the benefit? Really nothing unless you are a bulldozer operator.</p> <p>Why would they do this? For bike paths? Do we not have hundreds of miles of bike paths? For ADA accessibility? Do we not have thousands of miles of sidewalks and paths in existence for wheelchairs? Oh am I being harsh and biased against ADA accessibility? NO! I have a husband that can walk a 1/4 mile tops and uses a wheelchair everyday. Do I want a 6 mile trail through Lebanon so I can push him or he can wheel himself? When we reach the end of the 6 mile trail we can then turn around and go back 6 miles. OH MY that sounds fun! It is ridiculous to think we need this type of accessibility! What is needed and missing is wilderness accessibility. Clearing a path so it can be ADA grade makes no feasible or economic sense. You will destroy the wilderness aspect for everyone by clear cutting, leveling, and paving the path. What about snow removal and maintenance? Who and how is that financed? Any Plans? NO!</p> <p>National and State parks do not have ADA accessibility everywhere because it would destroy the very reason the parks exist. That is why you should not do it at Lebanon Hills either. Is there an alternative to this plan that</p>

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			<p>could work? I believe there is.</p> <p>What my husband and I would like is the wilderness experience. For a mere fraction of the cost you could provide two or three kiosks where disabled people could rent an electric golf cart or wheel chair type vehicle that could handle specific trails and truly get out into the wilderness. The vehicles should only be available to those with a parking pass for disabled people and one other passenger. They should be quiet to keep the outdoor experience in line with hikers, canoes, and horses. But it is the best alternative.</p> <p>What about bikers? Do a perimeter path and use existing road ways to get to the building. Keep the middle of the park as it is now, bike free.</p> <p>I have used the horse trails since the 1970's and I really want the miles increased not decreased. We have lost well over 2 miles of trails in recent years. These are the best trails in the metro area because there are no bikers. The hikers present enough of a problem when they walk on the horse trails. Please respect our use of the trails too. Keep this rape of the landscape from occurring!</p> <p>Please do not approve this plan.</p>
34	Janet Llerandi	6/24/15	<p>I am 100% against this 6 mile, 8 foot wide, flat asphalt trail. We don't need it nor do we want it. How can you even consider cutting down trees especially in a park? As a taxpayer I respectfully request you reconsider this stupid idea.</p>
35	Betty Freese	6/24/15	<p>Please reconsider your plan to put the asphalt trail through the interior of Lebanon Hills Regional Park. I can not believe you can responsibly remove mature oaks and turn that into a asphalt trail. PLEASE reconsider, for the sake of wildlife lovers, wildlife, including birds and butterflys!</p>
36	Jolene Laurence	6/24/15	<p>I am against the planned development of Lebanon Hills. Currently, the park offers so much to the community in regards to a nature experience.</p> <p>I feel like I'm up north when cross country skiing. In the spring to fall, my family experiences many bird sightings, butterflys..... I have a co-worker who rides her horse with freinds everyday. Pleae don't destroy this valuable asset.</p>
37	Laurel Daly	6/24/15	<p>My name is Laurel Daly and I live in West St. Paul, MN. I frequently go to Lebanon Hills and wanted to send some thoughts about the paved bike trail that Dakota County is trying to push. There's plenty of places all throughout Eagan, MN, for bikers, but there's only one Lebanon Hills. I do not support the submitted plan for Lebanon Hills, and I hope that my voice and the voice of many others will be put into consideration. 97% of the general public opposed the idea, and that 97% was disregarded. I would greatly appreciate it if you reconsidered the plan and sent it back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation.</p>
38	Joyce Tollerud	6/24/15	<p>This is to express my disapproval of the plan to build a 10 foot paved trail across Lebanon Hills Regional Park. I am a long time resident of Eagan and a close neighbor to the Park. When I voted for the Legacy fund tax increase, I thought we would be using the funds to protect some of the scarce natural areas still left, and NOT to bulldoze an asphalt path across Lebanon Hills. The only possible reason for this could be accessibility, but there are hundreds of miles of paved trail in the metro area and very little undeveloped parkland. Let's save the little we have left.</p>

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39	Mark Wirt	6/24/15	I do not support the submitted plan for Lebanon Hills. The County Board disregarded 97% of general public input, and two of their own Commissioners. I urge you to send the Plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation.
40	Megan Putler	6/24/15	I am writing to express my opposition to the Lebanon Hills Master Plan. I 100% do not support the submitted plan for Lebanon Hills. The County Board disregarded 97% of general public input, and two of their own Commissioners. I urge you to send the Plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation. Lebanon Hills is a unique park in that one can truly feel a part of nature on the dirt paths and undisturbed trees and lakes. The proposed new path will interrupt that serenity irretrievably. A majority of parks in the Twin Cities are handicapped accessible with paved paths; as is a portion of Lebanon Hills near the Visitor's Center. The undeveloped character of this park is what makes it so special. Please do what the County Board did not and listen to the citizen pleas on this issue. Approving this master plan will effectively destroy one of this area's truest natural treasures. The community has spoken and its voice has thus far been disregarded. PLEASE take this into consideration
41	Nicole Everling	6/24/15	I'm writing today to encourage the Metropolitan Council to reject the plans for trail expansion in Lebanon Hills Park. The proposed plan for paved trails would place them in a conserved area and the bluffs and land features would be blown up and paved to make wide, blacktop covered trails that would be maintained at the tax payer's expense. There already has been opposition to this plan within the community and propose that the council reject this plan.
42	Dave Hinker	6/24/15	I was pleased to see this email address published in an editorial letter today. I have been looking for a way to add my voice to the thousands of other unheard voices who object to this plan to pave a place of natural beauty and solitude, Lebanon Hills park. It's a tragedy that our representatives are ignoring the majority of their constituents who oppose this project. I oppose it for two reasons: I don't see how paving it adds to or enhances the outdoor experience for those of us who treasure nature. As well, a recent writer pointed out that we are not maintaining existing trails due to budget cuts - how will we maintain these additional roads, which are not necessary in the first place? Please step in, act responsibly, and derail this project before real harm is done.
43	Dorothy Culbert	6/24/15	I am a Dakota County resident and I am very opposed to having yet another paved trail in Dakota County. What part of "natural" do the commissioners not understand? Please do not approve the paved trail in Lebanon Hills! Let's leave nature alone here!
44	Pat Stevesand #1	6/25/15	I am writing to beg you to not allow the over-development of Lebanon Hills. The County Board disregarded 97% of general public input, and two of their own Commissioners. I urge you to send the Plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation. In all honesty, I think the Commissioners should lose the power they have over park development. They do not have the knowledge or experience to "manage" our precious parks. This is obvious by what they did in Spring Lake Park, and obvious in what they have approved for Lebanon Hills. What they are doing is truly NOT

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			<p>representing their constituents. And they are not preserving the awesome nature of these two parks, one of which (Lebanon Hills) is already over populated with visitors. Let them decide where to put stop signs and roundabouts. That's all they might be qualified to do.</p> <p>I want to be represented. I do not want our parks to be ruined with asphalt trails cut right through the middle of hills or woods. This is a travesty.</p>
45	Pat Stevesand #2	6/25/15	<p>I am hoping to influence your decision to support or not support the plan before you regarding Lebanon Hills. The plan has had a 97% unfavorable feedback response by citizens. We don't want to ruin that park with the type of overdevelopment being proposed. Please do not approve this plan.</p> <p>With citizen involvement, a better, more environmentally responsible plan can be implemented. One that would have the support of most people.</p> <p>It is our responsibility to treat our natural resources with more care and respect. You can't put back what you have taken away in most circumstances. But besides that, it is unethical for our commissioners to ignore their constituents. I would like to go a step further, and take away commissioner responsibility for natural resources. Let them decide where to put roundabouts and stop signs.....they can probably do no harm with those decisions.</p> <p>Please stand with us, the Metropolitan Council is our last hope.</p>
46	Mary Wierschem	6/25/14	<p>Stop the distraction of Lebanon hills. It's a one of a kind park in the Metro area. Dakota county doesn't care what others think</p>
47	Peggy Pasillas	6/25/15	<p><b>I do not</b> support the submitted Plan; Lebanon Hills is a valuable and unique destination, which complements the regional park system, because of its wilderness aspects. The Board disregarded 97 percent of public input, and two of its own Commissioners. Send the plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation. I have been enjoying Lebanon Park in all seasons for over 25 years. I use the horse trails (am a season pass holder), hike, snowshoe and fish there. As a resident of Inver Grove Heights, Dakota County, I object to the proposed master plan on many levels.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public input regarding the proposed master plan was overwhelmingly rejected by county residents. 97% (which includes my input) of the people who commented did not approve of the proposal. The Park board completely ignored that input and passed a plan that no one wants.</li> <li>2. \$28 Million for a trail that no one wants - it's ridiculous!</li> <li>3. There are 100's of miles of bicycle trails throughout the metro area - slicing through one of the last wilderness areas in Dakota County to make a transportation route that destroys the natural beauty of the park is unforgivable! What Lebanon Park has to offer can't be replaced and must be protected!</li> <li>4. ADA - seriously! If the intent is to provide a wilderness experience for handicapped/disabled people, it will not accomplish that goal. Instead it will turn Lebanon Park into a space like Minneapolis around Lake Calhoun where you take your life in your hands if you are walking because of all the bikes, roller bladers, runners who all</li> </ol>

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			<p>share the paths. While that may work in Minneapolis, it's not appropriate for Lebanon Park where peace and quiet are the primary attractions. Want to provide a cost effective and higher quality wilderness experience for the disabled? Buy a number of electric golf carts or electric wheel chairs and rent them out at the visitor center. Most of the trails are wide enough and smooth enough for a cart or a wheelchair (friends have seen them on the trails already) and it would allow people who aren't mobile to still get out and enjoy what the park has to offer without having to dodge bicyclists on the trail. It would be cost effective, provide a better outdoor experience and would draw people to the park. While in Florida for a vacation this April, we saw where the state parks provide beach wheelchairs with oversized wheels so people can get out on the beach. They don't try to pave the beach just so people can get out there, they help them find a way to enjoy it in its natural state. What a concept!</p> <p>5. Dakota County has not considered the on-going costs of maintaining a paved trail. It is much more expensive than the cost to maintain and repair than the natural trails. As a Dakota County resident I strongly object to my tax money being used to build and maintain this type of trail.</p> <p>6. It's an inappropriate use of Legacy Funds. Legacy funds were approved to protect natural resources not destroy them. Again, as a resident of the metro area, I object to my tax dollars being used to fund a project like this.</p> <p>7. The Dakota County park board has no accountability if the current master plan is approved. They could literally do anything they want if the plan and the funding is approved. It needs to go back to the county for appropriate public input and the establishment of appropriate oversight for the final version.</p>
48	Marnie Sciamanda	6/25/15	<p>A new plan to develop a paved path within Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan, MN has recently been adopted by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners and is awaiting review by the Metropolitan Council. As a resident of the area, I wanted to share my thoughts on the plan.</p> <p>I do not support the submitted plan for Lebanon Hills. The County Board disregarded 97% of general public input, and two of their own Commissioners. I urge you to send the plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation. The citizens of Dakota County and frequent park-goers, like myself, have clearly taken a side on this issue that has not been recognized by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners. Lebanon Hills is a beautiful, natural site in Dakota County that a great deal of wildlife calls home. Paving right through the middle of the park would disrupt this wildlife, ruin natural habitats, as well as bring in more traffic to the park that would further disrupt it. Extending accessibility in parks is commendable, however, the current plan's way of doing so is not supportive of those who inhabit this park and frequent its natural trails. I know this is a controversial issue but again, the extent to which the majority of citizens have spoken out against this new plan suggests how important this issue is to me and my fellow residents of Dakota County. Before making a decision on this plan that sides with the Board of Commissioners, please take the words of residents and frequent visitors to Lebanon Hills into consideration.</p>

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49	Curt Bauer	6/26/15	I do not support the submitted Plan; Lebanon Hills is a valuable and unique destination, which complements the regional park system, because of its wilderness aspects. The Board disregarded 97 percent of public input, and two of its own Commissioners. Send the plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation. There are many, many paved multi-use trails in the metro. Please keep Lebanon Hills wild.
50	Rick Johnson	6/26/15	Please do not rubber stamp the proposal brought before you from the Dakota County Board regarding Lebanon Hills Park. Please send it back to them requesting they look at the public input they ignored.
51	Terri Shefelbine	6/26/15	Please send Dakota County's plan for Lebanon Hills back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation. As a resident of St. Paul, I value the wild spaces in Lebanon Hills park and do not believe the paved bike path is the right way to go.
52	Kevin Grass	6/25/15	We live in Burnsville even though it is my concerns that our Comisioneres have lost touch with the Citizens. We have County roads that need paving. This 6 mile bike trail is not right for the Park. Decades ago while the Minnesota zoo was under construction. My friends and myself would ride our motorcycles in these hills. Not one sentence has been brought to the general public about how much of some of the hills are going to be graded down. Let alone how many trees are going to be cut down.
53	Tom Yelle	6/25/15	It's come to my attention that at the March 17 Dakota County Board of Commissioners voted 5-2 to move forward with the Lebanon Hills Master plan. As a hiker and frequent visiter to the park. I love the natural beauty as do the other visitors to the park. I personally use the park for hiking 2 to 3 days a week. It is my sanctuary and the sanctuary for many others on a daily basis. Lebanon Hills is a gem like no other in MN. It is a natural beauty. My concerns are as follows: 1)The community does not favor this proposal. I believe 97% of the community opposes this project. It's my understanding in response to 97% of the people voting against this proposal, the board reduced the width of the paved trail from 10 feed to 8. Given the clearing needed on both sides of the trail, trees removed, grading, that does not appear consistent with what the good people of Dakota County have expressed. 2) I'm concerned about how this trail would be maintained and who would pay for it? It's my understanding that has not been addressed and I'd like to know more. 3) I believe wheel chair and handicap access can be addressed, a path created but the natural park could remain. This path done at a more reasonable scale can preserve Lebanon Hills and it's beauty and meet the needs of those that need a paved trail. 4) I believe the negative impact to the wildlife cannot be understated. 5) it is my understanding that in order to place the paved trail, 100 to 150 must be cleared. If that is done for 6 miles, Lebanon Hills as we know it, will not exist. I recognize there is money available. Let's spend this to clean up the park and trails, build a path that addresses the concerns of the wheel chair access but do it on a reasonable scale.

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			<p>Once work is started, we can never return the beauty and scenery back to area. It is a gem that needs to be protected at all cost.</p> <p>My request is to thoughtfully consider what the public desires and preserve the beauty that exists Thank you for your consideration</p>
54	Monica Rosen	6/26/15	<p>To the Members of our Met Council Please allow me to say; I just don't understand why we can't have one park that is different from the rest. This summer I have biked several of the bike parks' Carver Park, Spring Lake, Lilly Dale, Etc. They are wonderful parks and I have enjoyed them all, but why is it that public opinion on leaving ONE park natural can't be excepted or understood by the people governing our county. Please send the plan back to Dakota county, <i>for meaningful citizen participation.</i></p>
55	John Bergquist	6/26/15	<p>I do not support the Lebanon Hills Master Plan as submitted by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners. Lebanon Hills Regional Park is a one-of-a-kind resource for metro-area residents, providing a near-wilderness experience in our own backyard. Aspects of the master plan, if implemented, especially the disruptive construction of a paved bicycle trail through the park, would greatly degrade the wilderness experience one can now enjoy. Granted, bike trails are also a great resource, and the Twin Cities metro area can be justifiably proud of our trail network, but such a trail would be totally out of place in the heart of Lebanon Hills.</p> <p>In approving the plan on a 5-2 vote, the Board of Commissioners disregarded 97 percent of public input expressing opposition. To their credit, the two commissioners who voted against the plan were initially in support but courageously changed their positions because of overwhelmingly negative feedback from their constituents. Two other board members seemed to be wavering on the issue, but in the final vote they came down on the side of the plan; had they come down on the other side, the plan would have been defeated and not sent on to you for your consideration.</p> <p>Although those of us who live close to the park and are frequently able to take advantage of its treasures are especially sensitive to this matter, it is not merely a NIMBY issue. The entire metro area would be much the poorer if this gem of a park is allowed to be compromised.</p>
56	Joe Chanslor	6/26/15	<p>to desecrate Lebanon Hills like they did Spring Lake Park, or not. To pave, cut, fill , maintain, bulldoze, disrupt, fragment wildlife habitat, or not. To listen to the 97% of public comments that don't want it, or to the 3% that do. To be of, for and by the people, or not.</p> <p>Please do not approve Dakota Countys plan for Lebanon Hills. While I personally do not use the park that much, I am very opposed to those in charge imposing their will over 97% of their constituents wishes, and generally opposed to tearing up wilderness to pave a trail, spending an estimated \$28 million to do it , and untold \$\$ to maintain</p>



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57	Ed Ambrose (1 and 2)	6/26/15 and 7/7/15	I do not support the submitted Plan; Lebanon Hills is a valuable and unique destination, which complements the regional park system, because of its wilderness aspects. The Board disregarded 97 percent of public input, and two of its own Commissioners. Send the plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation.
58	Patricia Lueth	6/26/15	<p>My name is Patricia Lueth. I have been very involved for the past 4 years with the meetings, open houses, etc. for the Greenway bike trails being constructed at Spring Lake Park Reserve and proposed to be built at Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Myself, along with 95% of the public that are aware of these plans, have strong opposition for these plans. I feel the County Commissioners and Park staff have asked for public comments and we have been ignored. They asked for opinions and comments but did nothing with that except for check their boxes and keep for public record. For both parks, the communication and planning has NOT had significant public involvement and have NOT listened to the public that have responded to their requests. The amount of money that is being spent within these parks for highway like bike trails is not good for our community when there is other great needs like our vehicle roads &amp; bridges.</p> <p>The funding for these projects is not clearly communicated to the public citizens. The amount of funding lacking will result in taxes used for projects NOT approved by the citizens that will pay for them.</p> <p>The natural resource destruction and altering is SAD at best. For 20 plus years, the natural resource restoration of these parks have been ignored and very little attention given until recently due to the plans for these trails. The amount of tree and intact forests that are being destroyed for these trails is very irresponsible of our elected officials and park staff. These parks are Reserve and Regional parks that should be protected, NOT constructed with paved trails and development that ruins the "Forever Wild" slogan for Dakota County. Please help to do the right thing. DO NOT approve the Lebanon Hills current Master Plan. Please help to STOP the madness, destruction, over spending and lack of responsibility at Spring Lake Park Reserve. It is not too late...the pavement has not been poured and many millions could be saved if the plans and alignments were less invasive.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. A VERY concerned and frustrated Eagan resident -</p>
59	Roxanne Napper	6/26/15	Please send the plan back to Dakota County for citizen participation that encompasses all users. My interest is horseback riding but I want the area to serve all in the best and most manageable way.
60	Mitchell Starkey	6/26/15	My name is Mitchell Starkey and I live in Eagan Minnesota. I am emailing you today to express about my concern about the new developments in Lebanon Hills Regional Park. As a citizen and tax payer of the state of Minnesota and the city of Eagan I am vary worried about the prospect of the city paving over any amount of this pristine wilderness. There are so few places like this left in the is country to experience wilderness such as this and I am shocked that the city would try to move forward with an initiative that is so wildly unpopular with the community at large. With 97% disapproval as reported by the Star Tribune it is clear to me that the citizens of

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			our city do not under any circumstances want this to happen.
61	Crystal Yakacki	6/26/15	<p>My name is Crystal Yakacki and I live in Minneapolis, MN. I would like to express my love for the wild areas of Lebanon Hills and to ask that you send the Lebanon Hills Master Plan back to Dakota County for citizen participation.</p> <p>I support initiatives to make the Twin Cities more bike-able. But there are endless places that could be paved to achieve this. Lebanon Hills is truly a rare treasure in our metro. Many find solace in it. There is value in letting some little pieces of nature alone and allowing people to walk out into it.</p>
62	Matt Hannah	6/27/15	<p>Another environmentalist here hoping to keep the bike trails out of Lebanon. I support bikes one hundred percent. It's the paving inside the park I dislike. Please open the planning to public participation.</p>
63	Susan Klug	6/27/15	<p>I do not support the submitted plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Send the plan back for meaningful citizen participation.</p>
64	Katie Mosher	6/27/15	<p>I am deeply concerned and distressed over the Lebanon Hill's Regional Park Master plan. This plan was first released in 2013 and the opposition to it from all sides has been overwhelming against it. The plan has been scaled back due to the opposition against it.</p> <p>The main part of the plan is to add paved trails to a park that is currently pristine and unpaved. This natural and pristine landscape is a large part of the attraction for the thousands of visitors that utilize this park. Installing miles of wide paved paths thru this park will change the very soul of this park. We have more enough paved trails in the cities and not enough bare earth trails.</p> <p>The committee's reason for the pavement is to meet the needs of the disabled and elderly. I do not disagree with meeting their needs but believe an 8-10 foot paved path that allows bikes on it does not seem to meet the needs of the disabled who also would rather enjoy a more natural path.</p> <p>On top of ruining the best park in the state is the estimated 27 million it will cost to install these trails. I don't feel this is the right use of tax dollars when there are so many other greater needs out there. The upkeep of these trails over the years will ruin any park budget.</p> <p>I am asking you to contact the Met Council and support any opposition to this costly and environmentally unsound plan.</p>

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65	Rich and Jackie Cowles	6/27/15	We urge you to send the plan back to Dakota County for meaningful public participation, which has not yet occurred. Every indication is that the public is overwhelmingly opposed to the plan's paved connector trail. The public had an opportunity to comment on the plan after the fact, but most of the comments were disregarded.
66	Lisa Pugh	6/27/15	I am a permanent resident of Apple Valley though I spend most of my year leading wilderness expeditions in Ely, MN. I grew up spending much of my free time exploring Lebanon Hills. I chose to spend my time there as a teenager because it was quiet place where I could be alone or with my dog and experience a real connection with myself and nature. I found that unless my family was taking a trip to the cabin that weekend, Lebanon Hills was really the only place I could meet those needs for solitude and reflection in the city. In fact, having that space available has greatly influenced by direction in life and career. I still make it a point to visit every time I am in the metro which is at least 4 times a year. I do not support Dakota County's new plan for Lebanon Hills and request the plan be sent back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation. Lebanon Hills is a gem and would be severely and negatively impacted by further development.
67	Charlotte Tuhy	6/28/15	I am urging you to reject the plan that you are in the process of reviewing. It needs to be sent back to Dakota County for citizen participation. There is much revision needed.  Commenter is the Executive Director High Tail Horse Ranch & Rescue Hawley, MN
68	Nancy Heuer	6/28/15	I am a citizen of Eagan Minnesota and I do not agree with Dakota County's new plan for Lebanon Hills. It is not the best choice for the environment, tax payers or our future generations. The plan was developed and approved by the county without an opportunity for meaningful citizen participation in the process. A significant majority of citizens do not agree with or approve of the plan submitted to the Met Council. Please send the plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation.
69	Mary & Bob Kanuit	6/28/15	I have been following the destruction of Spring Lake Reserve, and I find it disgraceful!! Such beauty destroyed. Natural Indian faces blown to smithereines. Upset habitat. Family's losing their homes of generations. For what?? A 28 million bike trail that the citizens have opposed?? Then there is the FACT that our elected officials have systematically silenced the voices of people!! We do not need more pavement, what we need is more peace and quiet. I for one need this nature in order to connect. This is my church!! Please make the right choice. Choose Serenity and natural over paved and unnatural. Please think this through!!

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70	Aaron and Robin Voreis Gregg and Clark too	6/28/15	<p>For as long as I can remember, our family has enjoyed the "wilderness in the city" that is Lebanon hills. My parents brought me there and now I bring my kids there. We have to drive past many paved parks to get to Lebanon and it is the unique wilderness qualities of the park that draw us to it in all seasons. There is plenty of pavement in the world, do not add any to Lebanon hills park! I hope my children are able to bring their children to the same wild Lebanon Hills park as my parents brought me to!</p> <p>We support a long-term park vision that respects the wilderness-character of Lebanon Hills established in the framework and guidelines of the park's past master plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritizing natural resource stewardship and preservation of wildlife habitat.</li> <li>• Supporting minimal development – only that which is necessary for nature based recreation.</li> <li>• Building community based partnerships with volunteer groups and outdoor organizations.</li> <li>• Promoting the park as a unique destination with programming to support a natural park.</li> </ul>
71	Barry Johnson #1.	6/29/15	<p>I urge you to take a common-sense approach to the 2015 Master Plan for Lebanon Hills. Common sense demands that you reject this flawed plan as written and require Dakota County to review and redesign a plan that incorporates meaningful citizen input and demonstrates strong environmental stewardship for the park now and in the coming decades.</p> <p>The current plan does not do that. Citizen input (such as it is) was carefully and cynically molded to result in the foregone conclusion of the Parks department and the County Commissioners.</p> <p>There is widespread opposition to their massive "bulldoze and build" plan.</p> <p>The most important risk is the permanent damage to the park that will be done. A secondary but real risk exists. Met Council leaders are smart enough to understand they cannot continue to make decisions that run directly counter to citizen sentiment. If valid polling were done, it would no doubt show your reputation is at an all-time low. Approving the flawed 2015 Master Plan in the face of strong citizen opposition could be a tipping point for the view that the Met Council is heavy-handed and needs to change.</p> <p>I hope you will make the right decision in the face of both risks.</p>
72	Barry Johnson #2	6/29/15	<p>Hi Ms Younquist,</p> <p>Thanks for the response. I my view (and many other share it) the Met Council should reject the plan for failure to (your words) "balance(ing) the need to provide recreation opportunities for all residents and preservation of the natural resource base.</p>
73	Julie Jones	6/29/15	<p>I am appalled at Dakota County's plan to insert a 6-mile, 8-foot-wide, multiuse, flat asphalt trail through the interior of Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Legacy \$\$ are meant to save our valuable natural areas, not destroy them. Not sure where you get the idea that the people want this wh.en I have not heard one vote in favor of it from my fellow citizens. The only one's who seem to want it are you officials who supposedly represent our</p>

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			<p>votes. How is that 97% of citizens AGAINST this proposal causes the majority of you to vote FOR it??          I use this park regularly and love having our own little piece of heaven right here in Eagan.          Please do your job by representing the people like you are supposed to and vote against this tragic proposal.</p>
74	Bill Meyer	6/29/15	<p>Counsel, please reconsider your plan to add the paved trail thru Lebanon Hills. I am a long time resident on it's border and would hate to see the intrusion on this beautiful gift of nature. Not to mention the expense to create and maintain it.</p>
75	Debra Riggs Lakeville, MN	6/29/15	<p>To Whom It May Concern:          I am a resident of Dakota County and frequent Lebanon Hills Park regularly with my 84-year-old mother. We enjoy the natural and quiet paths of the park. Please do not allow a large, paved path through the middle of the park. This is supposed to be a natural area, not a commuter's shortcut.</p>
76	Debra Nelson (Lakeville Friends of the Environment)	6/29/15	<p>I have a big problem with the way this proposed development was shoved down people's throats, so to speak. There was outpouring of concern by the public, <i>and</i> this concern was dismissed in favor of development. The Legacy Funds seem to be all about pavement and concrete. Who I wonder was holding hands and giggling when environmentalists like myself were sold a bill of goods.          I reject the plan. I hope you will return with a big NO, and look for other ways to make the park accessible to those who want to use it.          What about looking towards...natural development. One thought, very fine granite paths instead of bituminous etc.          Please reject!</p>
77	Mary Lou Wilm	6/29/15	<p>Please send DAKota Cty's new plan back for meaningful citizen participation. I didn't vote for the Legacy funding so that it could be used to add to more pavement in the 7 county metro. We need to conserve wild spaces, habitats for all life.</p>
78	Leslie Pilgrim	6/29/15	<p>I am a Dakota County resident. A BIG NO to legacy money building the flat asphalt trail through Lebanon Hills Regional Park. AND A BIG NO to the trail itself. Shame on you for ignoring the majority who have spoken against this trail. We need to stop degrading natural areas--you are absolutely blind to the severity of your decision to wildlife.</p>
79	Patricia Lueth #2	6/29/15	<p>Jan,          From your response : balancing the need to provide recreation opportunities for all residents and preservation of the natural resource base. As long as the master plan meets the criteria in the Policy Plan, I strongly believe that the irresponsible preservation of natural resources and lack of public involvement and lack of approval (see ALL comments for Spring Lake Park Reserve and Lebanon Hills Regional Park available as public record) should be grounds for the Met Council to NOT APPROVE either parks master plan. The current construction is not following the plan as communicated to the public. The tree removal taking place</p>

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			exceeds the percentage they claim is within the standards for a "reserve" park. I have witnessed the removal and have been told false information by the Dakota County park staff. The funding is lacking for the amount already spent and planned future costs including on going maintenance. <b><u>Our governing bodies should look at responsible spending.</u></b> An original master plan to spend 1 million with a trail on the outside of a reserve park, versus the 10 + million current estimate for a trail going through the park and intact forests IS NOT responsible for our community and public citizens that pay for these projects. Thank you for your time.
80	Kelly R. Schaeferbauer	6/29/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I do not support the submitted plan; Lebanon Hills should remain a unique destination which complements the regional park system.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Board disregarded 97 percent of public input, and two of its own Commissioners;</i></li> <li>• <i>Send the master plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen engagement.</i></li> </ul>
81	Tripp Parker	6/30/15	<p>I live in Dakota county where Lebanon Hills is located. It's a beautiful resource. I understand the desire to make the park handicap accessible and friendly and to provide a potentially more user friendly path in the park but to what ends do we go here in destroying our natural resources? We need to retain what precious little wild reserves we have around Minnesota and the Twin Cities specifically. This park is a major attraction for those of us who live in the area and have come to appreciate sharing our lives with nature on a daily basis. It has become increasingly hard for wildlife to live in our area due to population growth and expanding use of our parks. Our area has plenty of options with paved paths for public enjoyment. This park is for the wildlife, if we want to enjoy it then it seems fair that we endure some challenges in navigating the area.</p> <p>I do not support the submitted plan for Lebanon Hills, it doesn't represent the best interest of the park, the community or even those who use or want to use the park. The county board disregarded 97% of the general public input and two of their own commissioners recommendations. Furthermore the plan failed to properly support a sustainable solution that is not invasive and so destructive. I urge you to send the plan back to Dakota county for meaningful citizen input.</p>
82	Pat Stevesand #3	6/30/15	<p>Hi, this is Pat Stevesand and I live in Burnsville, Minnesota. And I just wanted to express my concern over the Lebanon Hills master plan. They really didn't listen to the citizens who don't want the overdevelopment of that park. So please don't approve that.</p> <p>The Commissioners just did not listen to us and there was a lot of public input that did not care for the plan. Please, you're one of our last hopes. Thank you.</p>
83	Dianne Trower	6/30/15	<p>I'm writing to ask you to stop the proposal to insert a 6-mile, 8-foot-wide, multiuse, asphalt trail through the interior of Lebanon Park.</p> <p>The park is beautiful as is, and we are rapidly ruining the beauty of Minnesota. I am a native of Iowa, and I think that too often the people of Minnesota do not appreciate all of the beauty in this state.</p>

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			<p>So this is a request to vote NO on this proposal. Thank you</p>
84	Christie Soderling	7/1/15	<p>I want to register my extreme displeasure with the process of approval used by Dakota County on the pending Master Plan for Lebanon Hills. I hope you will send it back to them for a proper hearing that includes the type of citizen participation that occurred the last time the plan was updated a decade ago.</p> <p>It is very clear to me that the "Citizen's Panel" that was convened to consider the proposed plan did not adequately address the concerns of those opposed to the new trails in particular, and mere lip service was paid to those concerns. Neither were the overwhelmingly negative comments received from the greater public taken into consideration in railroading the final approval with minimal adjustments. These adjustments are also problematic in that no one can actually say what would happen, further diluting the response to public concerns. The mandate from Met Council to include <i>meaningful</i> citizen participation was simply not fulfilled. Please send the Plan back to the county.</p> <p>In addition to this very serious problem with the process used to approve an unpopular Plan, I have been extremely disappointed with the whole concept of development at Lebanon as if it were a contest to see which park can put in the most amenities to bump up their numbers. The idea that parks are natural areas and that Lebanon is a uniquely preserved example (Forever Wild, remember!), and should be celebrated as such, seems to have been lost. The use of a natural area like Lebanon for a bike trail seems enormously inconsistent with the purpose of the park. Furthermore, the plans for duplicative bike trails in the south of the river metro, particularly around the Zoo and the School of Environmental Studies, is further evidence of development for its own sake, not in the better interests of land use and the public.</p> <p>I urge you to say no to the Lebanon Master Plan update, and send it back to the County for a more inclusive review process.</p>
85	Charlotte Johnson	7/1/15	<p>I do not approve of the plan before you for the development of Lebanon Hills Park. I would like to see it remain less tamed. The plan before you would destroy so much and change the character of the park - a natural wilderness smack dab in the middle of our urban landscape. Putting in a paved path is urbanizing some of the last public wilderness/ natural space left in the city. Lebanon Hills is a unique park in that unlike many other green spaces (think Grand Rounds - Lake Harriet, Lake Calhoun, Lake Nokomis, Minnehaha Falls, along the Mississippi) in the city that are replete with paved trails, it remains a place where we can experience our surroundings naturally. What a gem in an urban area! I love especially that the wilderness and naturalness offered by Lebanon Hills is convenient and accessible to so many. Small children and many people aren't capable of walking a mile or two before reaching the "wild" parts to really experience the park. These paved trails would force such a long walk on a paved, unnatural path through a clear-cut swath before being able to get far enough into the park to get onto narrow, natural paths that let you experience the beauty and essence of the park - nature. The Dakota County Commissioners seemed to think that they would create MORE access with a paved trail, but to us that trail just would create more of an obstacle to being able to access the naturalness of the park. By the volume of letters and activism of the citizens of the area, it seems that is the</p>

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			<p>public consensus as well. I don't understand why the Commissioners think they know better than the people who use the park, what would be best for us.</p> <p>There are an abundance of paved trails for biking, walking, etc. in beautiful urban parks all over our city - more than I have encountered any other place I have visited or lived. They are all convenient to get to (I know, as when I want that wide paved trail for these experiences, I go to these places - which is often). When I am looking for a quiet walk in the woods - an escape from the city and the concrete... I head to Lebanon Hills where I can immediately leave the city behind as I step onto the soft dirt path amid the trees, birds, frogs and other flora and fauna - right there at my feet - not off in the distance. I feel like PART of the wilderness, not like a foreign object confined to a path and only able to observe from a distance. It is such a gem, that I ALWAYS take my out of town guests to Lebanon Hills and they are always amazed that a city the size of ours has such a fabulous wilderness area right smack in the middle. It is valuable to have something to offer that isn't available anywhere else. We have that in Lebanon Hills. It would surely be a loss of a treasure for the entire metro area to lose the integrity of this all- natural, wild space right here in the city.</p>
86	Ruby Thorp (9 ½ years old)	7/1/15	<p>To Whom This May Concern:</p> <p>I don't appreciate your plans to make a paved path through Lebanon Hills park. Here is my questions. What about the fun paths? If you were on them with the paved path you might get run over. And I would like to be able to enjoy the park with my family and friends for many years to come. And did you think about how animals live at the park? You'll wreck their homes! Plus, what nature will be left for people to see? And just how will the road/path sharing work? Did you know that if you cut down just 1 tree you have to plant 10 in its place? So get planting. And you might as well start calling the park Lebanon flats park. Get it? Cause you'll have to flatten the hills. And you'll make the park less beautiful. I know you're smarter then this. From, Ruby.</p>
87	Kathleen Kresge	7/1/15	<p>I do not support the submitted Plan; Lebanon Hills is a valuable and unique destination, which complements the regional park system, because of its wilderness aspects. <b>The Board disregarded 97 percent of public input</b>, and two of its own Commissioners. <b>Send the plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation.</b> It is a gem of the city.</p> <p>We drive from Minneapolis to Lebanon Hills every Saturday and Sunday to run. <b>No other metro</b> (including Minneapolis &amp; Hennepin Co) has dedicated continuous hiking trails &amp; such beauty. We now spend \$ in Eagan rather than Minneapolis because we do all our shopping at Cub, visit the local coffee shop &amp; Brueggers Bakery near Lebanon Hills. If you put in paved paths or change the character of the park, there would be no reason for us to drive out to Lebanon Hills twice a week.</p> <p>The original planners knew what they were doing when they separated bikes/pavement from the hikers/trails. Govener ARnie Carlson said if he receives 2 letters, he knew the topic was important. Dakota County received <u>690 comments</u> from around the metro region; 97 percent were opposed to the plan. Most of the negative comments were centered around the paved trail through the park. (<u>Star Tribune, 3/11/15</u>).</p>



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88	Susan Ferrozzo	7/3/15	<p>This is sent to object to the proposed paving of the current horse trails in Lebanon park!          This is a Beautiful park for us horse enthusiasts ! PLEASE do not destroy this. Please oppose this horrible plan. There is enough paved trails all around Dakota county. Many joggers who use this park don't want to jog on pavement. Hard on joints. This would be a devastating loss of a wonderful park as it is now. Many of my horse riding friends use this park!          It would also be dangerous for the horses and the users on the paved paths. They would spook the horses. Both parties could be injured. This is not a wise plan. Please look into this.          I used to ride at Pine Point. Stillwater area. They have paths along side horse trails this is very dangerous. Bikers come up so fast and spooks horses!!!!          PLEASE leave Lebanon as is! Beautiful !!!          When something ain't broke, don't fix it! Or you will break it !!!</p>
89	Greg A Buck	7/6/15	<p>I am writing to you regarding the proposed plans for Lebanon Hills Regional Park. As a 25 year resident of Eagan and a Dakota County taxpayer, I have almost never been actively involved with public policy at the local level.          With the stewardship of one of our county's natural blessings at stake, this issue is different. I have seen the travesty of "improvements" to Spring Lake Park and want no part of that for Lebanon Hills. I have attended a couple of the public meetings held by Commissioners to accommodate the requirement for a public hearing. A number of thoughtful and specific suggestions concerning the bikeway were respectfully submitted, but they clearly were not deemed worthy of further consideration and did not result in any meaningful changes to the plan.          Despite overwhelming negative citizen response and in spite of the "NO" votes from the Commissioners representing the districts within which the park resides, the revised plan with the bikeway passed. There is no need to rush a flawed plan to production. Getting this plan wrong will affect the park for generations. Let's get this done right for the citizens of Eagan and Dakota County.          I respectfully recommend the Met Council send the Lebanon Hills master plan back to the county to accommodate reasonable citizen participation in the update.</p>
90	Pat Cummins	7/6/15	<p>I am a resident of Eagan and extremely concerned about the future of the Lebanon Hills Regional park due to misguided decisions by the Dakota County commissioners. I am writing to ask you to send the Master Plan back to the county for revision based on <b>meaningful</b> citizen participation and input. Back in 2001, I served on the Lebanon Hills Stakeholder Task Force and over the past year, though not serving on the new citizen task force, I have continued to try to engage and share information based on real experience in the park. Unfortunately, this has been difficult, they are not receptive, not listening and common sense is not prevailing. Public comment has been just that, you can comment after they have made their plans but it has no impact on their decisions, it seems to be a 'check the box' exercise. Unfortunately, despite overwhelming opposition to the revised plan (97% of the public comments received), the majority of the Dakota County Commissioners approved the plan, which is now in your hands.          Lebanon Hills is a rare, natural treasure in an urban setting, providing a variety of benefits to the community;</p>

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			<p>environmental, recreational, educational, therapeutic, and economic. It is so rare to have an opportunity for a wilderness experience so close to a major metropolitan area, but Lebanon Hills delivers just that. The county commissioners are putting this at risk with this Master Plan, prioritizing development over managing the natural resources in the park and letting the potential funding categories (transportation) drive design rather than true needs. I do not feel that the commissioners have really invested the effort to understand the real impacts and problems this plan would create. As is evidenced by their shock and surprise at the mass destruction of natural environment in Spring Lake Park based on the THEIR approval of the trail plan. If they would truly engage in open dialog with stakeholders as is required, a better plan would result.</p> <p>You and your fellow Met Council members have an opportunity to correct the course for Lebanon Hills Park by sending it back to Dakota County. I hope you have had a chance to enjoy a wilderness escape in the park, if not, and you would like a personal introduction to the trails, my husband and I would be happy to show you around. Also, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.</p>
91	Karen Connolly	7/6/15	<p>Please look very closely at this proposal from Dakota County to put another paved trail through the heart of Lebanon Hills and in the process, destroy much of the wilderness that we all cherish in this park. I am a horseback trail rider who uses the current trails often. I don't understand the need to make every park totally accessible to everyone. There are countless parks with multi use trails all over the Twin Cities and surrounding area that have trails catering to bikes, hikers, handicapped folks etc.that I cannot ride in. My choices are limited already, and especially in such a nearby beautiful place. I know there will be some horse trails left in the park, but close to half of the existing ones will be gone. Please don't take more away from us to make another cloned, generic area that will cost the county and taxpayers to build not to mention maintain. Thank you for your attention.</p>
92	Jill Beardsley	7/6/15	<p>PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT PAVE OVER THE HORSE TRAILS. The bike riders have access to many many other parks and trails. Bike rider can transport their "conveyance" easily and have many more opportunities in various areas. Horse riders have a great deal of prep to go through to get our horses to places that are beautiful and virtually unspoiled. So much of the whole world is being paved over for convenient access. The horse trails are dwindling. We riders enjoy the natural settings and beauty of unpaved trails. Somethings should be preserved for future generations to enjoy and I think unpaved trails could be just that.</p>
93	Anita Grant	7/3/15	<p>I am at a loss to understand why the public's concern of 97% against the proposed master plan has been overlooked and plans to continue to change usage of Lebanon Hills Regional Park! As a equestrian few parks offer equestrian trails, I regularly use and enjoy the the park. The interaction with hikers and others is enjoyable for all. The park is a diamond of the area offering something for everyone. We need more parks like this than more urban sprawl. Many wild animals call this park home, another joy of the park for all who visit. I have been delighted to meet and educate many about my Arabian horse and many have asked to take pictures with him. Enclosed is a picture of us in the park.</p>

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			<p>I am involved in many Arabian and Equine clubs, I am President of the Arabian Horse Amateur Alliance, past president and current BOD of The Minnesota Arabian Horse Association as well as a 10 yr delegate to our national Convention. Active member of the MN Horse Council. I can speak for the members of all these clubs members, who are all extremely concerned about the redivision of the Park. If by chance I can be of any assistance in any way to stop this, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
94	Lisa Acker	7/3/15	<p>Please reject the current "upgrade" plan for Lebanon Hills Wilderness Park and send it back to Dakota County for further revision per public input.</p> <p>The park "improvements" will take away from the natural wilderness experience, something that continues to be less and less accessible in our urban society. At \$28 million, it's excessive at a time when household budgets are tight (I would love a complete kitchen renovation after 18+ years but can't afford it). Last, 97% of the public's feedback was against this plan. Please send the plan back to Dakota County for revisions since the people who use and pay for the park and cared enough to make their voice heard are overwhelmingly against the current plan.</p> <p>Keep Lebanon Hills a 2000 acre wilderness park which provides more natural wilderness and prairie and less concrete!</p>
95	Jeanne Gau	7/3/15	<p>I am a 23 year resident of Dakota County. Prior to that, I lived in Minneapolis near Lake Harriet. I am very opposed to the proposed 6 mile paved path carving through Lebanon Hills Regional Park. This park is unique because it is a wilderness experience, yet relatively close in to the metro area. It is an oak savannah with glacial moraine water lily dotted ponds and wild flower studded fields. I horse back rode their last week and had a large white crane/heron? fly right over me. I have seen owls in trees, fox and deer. It does not have a feel of a paved quasi city park. In the winter I used to cross country ski there. I continue to snow shoe there, pending knee surgery! We have plenty of handicapped accessible areas for people and bikers who want to be on pavement. This area is UNIQUE, and you won't get it back, once you pave it.</p> <p>Part of the de-stressing experience, is to get away from pavement and to visually see an unspoiled piece of wilderness. Also, my podiatrist informs me that people need to walk/hike on uneven soft terrain. It helps them develop their balance and is better for their feet than pounding on pavement.</p> <p>The footing is excellent for horses/people and they are more environmentally friendly and compatible with nature/animals than bikes. The same can be said for x country skiers and snow shoeing and hikers. They don't leave the footprint that pavement does. The bikers have an expensive well maintained course with amenities on the west side of the park to exercise, and they have plenty of bike paths/designated lanes etc. to race through in Dakota county. The west -end bike course retains none of the wilderness feel that the east end of the park does. It also has visibly less wildlife with the campground, bike course etc.</p> <p>How does the song go..."they paved paradise and put in a parking lot". Don't go there.....preserve this unique resource. The metropolitan area has a very high density of horses also, and diminishing terrain to ride them on.</p>

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96	Richard and Mona Reid	7/3/15	We would like to express our opposition to the Lebanon Hills Master Plan you are currently reviewing and request the plan be sent back to Dakota County for further review/public input.
97	Shelia Klassen	7/3/15	<p>Please, please, please keep Lebanon Hills Regional Park the wilderness haven it is. I understand the desire to satisfy the requests of all users, but by doing so it is to the detriment of some and less than satisfactory to others. Compatibility of activities needs to be carefully considered not only for enjoyment, but also safety. Walking through Lebanon on unpaved trails is such a pleasant experience. A paved trail will bisect the park adversely impacting the wilderness feel. I join the ranks of hikers, wildlife watchers, cross country skiers, and horseback riders who enjoy the quiet ambience Lebanon offers.</p> <p>Lebanon is unique in that it provides miles of beautiful and diverse trails on which to horseback ride while being located in a busy metro area. It is a premier destination for horseback riders from surrounding counties and frequented by those living closer to it. Dakota County is home to a large number of horse owners. As the pressure of a growing metro area continues to stress public amenities, let us preserve the wilderness areas that remain. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
98	Nancy Strand	7/4/15	Please retain the wilderness experience afforded here by not approving Dakota County's current park officials on their changes. I believe huge numbers of Minnesota's twin cities residents do not have the means to travel further.
99	Karen Kammer	7/5/15	This is a fabulous large park. Please keep horse trails unpaved.
100	Evelina Chao (1)	7/5/15	To the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, As one of the many thousands of horse owners and trail riding enthusiasts in the Twin Cities area, I urge you to REJECT the new proposed plan to pave over and greatly reduce the area of horse trail currently in Lebanon Hills Regional Park. This trail system is unique because of its wilderness setting, ideal footing for horses, and because of its close proximity to the metropolitan area. The Park already provides a wonderful balance of trails for all outdoor enthusiasts, and to pave a significant part of the horse trail would not only tip this balance unfairly against horse riders, who already face diminishing trails in the face of urban development encroaching on woodlands and meadows, but destroy the beauty and serenity of the wilderness experience that Lebanon Hills Park currently offers. Please reconsider this plan with horse riders in mind!
101	Mark Dunn	7/5/15	<p>I am writing to voice my objection to the Lebanon Hills Park plan that includes the development of 6 miles of paved bicycle trails to the park.</p> <p>I have been walking over this piece of land for nearly 50 years, and have always considered it one of the primary reasons I have remained living here. I can think of no other park in the Metro area that allows one to escape from the urban/suburban surroundings and into such a large preserve of nature as well as this park</p>

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			<p>does.</p> <p>Ripping up 6 more miles of trails (or worse, converting existing trails) to lay down pavement is not at all consistent with maintaining the park as a natural retreat. Surely there is some other infrastructure project far more 'necessary' that the county could spend \$28,000,000 on!</p> <p>Please add me to the chorus of concerned citizens who do not want to see their park torn up this way, and please listen to the 97% of respondents, your constituency, who also object.</p>
102	Liisa Ojala	7/5/15	<p>Please save the horse trails and unpaved trails for horses and x-country skiing. There are many paved trails for bicycles already in Dakota County.</p>
103	Karen Kammer	7/5/15	<p>Please preserve the unsaved horse trails at Lebanon Hills.</p>
104	Fred Bretschger (1)	7/6/15	<p>I am writing to urge the Met Council to reject the proposed master plan for Dakota County trails at Lebanon Hills.</p> <p>As an observant taxpaying outdoor enthusiast, I have admired Lebanon Hills Park as a prime example of a well-conceived design that serves Minnesota citizens well by balancing multiple activities while maintaining a unique quality of wilderness preservation so close to a major metropolitan area.</p> <p>The trails dedicated to Horseback riding, cross country skiing and hiking are superb not only for their natural beauty, but also excellent footing conditions.</p> <p>To compromise these trails with any kind of asphalt path system will diminish this balance and spoil the wilderness experience.</p> <p>It is also unnecessary as there are many paved systems already in place nearby to accommodate wheeled activities.</p> <p>Expensive projects like this master plan seems like a huge waste of taxpayer dollars, especially when maintaining what you have is a far superior choice.</p>
Rick	Graves (2)	7/6/15	<p>Dear, Jan Youngquist,</p> <p>Thanks for your response. However, I feel that Dakota County Parks did not follow the Metropolitan Council Regional Parks Policy Plan. Pages 2-30 of the Metropolitan Council Regional Parks Policy plan include criteria for citizen participation in all updates: "A process to involve affected municipalities and the general public in the master planning". The general public was not meaningfully involved in the Lebanon Hills master plan update that includes the paved trails/bike paths. Instead the public was asked to comment on a plan created by staff and consultants (no citizen input into creating that plan). Folks from the area provided 690 comments to that staff and consultant created plan and 97% of those comments were against the plan and the included paved trails, yet the plan is now moving forward and is on the Metropolitan Council agenda. So, since the Dakota County plan for Lebanon Hills did not meet the citizen input criteria of the Metropolitan Council Parks Policy Plan, the Metropolitan Council should send the Lebanon Hills master plan back to Dakota County unapproved.</p>

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105	Marge Dunn	7/5/15	I'm writing to you as a home owner in your district and a lover of the unique environment of Lebanon Hills. I vehemently oppose the project that paves six miles of the park and bulldozes to effect this change. The current natural environment of the park is so unusual in our modern and increasingly paved world that I must speak out for its preservation. Please note my strong objection to the project as you represent district 15.
106	Jerry Walerak	7/2/15	<p>As an Eagan resident for over 30 years I'd like to express my concern about the future development of Lebanon Hills Regional Park. I oppose the construction of a 6-mile, asphalt, multiuse bike trail through the park because it means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bulldozing hills and significant tree clearance required for construction</li> <li>- removing miles of existing woodlands and prairies which will disrupt and fragment wildlife habitat</li> <li>- additional costs (more Tax Dollars) needed for construction and to keep the pavement free of snow and ice plus general maintenance costs</li> </ul> <p>I would like to note and suggest the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- send the Plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation</li> <li>- The County Board disregarded 97% of public input received - hello - why isn't anyone listening?</li> <li>- I do not support the submitted plan for Lebanon Hill Regional Park - Forever Wild? not with this plan</li> </ul>
107	Pierre J. MacGillis	7/2/15	<p>Thank you for your work to make the Twin Cities metro area a healthy, flourishing place.</p> <p>I am a citizen and homeowner who lives in NE Minneapolis. I am writing to express my views on the proposed 2015 Lebanon Hills Master Plan.</p> <p>In short, I am adamantly opposed to it and ask that you send the plan back to Dakota County so citizen input can be properly respected and included.</p> <p>I am a frequent user and supporter of local and regional parks. Lebanon Hills is a a unique destination in the metro area. So much of the metro area is developed, while Lebanon Hills Regional Park has truly maintained a bit of wilderness in the midst of a huge metro area. This wilderness character is threatened by the proposed master plan.</p> <p>This master plan is unnecessary and will result in paving through significant sections of the park. This master plan may lead to even more changes in the park that go against the will of the vast majority of stakeholders. I find it unfortunate and wrong that the overwhelming citizen input against the proposed changes (over 95%) was so disregarded. This is disrespectful to the democratic process.</p> <p>Please do not give the go-ahead to this misguided project. Keep Lebanon Hills Regional Park wild! This wildness is a precious, meaningful resource to our community.</p>
108	John Gray	7/2/15	I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed development of new paved trails at Lebanon Hills Park. This park is a unique asset in that it is the only park in the metro area without significant paved trails. This results in a wilderness experience in a metro area. Public comment regarding this project has been overwhelmingly negative, a fact that Dakota county has ignored. Please do not approve funding for this project.

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109	Greg Pasillas	7/2/15	<p>There is an assault being planned in Dakota County and the Met Council is being set-up as a potential accomplice in it.</p> <p>The victim is totally defenseless and if not stopped, this assault will likely leave the victim scarred and defaced forever.</p> <p>The assault victim in this case is Lebanon Hills Regional Park in the Eagan, Rosemount area of Dakota County.</p> <p>The assaulting forces are the Dakota County board of Parks Commissioners. Their plan of attack is to bulldoze and clear cut a huge swath of wilderness terrine through the heart of the park, stripping away the natural environment to create an intrusive, paved, multi-use “trail” (road) that, based on huge response to county request for input, the majority of citizenry does not want.</p> <p>In this plan, the bulldozers will also minimize the grade of the topography in contradiction to the park’s name, “Lebanon Hills”.</p> <p>The Met Council must not condone this assault and must deny funding.</p> <p>The concept of “nature” has been lost by the Dakota County parks board, who, through mis-management, irresponsible decision making and dis-regard for public opinion are intent on developing and intruding upon the natural environment of the park.</p> <p>A recent call for public input and opinion regarding the County Commissioner’s plan resulted in a huge public response, with a 97% majority of responses against it. Even so, the mis-guided parks board voted in favor of it. What happened to representative government? What part of the public “no” response don’t they understand? With this vote, I feel that they have moved to express their intent of the defacing and destruction of the natural environment in Lebanon Hills Park. As county commissioners, they are charged with responsible management of critical resources and environments, such as Lebanon Hills Park. Their YES vote regarding the intent to create a paved trail in the park is anything but responsible and considerate. If such trends and actions continue, there will be little nature left to manage.</p> <p>They are actually so bold as to promote Dakota county parks with the current tag line “Forever Wild”. However, the board’s intentions are in direct contradiction to such a declaration. I feel that these actions and poor decisions (in direct contrast to public opinion) will progressively erode the natural elements and features of Lebanon Hills Park and would work to make what was a natural setting into a place where nature was lost for the sake of human encroachment.</p> <p>Such “development” degrades and takes away from the features that make the park significant. Dis-regarding the public majority, the commissioners are now poised to be the greatest threat to the park they have been charged to preserve and protect.</p> <p>They hope to move forward with their destructive plans by requesting Metropolitan Council funding. This destructive plan cannot be allowed and must be stopped, or, to paraphrase from a popular song by Ms. Joni Mitchell: “Don’t it always seem to go, that you don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone”, “They Paved Paradise and put up a parking lot”.</p> <p>Please do the responsible thing, and say no to the Dakota County Parks Commissioners requests for funding for the development of Lebanon Hills Park.</p>
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110	Laura Hedlund (1)	7/2/15	<p>I am writing today to urge the Met Council to be responsive to the voices calling for meaningful citizen engagement for Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Dakota County used numerous promotional tools including their e-newsletter list, website, notices in the park and public buildings to ask the public to comment on the master plan for Lebanon Hills. Six hundred and ninety people responded with - 97% according to March 3, 2015 Star Tribune - opposed to the plan. The obvious option before the Met Council is to return the plan for meaningful citizen engagement.</p> <p>Lebanon Hills is a unique place which receives over 500,000 visitors a year. The park offers something unfortunately rare in an urban environment - an intact ecosystem. Lebanon Hills can be a signature place for people in wheelchairs. A non motorized road dodging racing bikes or slow groups of people with strollers and dogs does not offer people in wheelchairs a full experience of Lebanon Hills.</p> <p>People need nature. Bulldozing hills to make flat surfaces which require salt in the largest area of intact land in northern Dakota County will take the opportunity away for generations of humans to experience Wilderness in the City. Instead of adding yet another high-maintenance non motorized road - of which the area has ample amounts - an engaged public process is likely to achieve a vision for the park which meets the needs of people in wheelchairs in a way that honors the unique essence of Lebanon Hills.</p>
111	Judy Finger	6/29/15	<p>I do not support the submitted Plan from the Dakota County Commissioners. Lebanon Hills is a valuable and unique destination, which complements the regional park system, <u>because</u> of its wilderness aspects. The County logo for the park is "Forever Wild".</p> <p>The Board has consistently disregarded public input, 97 percent in the most recent comment period and two of its own Commissioners. Please <b>send the plan back</b> to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation.</p> <p>I have lived in Dakota County since 1974 and have used the park for hiking during that time...winter and summer. We ski there, attend community events there, have seen red fox and box turtles laying eggs. I have no objection to reasonable "improvements" to the park, but the current plan seems to run counter to the stated mission - "Forever Wild".</p> <p>The County appears happy to spend outside money; i.e., State and Federal dollars, but always seems to come up short of dollars to maintain the facilities they already have. This is a bad plan all around.</p>
112	Margaret Skelton (2)	7/6/15	<p>I am a resident of your District in Dakota County at 1574 Sherwood Ct., Eagan, MN. Like the majority of Dakota County residents, I do not support the submitted Plan. I wanted to urge you to listen to the majority of residents of Dakota County. I have two boys in middle school in Dakota County. Between the two of them, they are involved in Eastview hockey, EVAA travel basketball, REV soccer and Falcon Ridge track. As I spend most of my free time (especially in the winter) at sporting events with other parents, I have had an opportunity to speak with many parents that live throughout the Dakota County area. I have not found a single person in favor of this</p>



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			<p>connector trail. I am absolutely convinced that there is a small minority of people who want this connector trail. This is consistent 97% of the comments received on the Master Plan. There are ample paved trails, within Dakota County parks, city-managed parks, and the adjacent parks near Thomas Lake for people to ride bicycles or for individuals with disabilities. What we don't have enough of are pristine wooded natural areas that give the feel of wilderness while being located in the suburbs.</p> <p>The draft's stated goal of "something for everyone" already exists in the multitude of park opportunities we are fortunate to have in Dakota County. What would actually be achieved by this proposal is "wilderness for no one". It's an unnecessary cost, a mistake and an irreversible loss to Dakota County residents. Further, it does not correlate to the Parks Departments motto "Forever Wild." <b>A factor in your decision should be what the citizens of Dakota County want, we do not want this connector trail.</b></p>
113	Joe Boler	7/7/15	<p>I am a resident of Eagan, MN. I live one mile north of Lebanon Hills Park. I am an avid runner and outdoor enthusiast. I moved to Eagan in Feb of 2015 and I have been astounded by the abundance of paved trails around and throughout Eagan and Apple Valley. Both cities have paved trails not only around town but they also go through the local parks and around the lakes. Lebanon Hills is the only piece of land left in the area that is "Natural". If you move forward and install the proposed paved path in Lebanon it will ruin what the park is and it will never be the same. I frequent Lebanon Hills and use the Dirt trails to run on almost daily. Every time I am there I see other people of all kinds and genders out enjoying the dirt "natural" trails. People aside, the construction of the path will also kill off and chase away many animal species as well.</p> <p>I propose and note the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Send the Plan BACK to Dakota County for Meaningful Citizen Participation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The County Board disregarded 97% of public input received</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT support the submitted plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park.</li> </ul>
114	Catherine Bell	7/7/15	<p>PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, preserve the horse trails in Dakota County's Lebanon Hills. I urge you to reject the master plan to pave half the horse trails leaving only 4.5 mi for horse riders like me. I have been on the trails and believe it's a horrible destructive plan of beautiful wilderness in the heart of Dakota county.</p>
115	Kelly Norman	7/7/15	<p>As an active rider, I am begging you to please open your eyes to not shutting down all of the beautiful horse trails that have been up at Lebanon for years! We thoroughly enjoy them and are saddened that you would take them away from us. Please reconsider what destruction you would be causing to the beautiful park to make big paved trails going through it.</p> <p>As an active runner, I also search for places to not run on paved or cement trails. It is hard on your joints and not good for running on. I ask you keep the trails as they are so that I, and many many other runners, riders and people that just want to get out into nature without making it to city like, can appreciate the trails. Please think clearly and don't go towards the money of funding something that will wreck something beautiful. People go to these trails to get away from the city, not be in it!!!</p> <p>We vote No for the paved trails and cutting down horse trails to just 4 miles. Seriously consider what you are</p>

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			going to wreck for many many people!!!
116	Sheryl Sanderson	7/7/15	Please reject the plan to pave half the horse trails in Lebanon Hills. As it is we have so few trails in the area for riding.
117	Joan Grove	7/7/15	Please don't consider paving any of the trails that horses go on in Dakota Cty. We like the dirt trails more than the paved
118	Kat	7/7/15	PLEASE OH PLEASE DO NOT TAKE AWAY OUR HORSE TRAILS. I want to express my right as a MN resident.... I reject the master plan to pave half the horse trails. I pay for a MN Equine trail pass every year. The cost of that pass goes up, an now you tell me my trail access will go down. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS.
119	Paul Danicic & Carmela Nyemetz	7/7/15	Regarding the recent proposal to develop Lebanon Hills Park. I do not support the submitted plan; Lebanon Hills is a valuable and unique destination which compliments the regional park system specifically because of its wilderness character.  The County Board disregarded 97 percent of public input, and two of its own Commissioners. Please send the plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation.  This kind of undeveloped space will only become more and more valuable each year. New studies are consistently showing that value to our children, how time in natural spaces increases learning ability and cognitive function. As our population becomes more urban in general, we need these open, undeveloped spaces not only for human enjoyment but to maintain large tracts of undeveloped ecosystems for important species habitat.
120	Mike and Betty Fedde	7/8/15	The Lebanon Hills Regional Park plan for 2015 is unacceptable to the vast majority of northern Dakota County residents. The process has been one of manipulation and basically not listening. The plan needs to go back to Dakota County for meaningful public direction as the public has been ignored. After the latest version was completed the comments were 97% against out of 690 submitted. The massive destruction is irresponsible. The Spring Lake Park travesty which is being completed now has resulted in massive destruction of river bluffs, hills, forests to dig a big ditch with occasional expensive views of the river. The Lebanon Hills plan is as bad and has no public support. Please spend our tax dollars on something for the majority - not for lobbyists as this apparently is for.
121	Mimi Tung	7/8/15	I urge you to send the latest master plan for Lebanon Hills back to Dakota County for revisions and re-considerations based on <u>meaningful inclusion of citizens' and stakeholders' input</u> .  Although Dakota County heard from many stakeholders - Dakota County citizens and Twin Cities residents who

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			<p>care about and/or are users of the park - 5 of the 7 Dakota County Commissioners chose to ignore the stakeholders' input and voted yes on the plan. I don't understand the rationale of their action; I'm beginning to wonder "what's in it for them"....</p> <p>Lebanon Hills is a rare treasure in the Twin Cities. It is rare because of its size and relative "wildness" (and let's not forget, Dakota County's slogan for its parks is "forever wild") right in the middle of a dense metropolitan area. We need to preserve the unique character of Lebanon Hills. Why are we trying to make Lebanon Hills into a park just like other existing parks? There are many other parks with paved trails already, e.g., Minneapolis' Chain of Lakes trails. While I enjoy the Chain of Lakes trail, I go to Lebanon Hills for a different experience. How fortunate for us Twin Cities residents to have such a rich variety of parks for our recreation and enjoyment!</p> <p>I hope you will review all the letters, emails, and letters to editors on this topic. It will be evident that approving this plan is the wrong thing to do environmentally and in the context of all the parks in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area.</p>
122	Kelley Dean	7/7/15	<p>1. Lebanon Hills is a precious and beautiful slice of wilderness unique in its close proximity to the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Hikers, skiers, snow-shoers, as well as horseback riders currently enjoy this uniquely natural, close-to-wildlife trail network. The new master plan proposes to pave right through this trail in order to increase riding area for bikers, who already have <b>11 miles</b> of dedicated bike paths in Lebanon Hills.</p> <p>2. To pave additional area would be to destroy forever dwindling areas of natural woodland, marsh, and wildlife habitat. Bikers, who already have dedicated, paved paths throughout the Twin Cities (as well as in Lebanon Hills), do not mix well with foot traffic or horseback riders. Please keep our paths free from more pavement, and safe for feet.</p> <p>3. Quality of Life is a Minnesota point of pride! Preservation of precious natural woodland, waterways and meadows is essential to Minnesota's image of the great outdoors, and why people enjoy living here. Paving is to further urbanize the few oases of natural wilderness remaining in the Twin Cities. Preserve, don't pave! Please don't let the song lyrics, "they paved Paradise," ring true for our beautiful Lebanon Hills.</p>
123	Mary Buck	7/7/15	<p>In the Park Overview of the Lebanon Hills Master Plan it identifies "Lebanon Hills Park as ...renowned trail based park - hiking, running, skiing, horse riding, mountain biking, and canoeing..." yet the Master Plan chooses to pave over portions of the bridle path.</p> <p>I moved to Minnesota in 2001 from Cleveland, Ohio and am currently a Bloomington resident. My horse is boarded in Webster, MN. The longer I live here the more I see Minnesotans squeezing out the horse population in favor of large home developments, trail riding paths through the park and other areas in which horse owners can enjoy the outdoors.</p> <p>It appears that Minnesota's newest trend is to favor the bicyclist. Bike paths are popping up along all major roads and arteries for commuters and that is a wonderful thing. Between Three Rivers Park District, Lebanon Hills and other county park systems bicyclist trails outnumber the bridle paths, yet Dakota County wishes to</p>

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			<p>take away more from the equine community.</p> <p>A well trained horse can interact with bicycles provided the rider is confident. However, the rider also understand that their horse's brain is wired for flight when it feels threatened. If the rider is not confident the horse loses confidence in the rider and becomes alert to possible dangers. Because bicycles are quiet their approach to a horse can be quite startling. Horses do not look back at their riders to let them know they are about to jump sideways, rear, buck or any movement involved in flight. Those first few steps a horse takes can be in any direction and can unseat the best riders, the worst riders or crash into the bicyclist. Not only could all parties involved incur medical bills, there is also the chance of veterinarian bills.</p> <p>Lebanon Hills is the most beautiful park to ride horses. It is the first place I have ever ridden in Minnesota that reminds me of the Metro Parks in Cleveland, Ohio. There the paths go on for miles and miles through the park system with little to no interaction with vehicles or bicycles. Unless you are a horse person, there is no possible way you can understand how riding your horse in the park washes away the stress of the work week, or can end that bad day on a peaceful and relaxing note. By adding bicycle paths along the horse trails denies riders that peace of mind.</p> <p>I have seen bicyclist ignore the designated bridle paths in Murphy-Hanrehan park. My 50 year old friend who has been riding since she was 5 and her daughter (who has been riding for 7 years) were startled by a bicyclist. They were on a hill when the bike approached from behind. My friend's horse spooked, bucked and slid sideways down the hill which sent my friend through the air, landing hard on the ground and hitting her head. Her daughter's horse took off running. The bicyclist never stopped to see if they were ok or to offer a hand to my friend who was injured. Once a horse is startled, it takes them about 20 minutes to return to a calm state. Because of her injuries my friend had to walk 2 startled horses back home while her daughter was scared over the episode and was afraid of her mom being seriously injured.</p> <p>Never once have I seen a bicycle spook and toss its rider because it has seen a horse. For these reasons and all the others you have heard from horseback riders, I implore you to keep bicycles away from the horse paths. Please stop taking away from the equine community to add to the already expansive bicycle paths in Minnesota.</p>
124	Mary Imhoff	7/7/15	<p>In viewing the Spring lake Park Reserve completed near Hastings, it confirms my belief that if you give the hand, they take the entire arm!! The leveling of the earth was horrific! About half the work of the plan was completed, (thank heavens more wasn't completed) at almost twice the projected cost. As being a small business person, that is not possible for us, we can't have over runs and charge it back to the customer. I'm appalled that elected officials do not listen to their constituents. I am weary of beautiful natural areas being bulldozed over, trees cut down, earth leveled, to accommodate the desire for convenience or recreation. Why can we not leave the beauty of God's creation the way it is, why mess with it?</p> <p>I do not support the submitted Plan; Lebanon Hills is a valuable and unique destination which compliments the regional park system because of its wilderness character. The County Board disregarded 97 percent of public input, and two of its own Commissioners. Send the plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen</p>

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			participation.
125	Brenda Leatherman	7/9/15	I do not support the revised master plan for Lebanon Hills Park. The proposed paved trail through the park will destroy the unique environment that Lebanon Hills provides to the Twin City area. Please ask the Dakota County Board to revise the plan based on public input.
126	Laura Hedlund (2)	7/9/15	<p>Can we, as a community, move towards a shared and inclusive vision for Lebanon Hills Regional Park? Perhaps we can even come up with win/win before the Met Council process begins on August 4. Hopetimistic.</p> <p>Below are some thoughts.</p> <p>An inclusion working group. Improve access for people in wheelchairs using the existing framework of the 2001 master plan. Hard surface trails near the visitors center have broad appeal. My understanding is that these asphalt trails can be constructed without a new master planning process.</p> <p>Accessible, non-asphalt trail, in the interior of the park. Bike access could be considered as part of the Greenway concept. Jack Conrad pointed out that Cliff Road expansion would be a natural place to consider bike access thru the park. Most bikers want a pleasant ride with nice landscaping but they realize the ecological expense of going thru the interior of the park with what is essentially a non-motorized road. Also, the Minneapolis Park system has wisely decided to separate walkers from bikers for safety reason. It is an improved experience to separate walkers and bikers. An inclusive working group could take a critical look at Lebanon Hills Regional Park entire trail system thru an accessibility as well as ecological lens. We can create a signature accessible wooded trail which matches and honors the fundamental character of Lebanon Hills.</p> <p>Inclusion program/activities group. Innovative programs to reach out to people who are currently not served by Dakota County has potential to connect people with ecological reality. A program group could explore options such as partnering with Metro Mobility to make regular visits to places with people who struggle with mobility including residential and nursing homes. This group could also explore reaching out to other underserved communities including recent immigrants, low income single parent families, African-Americans, Latino, Indigenous communities, teenagers, etc. The idea is that this working group would have flexibility to learn, “response-ability” to find creative ways for public. Outreach. I have passion in this area and I am willing to volunteer on park outreach.</p> <p>Ecological. The current master plan has clear and ambitious goals for restoring the park. Progress is being made. Most notably, 50 volunteers worked on garlic mustard. Keeping the strong vision of the 2001 master plan is consistent with community vision. For example in numerous surveys from the county, tackling buckthorn was more important that building trails.</p> <p>Utilize Elisabeth Sahtouris’ Principles of Healthy Living Systems. Master plans exists in stagnant frameworks which may not serve rapidly changing communities. Can Dakota County use the 2001 master plan for funding requests? I now believe, that I cannot be fully human without being in relationship with “intact ecological reality.” What is “intact ecological reality?” We know it when we feel it. We need to identify the remnant land and honor these places not only from human-centric pathways of what can I extract NOW for ME. A biocentric,</p>

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			<p>regenerative, future first viewpoint as well as human thought pathways serve present and future needs of humans by embracing humans within the context of the living world. Madonna when she sang "I am a Material Girl Living in a Material World." Is wrong. This website has information:  <a href="http://interactioninstitute.org/features-of-healthy-living-systems">http://interactioninstitute.org/features-of-healthy-living-systems</a></p> <p>Below is a photo my friend shared with me of a buckthorn fence... Can you feel this place?  <a href="cid:1efd740b-36c8-43d3-b3a0-b7381a9c96a3@am950.local">[cid:1efd740b-36c8-43d3-b3a0-b7381a9c96a3@am950.local]</a></p>
127	Todd Hipp	7/9/15	<p>While I don't understand all the nuances regarding the Dakota County Lebanon Hills Project, I do however understand that most people, including myself are not comfortable with the current plan. Perception and reality can be two different things, but to me it seems so blatant that the majority of the public doesn't accept the plan. Anyway, I just wanted to voice a comment about the issue and ask that you please consider sending the proposed plan back to Dakota county until they can reach a plan that works for most people in the community, because I'm not even seeing that 50% like the way it reads now.          Kind Regards</p>
128	Dee Parker	7/10/15	<p>Please do NOT approve the Lebanon Hills Regional Park Master Plan.          Keep the "Wilderness in the City" feeling of this park.          Despite overwhelming opposition to this plan, it was approved by the Dakota County Commissioners.</p>
129	Arnie Austin	7/10/15	<p>Please don't add paved trails to Lebanon Hills Park... I love Minnesota with my heart and soul, and the wonderful NATURAL parks are the biggest draw of all. Please, don't add paved trails.</p> <p>Lebanon Hills is a precious and beautiful slice of wilderness unique in its close proximity to the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Hikers, skiers, snow-shoers, as well as horse-back riders currently enjoy this uniquely natural, close-to-wildlife trail network. The new master plan proposes to pave right through this trail in order to increase riding area for bikers, who already have 11 miles of dedicated bike paths in Lebanon Hills.</p> <p>2. To pave additional area would be to destroy forever dwindling areas of natural woodland, marsh, and wildlife habitat. Bikers, who already have dedicated, paved paths throughout the Twin Cities (as well as in Lebanon Hills) do not mix well with foot traffic or horse-riders.</p> <p>3. Quality of Life is a Minnesota point of pride! Preservation of precious natural woodland, waterways and meadows is essential to Minnesota's image of the great outdoors, and why people enjoy living here. Paving is to further urbanize the few oases of natural wilderness remaining in the Twin Cities. Preserve, don't destroy our great outdoors!</p>
130	Kate Ness	7/10/15	<p>Please do not accept the new plan for Lebanon Hills as it will be presented in August. Not only will it destroy a wonderful park, but it is a complete waste of taxpayer money. This is not what the voters wanted when the voted for the Legacy Fund.</p>

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			If you choose to support the plan, please explain why you are willing to go against what 97% of the public has demanded.
131	Maryann Passe	7/15/15	<p>I urge you to tell Dakota County to redo their Lebanon Hills Master Plan. The public does not support this proposal, there were 690 individual public comments- NO FORM LETTERS - opposing this change in direction for this beloved park.</p> <p>The county has full-time planning staff, full-time communications staff, full-time administration staff, who did all they could to ensure that this plan was approved. Yet intense grass-roots public pressure continued throughout the entire process. People continued to take the time to communicate to the county their displeasure with the plan. In the end, County Commissioners disregarded the public input and voted for this new plan that so violates the past park master plan.</p> <p>Still, people like me, are taking the time to oppose Dakota County's plan at the Metropolitan Council level. Why? Because of Dakota County's appalling record of park stewardship. Lebanon Hills Regional park natural resources have been neglected for years despite its master plan directives to prioritize its natural resources. More disturbing is the County's master plan for Spring Lake Park that is being completely violated by the current construction project of what can only be called a road through its "preserve area."</p> <p>I urge you to listen to the public. Lebanon Hills is a unique and complementary piece in the entire regional park system. It offers the opportunity for people of all abilities to enjoy a conveniently located large parkland with minimal infrastructure. It should be "developed" as that kind of a park, NOT developed to be a bike system hub where only the fit and able can get beyond the pavement.</p> <p>This park, should offer everyone, of every ability the chance to get away from pavement. That is what the public has been telling Dakota County. They have not listened to the public as they did everything they could to manage and control public input into the plan - see below my letter to the editor in Sun Thisweek.</p> <p>Read the letter to the editor below and then reject Dakota County's proposed Lebanon Hills Master Plan.</p>
132	Becky and Ed Evans	7/14/15	<p>My husband and I would like to voice our displeasure at your proposal to pave a 6 mile trail through Lebanon Hills park, and what's worse, using Legacy Amendment money to do it. We live very close to the Eagan-Apple Valley border and enter the park every day through the entrance on Galaxie Avenue, which is 2 blocks from our home of 30 years. There are miles of paved trails and sidewalks in our southern suburbs already that enable those in wheelchairs, strollers and bikes to enjoy an outing surrounded by nature. We have already witnessed many huge living trees cut down there to widen the ski trails--it's heartbreaking! Please consider the survey results on this subject and our comments to halt this proposed project!</p>
133	W. Barry Graham	7/15/15	<p>I do not support the submitted Plan. Lebanon Hills Regional Park is a valuable and unique destination which complements the regional park system because of its wilderness character. The County Board did not solicit comments or recommendations on the final Master Plan by the Dakota County Planning Commission. Instead, the County Board, with input from Dakota County planning staff, appointed a Citizens Advisory Panel which was not representative of the park's user groups or the citizens of the County. The County-selected facilitator</p>

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			restricted discussion and allowed comments and recommendation on a very limited number of issues in the Master Plan. Finally, the County Board disregarded 97 percent of public input during the comment period allowed, and two of its own Commissioners. Send the plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation.
134	Karen Gamble	7/16/15	I am writing to you regarding Lebanon Hills Regional Park. I live in the city – surrounded by freeways, concrete, noise, pollution, buildings, etc. It is refreshing to have a park in the middle of all this congestion, to have a park where a person can go to unwind, relax and enjoy the beauty of nature. Why is it being proposed to tear down paradise? We already have plenty of paved trail parks in the metro area. I am opposed to the plans being proposed to alter the park. People go to this park because it is a refreshing alternative to the mundane, paved parks. We need a unique, nature-based park to enjoy in the heart of the city.
135	Laura Hedlund (3)	7/17/15	Democracy is not a spectator sport. It is participation. Hundreds of people have spoken out against the plan to pave lebanon hills. People engaged at open houses, public comments, and letter to the editors. Overwhelmingly negative comments -97% according to startribune. What specifics? Some adaptations have been made however the 97% disapproval rate came after these adaptations. What are the broad implications? Unresponsive government fragments the social fabric. It feels disheartening. People become cynical! This was Paul main message - dont let them make you cynical. I had the privilege of being Deputy Press Secretary on his first campaign. We can be at the beginning of a restorative cultural movement. The earth is the grounding force. Contact with soil - not toxic asphalt - may be key to social healing.Public space is the commons. Many indigenous culture had practices on consensus building. If we learn from these traditions we can also learn to operate in healthy and healing ways. I am glad Sandy is willing to take a stand. If Met Council approves the plan, then the issue is likely to be key in the 2016 elections.
136	Wendy Paulson	7/18/15	I write to you regarding Dakota County's Master Plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful attention to this matter. For more than two years the County has been pushing their version of a Master Plan for Lebanon Hills Park without listening to their constituents. To be clear, there have been a number of public meetings and comment periods, but the comments of the public have repeatedly been clear and have not been heeded. Commissioners Egan and Schouwiler commented eloquently and clearly on this in explaining their change of heart (at the 3/10/15 and 3/17/15 meetings). Commissioner Schouwiler pointed out how she was taken aback by the fact that of the most recent opposition - not only that 97% of almost 700 comment were against the plan, but that almost every comment was entirely personally written - people did not follow form letters - they followed their hearts!



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			<p>This type of government action is a sad yet crystal clear example of why citizens are frustrated with and alienated from government. Please do not let this continue, stop this plan.</p> <p>At the March 2015 Dakota County meetings, the commissioners voted on a few meaningless changes to the plan (changing the paved path from 10' width to an 8' width, for example). However, through extensive research by Wilderness in The City Volunteers, it is clear that despite any lip service, the width and the exact location of the trail will always remain at the County's full discretion. Thus, there have been numerous open houses, public comment periods, and time spent of discussing what the public would like, without any requirement for the county to heed wishes, and more significantly without input from landscape designers or engineers.</p> <p>In official county meetings I have seen a <i>very</i> disturbing lack of clear knowledge on important information. At the two public county meetings mentioned above, Commissioner Workman repeatedly asked if they made any of the proposed changes (with of trail, location, etc), would ADA requirements still be met? There was a palpable silence in the room each time with NO response from Senior Park Staff (Steve Sullivan, 3/10 and 3/17 meetings), hired consultants (3/10 meeting), or from the County Attorney (present at both meetings). No comments were made by anyone at all. <b>YET THEY CONTINUED WITH THEIR VOTES</b>, changing the plan slightly.</p> <p>I have been passing out fliers at the park for the past few months to education people about this plan and the responses I receive when I talk to people have contained a very consistent few themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The person knew nothing of the plan and finds it very upsetting.</li> <li>2. The person knew about the plan, but figured nothing could be done because the county is set in their plan and will prevail.</li> <li>3. Most of them ask where is the money really going or state that they know this project is all about money.</li> </ol> <p>To be honest, it seems there has been intentional obfuscation of information during this process: Just before the final vote by the county commissioners (3/17) to approve this plan, I stopped by the visitor center. NO one there knew what the current status of the plan was or how to find out. The woman working told me people repeatedly asked what was going on with the park and she did not know how to get information on what to tell them, nor did her boss.</p> <p>The visitor center should have been Ground Zero for people trying to understand what the County's plan is, yet is had not been.</p> <p>Further the County and Plan provide great Lip Service to the value of natural resources, however they had NO employees working in Natural Resources at the Park until after repeated citizen complaints. This is one place they have listened to the public. Suddenly 4 employees were hired or changed jobs. Somehow the county cannot include long term funding into this \$28 million dollar plan, yet they can newly have 4 Natural Resource employees? I appreciate the new employees and have found them great to work with, but am concerned about how long will this last?</p>
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**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON LEBANON HILLS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN (through July 22, 2015)**

		<p>This paved trail - the most controversial part of this plan - just does not make sense - for it to be truly accessible in winter, will require plowing. For a park that is known for cross country skiing, having to cross a paved trail is going to markedly degrade the skiing experience.</p> <p>And the trail is billed as accessible for the disabled, elderly, and children while also being designed for 20 mph speeds of bicyclists. Basic logic leads to the conclusion that accessibility will be highly compromised by high speed bicyclists. If the trail is designed for 20 mph speeds (mentioned throughout the Plan), there is no way to deny there will be occasional higher speeds too. As an amateur cyclist, I repeatedly reach 25 mph speeds. There are no bikes allowed in the center or east sections of the park now, yet the county is already unable to keep bikes out. I have routinely found tracks and people biking, especially in the central section.</p> <p>A former police officer spoke at one of the county meetings, explaining how if this trail is built, he knew the police were going to be called in to remove motorcycles and cars. I can testify that they are not keeping out bikes now. The best case scenario if this trail is built, is that motors will not be an issue; but it is certain that bikes will be all over other park trails - where they are not supposed to be. There are <i>never</i> county employees on these trails to monitor or regulate bike use and there is nothing in this plan to start park patrols. Further, the signage in the park is still incomplete following the implementation of the last Plan (2001 Master Plan). There are numerous locations where signs state a trail is closed on one end, but there is no sign at the other end. This was how well the trails were completed in the last Plan: it is hard to trust they would do a better job this time.</p> <p>There is so much work the park could use now - there is a wonderfully quaint bridge across Bridge pond - please, go see it! Its absolutely amazing that this bridge was not included in this plan or any plan for repair - it's like walking in a haunted house! There are always trails eroding into lakes (even after last night's 1" rainfall, I found a couple channels of dirt flowing into Holland Lake) and there are ponds that are infilling and the invasive species...</p> <p>There is no one who can claim that a paved trail and all the ensuing construction and equipment required will do anything but damage to the natural resources (requiring chemical herbicides, increasing invasive plants, increasing run-off and water temperature, for example). Given the lack of care for the natural resources of the park currently, it is hard to believe it will be well attended to after further destruction. Garlic mustard, for example, has taken over in the past 5 years and it is the opinion of many that had there been attention to it right away, it would have required relatively little effort. Where now extensive volunteer, employee, and prisoner efforts are going to be at it for years to come.</p> <p>Please understand though that I love this park and would not complain about the bridge or the the other things need immediate repair. If nothing were to be done at all - No Master Plan - the park would be just great. However, if we're going to spend \$28 million, then I am completely at a loss to understand why these existing issues have been ignored. It seem to me only a few conclusions are possible:</p>
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**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON LEBANON HILLS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN (through July 22, 2015)**

			<p>a.) those who wrote the plan and voted for it know little to nothing about the park,  b.) they do not care about the park and simply want the money - somehow it increases their status as commissioners or they have a connection to the contractors who have worked on the plan or will work on the implementation.</p> <p>Lebanon Hills is a valuable destination in the regional park system because of its unique wilderness character; I do not support the submitted Plan. Dakota County disregarded 97% of general public input, and two of their own Commissioners. I urge you to send the Plan back to Dakota County for <u>meaningful citizen participation</u>.</p> <p>This park is Unique and this uniqueness must be highlighted, not destroyed. It is a quiet, peaceful park, where one can find quiet and separation from the speed of the city. Adding a paved bike trail will destroy this and change the character of the park completely!  This plan is full of gigantic holes and should NOT BE FUNDED or approved in any way.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
137	Jean Oberle	7/19/15	<p>LHRP is highly valued by the Twin Cities community for its rustic atmosphere. The vision held by many for LHRP over the years has been for a less developed, predominately natural park. This community vision is coming into direct conflict with the proposed Master Plan. The underlying concern being that this unique park will be overdeveloped and the highly valued natural resources will be negatively and irreversibly impacted. There are thoughtful yet unexplored ways to integrate accessibility into Lebanon Hills, while maintaining a less developed, rustic atmosphere. The 6 mile connector trail is not the answer, and is the biggest stumbling block to gaining widespread support.</p> <p>While a great deal of time and effort has gone into developing the Lebanon Hills Regional Park Master Plan, and I had sincerely hoped to be able to support it at this point, the process falls short of expectations. A very significant number of people took the time to submit personal letters voicing objections and concerns during the public comment period. If citizen participation and input is to be truly embraced, and the process to be trusted, the plan should not be approved for funding in its current form. Without widespread support, and confidence that the community truly was given a voice, the implementation will continue to be problematic. I urge you to send the Master Plan back to Dakota County for further refinement.</p>
138	Mike Capra	7/10/15	<p>Please do not fund the Lebanon Hills paving project until the Dakota County planning commission actually listens to the citizens of the county. They are pushing through this project with very little citizen support .  Thanks for your consideration</p>
139	Susan and Steven Wehren-	7/11/15	<p>We are writing because we are against clearing a 6-mile, 8-foot swath through Lebanon Hills Regional Park. We feel this kind of destruction of a natural setting is not good use of Legacy funding.</p>

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON LEBANON HILLS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN (through July 22, 2015)**

	berg		Please vote against the Dakota County commissioner's proposal, which is opposed by a majority of we Dakota County residents.
140	James Jenkins	7/22/15	<p>I was an active member of the Stakeholders's Task Force for developing the 2001 Master Plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park. In 2001 at the direction of the Dakota County Commissioners and through a collaborative process with 26 Stakeholders, we developed an excellent Master Plan that was adopted by the County Commissioners with full support. When the plan was adopted, the Board pledged to enforce this plan and uphold it's overarching vision to be different than all of the other regional parks in the system and clearly emphasize that this park would remain natural and hard development would be minimized. It would not include development that would result in destroying the natural vegetation and topography on this beautiful park. It would remain unique in providing the natural environment that the majority of the park users wanted.</p> <p>During the next decade the Parks Planning Department immediately and continually developed plans for hard development versus maintaining, rehabilitating and developing the natural features of this park. During the period from 2002 until last year, many surveys were completed and over 90% of the individuals surveyed still favored the vision of the 2001 Plan: to keep this park unique and natural. Even after this input the Parks Department and Commissioners ignored this data and continued on the path of hard development that is represented in the Development Plan that is before you at this time for approval.</p> <p>Make no mistake, the last round of input by a public committee initiated by the Commissioners, was not a balanced, objective form of input, but was simply furthering the direction already in motion. The current Commissioners that were part of the 2001 process and pledged to enforce the Master Plan know the current Development Plan is not close to being consistent with the plan they endorsed in 2001.</p> <p>In conclusion, I appeal to the Metropolitan Council; return this to the county unapproved and insist that they revise their Development Plan so that it is consistent with the 2001 Master Plan that they endorsed and promised to enforce. This is clearly what the park users want.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>
141	Pat Rammal	6/24/15	<p>(on Council voicemail)</p> <p>He feels/heard most people responding to survey were not interested. He wanted to reiterate his non-interest in a paved bike trail through Lebanon Hills.</p>
142	Evelina Chao (2)	7/5/15	<p>She voiced opposition to new paved trails through Lebanon Hills for bikers. She feels they already have 11 miles of dedicated paved trails and to pave additionally through the current trails for foot traffic, skiers, cross-country skiers, snowshoeing, hikers and horseback riders is to take away and upset the balance of what is really beautiful natural woodland and will destroy the final remaining wilderness that we have. She feels this plan is misguided and asked that we please reject this plan.</p>
143	Linda Knutson	(date unknown)	<p>She does not support the Lebanon Hills Master Plan. She feels Lebanon Hills is one of the few parks left that is still wilderness. It doesn't have paved trails and she stated we have tons of parks with paved trails. She thinks we need to stop developing every park around us and leave some to be more wilderness. She feels community folks selected to be on the board did not have much say or what they did say was disregarded as was the</p>

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON LEBANON HILLS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN (through July 22, 2015)**

			public comments received and even the views of some of the commissioners on the board. This is really disheartening.
144	Fred Bretschger (1)	7/6/15	He urges the Met Council to reject the proposal to pave over many dedicated natural trails in Lebanon Hills Regional Park. He thinks it's a very bad idea since bike traffic already has 11 miles of dedicated bike paths nearby. He said this will upset the beautiful balance of the park which is perfect for hiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and feels this park is a nice footing for all those activities. He stated it is a beautiful natural wilderness and stated we shouldn't mess it up by putting in all those bike paths and upsetting the whole wilderness feel. This is just urbanizing one of the few remaining natural spots close to the city. He asked that we please don't wreck it.

No.	Name	Date	Comments with clarifications regarding the Master Plan  (verbatim—no edits were made)
1	Fred Bretschger (2)	7/7/15	Thank you very much for this information and alerting me of postponement of Master Plan on today's agenda. I am relieved to know that the horse trails at Lebanon Hills are not in the kind of danger i was led to believe. Feeling a little embarrassed that I was gearing up for a big debate. Always good to get all the facts. It was a pleasure talking with you today. Have a great summer.

No.	Name	Date	Comments in Support of the the Master Plan  (verbatim—no edits were made)
1	Kimaree Poole	6/26/15	I am in favor of a 6 mile asphalt trail at Lebanon Hills Park. I am 62 years old and in great health but the day will come when I will need access to a paved trail. This is a small part of a huge park and I think the opponents are making much ado about nothing (and this is coming from a strong environmentalist!). The main thing is to build it discretely and in harmony with it's surroundings. Thank you.
2	Wayne Sames	6/29/15	As former co-chair of the Lebanon Hills Master Plan Advisory Panel, retired outdoor recreation professional and frequent user of the park, I'm submitting some personal comments and observations regarding the proposed plan that was subsequently approved by the county commissioners and submitted to the Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission. While I agree with the general consensus statements and recommendations of the Panel, the following statements reflect my own opinions.

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			<p>I've been concerned and troubled by the deluge of letters to the editor and guest editorials over the past year from opponents to some of the elements of the proposed plan. I've seen and heard many inaccuracies, distortions and misleading statements from the opponents. Here's my perspective on some issues they have raised:</p> <p>1. Lebanon Hills as a "wilderness": I have back-packed and canoed in many federally designated wilderness areas. I do not consider Lebanon Hills to be a wilderness. The federal definition is that "...a wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Lebanon Hills has definitely been trammelled by man. Decades of agricultural use have seriously degraded the original natural habitats. Soil has eroded into lakes; most of the land has previously been cultivated, pastured or used as woodlots for many decades; old farm roads and trails (which many of us love to hike) criss-cross the area; many plant species have been replaced by less biologically diverse habitats and invasive species; a power line bisects the east portion; roads divide the three sections; and park infrastructure has been developed (though at a lower level than in most regional parks). Only a few small areas are considered by the DNR to be high quality natural communities, with the remainder being of moderate biodiversity, not meeting criteria, or not even rated.</p> <p>The park is a large vegetated open space area and that, in itself, is of real value. As a whole, the park is one of the larger regional parks (as opposed to park reserves) in the system. It does offer opportunities for getting away from the crowds and feeling a sense of solitude, but the repeated description of the park as a "wilderness" is misleading and, perhaps, intentionally so. Who doesn't want to protect "wilderness"? Even if the proposed development, including the corridor trail, were to take place, the vast majority of the existing natural surface trail mileage and area would remain available for those wishing to pursue that experience.</p> <p>The advisory panel did strongly recommend increased habitat restoration efforts and measures to stabilize and improve water quality and I agree wholeheartedly with those recommendations.</p> <p>2. The Corridor Trail: The proposed corridor trail, particularly as envisioned with the design and development guidelines suggested by the Panel and incorporated into the proposed plan, would provide a legitimate, compatible outdoor recreation experience for bikers, wheelchair users, parents with strollers and walkers who may find existing natural surface trails unavailable or unmanageable. These users are currently not well served by the park, though their use preferences and needs are every bit as valid as those of the opponents. It would also provide a needed bike and pedestrian connection between the campground and the visitor center. The integration of regional parks and trails has always been part of the long range vision for the metropolitan system.</p> <p>The panel recommended, and the proposed plan includes, numerous references and guidelines to ensure that the proposed trail is designed and developed with minimal impact and with the recreational nature of its intended use in mind. As recommended, it would not go through the "heart" of the park (as some opponents</p>
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**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON LEBANON HILLS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN (through July 22, 2015)**

			<p>claim), but rather through more peripheral areas. It would bypass the largest area of "moderate" biodiversity woodland-forest surrounding Portage/Cattail/Schulze lakes. Development of the corridor trail itself would offer opportunities for restoration, as shown in the draft plan. Interpretive stations, pull-offs and overlooks would provide for a very enjoyable outdoor recreation experience for families and other trail users. The advisory panel suggested measures to reduce development impacts and accelerate restoration along the trail corridor and the county commissioners appear to share those concerns.</p> <p>Again, natural surface trail users would continue to have ample opportunities to enjoy their preferred activities without ever having to pass a bike or step on an asphalt trail.</p> <p>3. Expanded Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Lebanon Hills Regional Park should remain a trail oriented area, but there is ample room for expanded outdoor recreational opportunities for users other than hikers. The park is seriously under-used for picnicking due to a shortage of facilities, particularly for larger family groups. The plan addresses this need with proposals for expanded picnic facilities. Persons with disabilities (including students on field trips), families with strollers, people with limited mobility and others will benefit from proposed hard surface trails around the visitor center, Holland Lake and other higher use areas. Currently, these people cannot easily access many areas in the park, even many areas near the visitor center. The proposed expansion of the visitor center would accommodate larger school groups and facilitate more flexible use of the area by a variety of groups for environmental education, outdoor learning activities, etc.</p> <p>3. The Opposition: Several letters and statements by opposition members have characterized their views as representative of the general public. They cite responses to questionnaires, attendance at public meetings, etc., as proof that they speak for the general public. None of these are scientific measures of how "the public" might feel about the Lebanon Hills plan, much less what they might think if they were more fully and accurately informed about the plan. What they have seen in letters to the editors, if they have even seen them, is certainly biased and often grossly misleading. My guess is most of the general public isn't paying much attention and may not even care one way or the other. But that's just my guess, no more valid perhaps than the opponents' claims. I do know from long personal experience with controversial public natural resource and outdoor recreation issues that the opponents of a proposed action are usually much more motivated to show up, organize and express their opinions than those who are OK with a proposal or don't really care. The opponents certainly have every right to express their opinions, but they do not have a right to make up their own "facts", which I think they have done all too often during this planning process.</p> <p>Ironically, my recreation preferences probably correspond with many of the opposition group. I like to hike the natural surface trails and get away from the more developed and higher use areas, though I use those areas, too. I haven't been on my bike for a few years (though I would enjoy biking the proposed corridor trail much more than the noisy, straight, mostly boring trails along county roads). What I apparently do not have in common with them is a willingness to share a relatively small portion of the park with others who may have</p>
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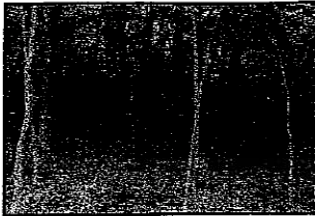
**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON LEBANON HILLS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN (through July 22, 2015)**

			<p>different, though equally valid, recreational desires or preferences. I believe I will still have plenty of opportunities to experience feelings of quiet and solitude with very little, if any, inconvenience or sacrifice. I look forward to increased efforts toward park restoration, hope that the plan will be adopted, and that Lebanon Hills Regional Park will provide even better recreational experiences for future generations.</p>
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## ATTACHMENT C: WILDERNESS IN THE CITY FLYER

### *Future of Lebanon Hills Regional Park* **FOREVER WILD...or FOREVER PAVED?**



*Natural wilderness (above left) and the same section of the park following project implementation of a multi-use bike trail through Spring Lake Park Reserve in Dakota County ~ Spring 2015*

**Recap: Dakota County's Plan for Lebanon Hills** — Construct a 6-mile, asphalt, multi-use bike trail through the park which will be kept free of snow and ice. This means:

- Bulldozing hills and significant tree clearance required for construction.
- Remove miles of existing woodlands and prairies; disrupt and fragment wildlife habitat.
- More buildings, more pavement, and expanded parking lots at trailheads.

*Draft plan was opposed by 97% of 690 public comments received. (Star Tribune, 3/11/15)*

**What's Next: The Metropolitan Council is currently reviewing this controversial \$28 million plan.**

- The Plan must be adopted by the Metropolitan Council to be eligible for funding.
- Public meetings are expected in July and August but dates are not yet confirmed.

**TAKE ACTION! This is not over — Lebanon Hills needs your help.**

**(OVER)**

If you do not agree with Dakota County's Plan for Lebanon Hills, here's what you can do:

**Share your view on this issue with the Metropolitan Council and your Council Member**

**Met Council Member (Eagan): Mr. Steven Chavez** — [steven.chavez@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:steven.chavez@metc.state.mn.us) 612-670-8952

**Met Council:** [public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us)

**and Copy:** [jan.youngquist@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:jan.youngquist@metc.state.mn.us) [Jan Youngquist, Regional Parks Manager]

**Suggested comment to submit with personal message( include your name and city):**

- Send the Plan back to Dakota County for meaningful citizen participation.
- The County Board disregarded 97% of public input received.
- I do not support the submitted plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park.

**Contact your elected State Legislators**

Funding will come from State funds, including Legacy Amendment dollars. Tell your State Legislators how you feel about Dakota County spending taxpayer dollars on development in Lebanon Hills.

**State Senator Jim Carlson** — [sen.jim.carlson@senate.mn](mailto:sen.jim.carlson@senate.mn) 651-297-8073

**State Representative Laurie Halverson** — [rep.laurie.halverson@house.mn](mailto:rep.laurie.halverson@house.mn) 651-296-4128

**Stay Informed**

- **Join our email list:** [wildernessinthecity@gmail.com](mailto:wildernessinthecity@gmail.com)
- **Visit our website:** [www.wildlebanonhills.org](http://www.wildlebanonhills.org)

**Tell your friends, family and co-workers about this issue.**

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Wilderness in the City

A 501(c)3 non-profit community organization dedicated to preserving natural urban space.