

COMMUNICATIONS

Bell, Lindsay

From: tmmu14 <tmmillerwalledlakelib@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 3:38 PM
To: McBeth, Barbara; Bell, Lindsay
Subject: Walkable Novi: Bristol Corners, Dam and South Lake Court proposed pathway

Hello Ladies,

Thank you for spending your time at the open house at Lakeshore Park last night. I oppose creating a bicycle trail or walking pathway from the dam through Bristol Corners Easement ending at South Lake Court. To support my position I submit the Mich Dept of Nat Resources Guidleine for Michigan Lakes, a Michigan Clean Water Corps MICorps fact sheet, and Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership website. And I refer you to MSU extension Water Resource Educator Erick Elgin and College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, elgineri@msu.edu, 231-928-1053, canr.msu.edu, and Jo Latimore Ph.D, expert in Stream, Lake and watershed Ecology; community based monitoring and management of freshwater ecosystems: latimor1@msu.edu. See also canr.msu.edu Jo Latimor Ph.D.

You may recall that I shared with you that we have three eagles that live in the trees in that area. I have reached out to the Michigan Audobon Society to ask about human impact on nesting eagles. I have not heard back from them yet. MDNR guidelines: show 4 zones that lend to healthy lakes and shorelines. The littoral zone (submerged plants), the shoreline, the buffer zone and upland zones. According to the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP), Walled Lake has 81% shoreland disturbance.

Our lake is over-developed. They might also remove fallen trees, branches and such not knowing that these items, called "fish sticks" are an important part of providing shelter for small young fish, frogs and turtles. Walled Lake is a very warm lake. Trees and shrubs along the shoreline serve to cool the water. See also mywaterway.epa.gov -our lake is known to be impaired. Recently built subdivisions are taxing our water quality even further. You may already be aware that our beaches were closed because of unsafe conditions.

I have only taken a few minutes to gather this information. It is the tip of an iceberg. I believe I have supported enough information to support my view. We have existing sidewalks connecting S Lake to West Rd that provide safe passage for pedestrians. Perhaps a bike path along West Rd might be beneficial to some.

I spend some of my personal time volunteering to keep our lake clean and cared for. Please consider my view and the strength of my supporting resources.

Tina Miller
810-938-3131
1957 W Lake Dr
Novi, MI 48377

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Lake Area Homeowners Association

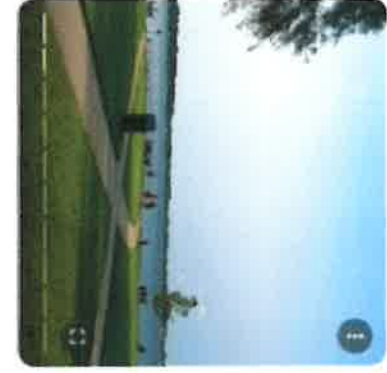
June 21, 2023-There was some discussion about creating a pathway and or bike trail along the lake from the dam to S Lake Drive. The idea was introduced with Laura Casey and Justin Fischer of Novi, City Council.

I heard Bristol Corners was interested in the idea.

Currently, we do not have sidewalks along South Lake Court, Pickford or Penhill.

The shoreline is one of the few spots we have that is undeveloped. Shoreline habitat is an invaluable component of every lake ecosystem. (MiCorp Fact Sheet: Score the Shore; www.micorps.net)







Beneficial Vegetative Buffers — A Preventative Solution

Beneficial vegetative buffers help protect your shoreline from erosion.

A [vegetative buffer](#) is a relatively simple solution that keeps sediment in place during extreme weather conditions and promotes healthy water quality. It also helps filter excess nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen from stormwater, making it less likely for algae blooms and nuisance aquatic plant growth to occur. In addition, beneficial buffers can further stabilize an erosion repair system by securing the shoreline with their complex root systems.

It's best to establish buffers early in your waterbody's lifespan as a preventative tool. Ideally, buffers should comprise a mix of native grasses and flowering species that will create a natural habitat for native birds and deter unwanted insects such as mosquitoes. The native vegetation should be installed at least 3-5 feet from the shoreline to receive its maximum benefits.

Although beneficial buffers are an ideal proactive solution, some plant species should only be used in certain regions. Choosing the right native plant species is an essential step to ensure that your beneficial buffer will continue to thrive. In Florida, plants such as bulrush and water willow are excellent species that promote healthy water quality. Regions in the Midwest should focus on natural herbs like pickerelweed or spikerush. Check out our [comprehensive list](#) to see which plants are best for your region



(<https://www.hrwc.org/>)

Plant a Shoreline Buffer



(<https://www.hrwc.org/>) [Waterfront Wise \(https://www.hrwc.org/waterfront-wise/\)](https://www.hrwc.org/waterfront-wise/) > Plant a Shoreline Buffer

PLANT AND MAINTAIN A VEGETATIVE BUFFER OF TREES, SHRUBS, TALLER GRASSES AND WILDFLOWERS BETWEEN THE SHORELINE AND UPLAND AREAS.

Shoreline buffers trap runoff before it gets into waterways. As stormwater seeps through the buffer area, the plants filter out pollutants and sediment, reduce and regulate the water flow, and moderate water temperatures.

PLANTING A SHORELINE BUFFER.

Start simple.

Begin by allowing your shoreline to rebuild itself. Mowing to the water's edge discourages native plant growth and encourages runoff and erosion. By allowing your shoreline to rest, the dormant seeds of native plant species will take root.

Bigger is better.

For optimum benefits a bigger buffer that is at least 100 feet wide (75 feet of trees, shrubs, taller grasses and wildflowers plus 25 feet of residential lawn upland) from the water's edge to the first pavement or structure on the property is best. **Any buffer helps**, so if 100 feet is not an option, work within the size constraints of your property.

Add more native plants.

More than just beautiful, [native plants \(https://www.hrwc.org/take-action/capture-rain/garden-with-native-plants/\)](https://www.hrwc.org/take-action/capture-rain/garden-with-native-plants/) are adapted to local soil conditions and rainfall, thereby reducing the amount of water and time you'll spend on upkeep. Additionally, their deep roots can help infiltrate runoff, filtering out toxins.

Limit the turf grass.

Keep it to upland areas or use it to create trails or pathways through your buffer to access your shoreline.

Don't forget native aquatic plants.

Their deep root systems help stabilize and clean water while providing food and habitat for aquatic life. Allow these plants to thrive as much as possible by giving them plenty of space free of disturbance.

Control aquatic INVASIVE plants.

Learn how to identify and remove aquatic invasive plant species (<https://www.hrwc.org/take-action/waterfront-wise/protect-against-invasives/>) without spreading their growth. Often times, **invasive plant species are spread by pulling out the plant by hand** which makes the situation worse. Root and plant fragments can resettle and spread seeds to other areas.

LEARN EVEN MORE ABOUT BUFFERS FROM HRWC. ([HTTPS://WWW.HRWC.ORG/THE-WATERSHED/WATERSHED-PROTECTION/PROTECT-STREAM-BUFFERS/](https://www.hrwc.org/the-watershed/watershed-protection/protect-stream-buffers/))

We studied buffers in the watershed as part of a two-year project and incorporated our findings into a summary report with recommendations.

**Additionally there are communities in the watershed that have enacted ordinances protecting riparian buffers including Green Oak Charter Township and Scio Township. And HRWC is working with several communities on buffer protection ordinances in the Portage Creek Implementation Project (<https://www.hrwc.org/portagecreek/>).*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Michigan Native Plant Producers Association (<http://www.mnppa.org>) is a group of independently owned nurseries that grow and sell Michigan native plants and seeds.

Michigan's Natural Shoreline Partnership (<http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org>) provides resources on natural shorelines and landscaping. Find helpful designs, lists of plant species and where to place them, workshops, cost comparisons, professionals, and instructions.

Michigan Lakes and Streams Associations (<http://www.mymlsa.org>) provides information and publications to educate homeowners and links, and references on how to manage Michigan's lakes and streams.

Be Waterfront Wise (<https://www.hrwc.org/waterfront-wise/>)

Plant a Shoreline Buffer (<https://www.hrwc.org/waterfront-wise/plant-a-shoreline-buffer/>)

Protect Against Invasives (<https://www.hrwc.org/waterfront-wise/protect-against-invasives/>)

Keep Your Boat Clean (<https://www.hrwc.org/waterfront-wise/keep-your-boat-clean/>)

Michigan Wetlands Safe, for now

by Paul J. Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

As reported last month, the ruling in the SCOTUS case *Sackett vs EPA*, reduced the scope of the waters and wetlands regulated by the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Questions have arisen about what that means for Michigan, at least for now. The good news is Michigan has wetland protection laws that exceed the current federal standards. In fact, EGLE just issued the following statement: "...EGLE will continue to administer state law which provides effective protection of Michigan's wetlands, lakes and streams but also streamlines the program for the regulated community..."

The ability to protect our wetlands is based on Michigan being one of three states given authority by the federal government to administer its own wetlands program under state law. New Jersey and Florida are the other 2 states.

The key to more protection is the language in MCL 324.30301(1)(n) (The NREPA) which is the lengthy definition for wetlands in Michigan. Just the beginning starts off as: "... n) Wetland; means a land or water feature, commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh, inundated or saturated by water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, hydric soils and a predominance of wetland vegetation or aquatic life. A land or water feature is not a wetland unless it meets any of the following..." For the full definition, follow this link: [Wetland Definition](#)

So, Michigan's wetlands are protected, for now? For now, YES, but what about the future?

Indiana our neighbor to the south is an example of what could happen. In April 2021, the Indiana Governor signed into law provisions that removed protections for Class I, generally low-quality wetlands that have been partially disturbed by human activity or minimally support wildlife or aquatic habitat. This was done in spite of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management report that Class I wetlands accounted for 58% of Indiana's remaining wetlands. The Indiana roll backs were pushed for by developers, manufacturing and real estate interests.

So continued vigilance on the part of riparians is required. We also need SB14 to be signed into law, as way help retain the existing and favorable Michigan Law regulating wetlands.

Bell, Lindsay

From: Bell, Lindsay
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 9:39 AM
To: tarajtaulbee@yahoo.com
Cc: McBeth, Barbara
Subject: RE: Sidewalks

Dear Tara,

Thank you for contacting us about this section of sidewalk in Novi. The City has a Non-Motorized Plan and provides a bi-annual update report to keep track of sidewalk and pathway segments that have been built, and prioritizes missing sidewalk segments along our major road corridors. These documents, as well as information on the Walkable Novi Committee, can be found on the [Ride & Walk Novi webpage](#). There are 137 missing segments of various lengths identified in the City of Novi.

The missing sidewalk segments you inquired about are identified as 93a & 93b on the north side of Nine Mile Road. In the most recent [2022-24 Prioritization Update](#), these segments were in our Top 20 - ranked 1st and 2nd respectively. As described in the annual update report, the prioritization of segments helps determine where money from the city budget earmarked for sidewalk and pathways will be spent. One of the challenges with the Nine Mile segments is the topography that will make the construction cost higher (retaining walls required), as well as the need to acquire sidewalk easements or Right of Way from the land owners. Some land owners do not want to provide these easements as they would lose some of the buffer from the road they currently have.

I will be sure to share your email with the Walkable Novi Committee at their next meeting, tentatively scheduled for 9/21 at 6pm, as well as with the consultant working on the current Active Mobility Plan update. I encourage you to review the Preliminary Plan and share your thoughts via the survey, all available at [walkbike.info/Novi](#). You are also welcome to attend meetings of the Committee so they can hear from you directly – watch for an agenda to be [posted here](#) the week of the meeting.

Thank you,
Lindsay



Lindsay Bell, AICP | Senior Planner
Community Development | Planning Division
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t: +1 248.347.0484 | | [cityofnovi.org](#)



To receive monthly e-news and more social media options, [click here](#).

From: Tara <tarajtaulbee@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 7:29 PM
To: McBeth, Barbara <bmcbeth@cityofnovi.org>
Subject: Sidewalks

Dear Ms Macbeth ,
I read this article



and I want to recommend a side along 9 mile between Taft and Novi Rd . It's a dangerous stretch due to the hilly terrain and lighting because of the tree coverage . Seems over due because the sidewalks along 9 mile and Meadowbrook were completed a few years ago and both roads have had the corners / roundabout improvements. What gives ?

Sincerely,

Tara Taulbee

Sent from my iPhone

Bell, Lindsay

From: tmmu14 <tmmillerwalledlakelib@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:11 PM
To: Bell, Lindsay; McBeth, Barbara
Subject: FW: bike and walking trail: Audubon response email

Hello Lindsey and Barb,

I wish I had Laura and Justin's email addresses but I am confident that you are willing to share pertinent information with your peers on the appropriate committees.

The Audubon Society replied to my email. It is not an absolute answer to my query but it may influence you in your decision making about creating a pathway or boardwalk near South Lake Court and the Walled Lake Dam. To me, it is not worth risking the viability of the Walled Lake Eagles.

I do hope that the earlier email where I addressed shoreline protection now coupled with the Audubon's response may just be enough information to deter pursuing this as a feasible addition to Walkable Novi.

Thank you for all that you do for the citizens of Novi.

Warm Regards,

Tina Miller
810-938-3131

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: baikalteal13@netzero.net
Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:40 AM
To: tmmillerwalledlakelib@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: bike and walking trail: impact on eagle nesting and protection

Tina,

Not sure what can be done legally but I would point out to those involved that if this area is a nesting spot for bald eagles, they are protected by law and while they are nesting there is a set perimeter that cannot be violated. That would mean if the boardwalk enters that perimeter, the boardwalk would be closed during nesting season. Obviously, a group of residents could protest the plan as another loss of habitat near the lake.

I hope this helps, at least a little.

Don Burlett

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Greg Petrosky <gpetrosky06@gmail.com>
To: "Don & Peggy Burlett" <baikalteal13@netzero.net>
Subject: Fwd: bike and walking trail: impact on eagle nesting and protection
Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 15:10:25 -0400

Don:

Here is an interesting email I received today from Tina Miller in Novi, Michigan.

I do not know Tina, but assume she thought of Audubon when it comes to concerns about Eagles.

Can you assist with this?

Regards,
Greg

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **tmmu14** <tmillerwalledlakelib@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 12:17 PM

Subject: bike and walking trail: impact on eagle nesting and protection

To: gpetrosky06@gmail.com <gpetrosky06@gmail.com>

Hello from Walled Lake in Novi Michigan. My name is Tina Miller and I am a riparian on Walled Lake, Novi, Michigan. I attended a City of Novi "Active Mobility" open house last night. There was discussion of establishing a boardwalk and trail through the last undeveloped shoreline on Walled Lake. This area happens to be the location where local Eagles nest.

I object to the development of this area as it threatens the shoreline. Currently, there is only occasional neighbor walking through this area. I am searching for facts that would support my position to halt any progress toward establishing a public bicycle trail or walk pathway in this location. I would like to ask the Audobon Society's position on the impact of human presence in the immediate vicinity of the Eagles.

I have been in contact with:

City of Novi Lindsey Bell, Senior Planner, Community Development

City of Novi, Walkable Novi Committee Members: Laura Casey, and Justin Fischer

I would appreciate any points of fact and education regarding human impact on our Eagles.

Tina Miller

1957 W Lake Drive

Novi, MI 48377

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows