

Reminder...

This is the first opportunity to vote in a Dakota County Commissioner election since the controversial plan for Lebanon Hills was approved by the current Board of Commissioners.



Your Vote is Your Voice...

We encourage all who have an opinion about the future of Lebanon Hills and its wilderness character to:

- ✓ Learn about the candidates
- ✓ Tell others
- ✓ Vote on November 8

Elections 2016 - Dakota County Commissioners

What's At Stake for Lebanon Hills...

Natural Resources -- Since 2001, the Board of Commissioners has not approved funding in a manner that would allow successful restoration of natural resources in Lebanon Hills; that trend continues based on the 2017 draft parks budget.

Bike Trails -- The approved 2015 Lebanon Hills Master Plan states that the Greenway bike trails (designed for commuting bicyclists up to 20mph) will come to, but not through, Lebanon Hills.

- To date, there has been no approved realignment of Greenway trails around the park.
- At the most recent public meeting, outside greenway bike trails still connect to the proposed connector trail through the park.

For Your Consideration...

Implementation of Master Plans often deviate from what was actually approved, as evidenced by the implementation of the 2001 Master Plan for Lebanon Hills and the 2003 Master Plan for Spring Lake Park Reserve.

We encourage you to vote for candidates that you trust will support preservation of our parks' natural resources, and who will support bikeways around, not through, Lebanon Hills.

Learn about the Candidates

District 3: *Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, Eagan Precincts 1-7 and 9-12*

- **Thomas Egan (incumbent)** -- website N/A
- **Janine Hudson** -- votejanine.com

District 4: *Eagan Precincts 8 and 13-17, Inver Grove Heights Precincts 2-7, Rosemount Precincts 1-2, 4, 6-7*

- **Joe Atkins** -- joeatkins.com
- **Holly Jenkins** -- vote4jenkins.com

District 5: *Burnsville*

- **Dave Giles** -- website N/A
- **Liz Workman (incumbent)** -- website N/A

District 7: *Apple Valley, Rosemount Precincts 3 and 5*

- **Chris Gerlach (incumbent)** - website N/A
- **Donald Post** -- donpost.net

Find your District at: <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

Incumbents Voting Record

Four seats on the Dakota County board are up for election (three incumbents and one open seat).

Despite significant public opposition over a two-year period, the current Board of Commissioners approved a controversial Lebanon Hills Master Plan in a 5-2 vote in 2015.

Voting record on the plan that includes a 6-mile, multi-use, paved bike trail at 5% grade or less, kept free of snow/ice, end to end through the park:

- Thomas Egan -- No
- Liz Workman -- Yes
- Chris Gerlach -- Yes

Candidate Questionnaire: Parks and Natural Resources

Wilderness in the City provided a questionnaire to each Dakota County commissioner candidate to help our supporters learn about the candidate's position on three topics:

- Natural Resource Management
- Forever Wild Parks
- Lebanon Hills Regional Park

Five of the eight candidates responded. We invite you to view their responses on our website, www.wildlebanonhills.org.

Elections 2016 - State Legislators

Metropolitan Regional Parks System

1. Funding for Regional Parks such as Lebanon Hills comes from Counties, Met Council, State, Federal... and the Parks and Trails Legacy Funds, part of the 2008 Legacy Amendment.
2. For every dollar invested in new infrastructure, ongoing expense for operations and maintenance increases. In 2015, the Regional Parks systems annual cost for operations and maintenance exceeded \$100 million, .
3. Unlike city parks which offer an abundance of built amenities, Regional Parks contain significant natural resources such as lakeshore, wetlands, hardwood forests, native prairies and groundwater recharging areas.
4. In many of our Regional Parks, these natural resources are degraded, resulting in poor quality experiences for nature based education and recreation, as well as degraded ecosystems for wildlife.

Legacy Amendment - Parks and Trails Fund

In 2008, Minnesotan's voted in favor of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Most voters cited reasons such as clean water and preserving natural resources as the main reason they supported the amendment.

In Oct 2016, the Metropolitan Council released its FY2018-19 Parks and Trails Legacy Prioritized Project Recommendations. Consistent with past years, projects include:

- Remodel park headquarters building (Carver County)
- Reconstruct restroom buildings and maintenance garage (Bloomington)
- Construct a 3500sf maintenance building (Anoka)
- Design, engineer, construct 4.6 acres of paved parking lots and 1.5 miles of paved roads within Lake Minnetonka Regional Park (Three Rivers Park District)
- Design, engineer and construct a pole shed (Washington)

A complete list of project can be found at:

<https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Metropolitan-Parks-and-Open-Space-Commission/2016/October-4,-2016/2016-195.aspx>

Photos below show recent construction projects in Spring Lake Park Reserve, through previously unfragmented forests and ecologically sensitive river bluffs. This project was partially funded with Legacy money.



*If this is not how you intended Legacy funds to be used, then **BEFORE YOU VOTE...***

Find your legislative candidates at: <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

Elected legislators will have discretion whether or not to prove the use of Legacy Funds for capital projects. All legislators are on the ballot November 8.

1. **Let your candidate know how you intended the Legacy funds to be used.**
2. **Ask your candidates "Will you support funding requests for use of Legacy money for capital development projects?"**
3. **If they answer yes, then consider a follow up question "Where will funding for increased cost of maintenance come from, especially considering the current lack of funds available for existing maintenance requirements?"**