

Carleton

OFFICE OF COLLEGE COMMUNICATIONS

507.222.4309

June 9, 2016

David Bennett, Public Works Director/City Engineer
Jasper J. Kruggel, Streets and Parks Director
City of Northfield
810 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

Dear David and Jasper,

Thank you for meeting with us in March to discuss planning for the Mill Towns Bike Trail. In general, the College is supportive of a bike trail through Northfield and does not want to be an obstacle to its development. We are happy to provide you with clarifying information from the College's perspective about the potential use of Carleton's Upper and Lower Arboretum as part of the bike trail, and to continue to work with you as trail planning moves forward.

Our understanding is that the proposed route along the Upper Arboretum would run generally parallel to Spring Creek Road/Hall Avenue, crossing Hwy 19 either at the intersection of Spring Creek Road and Hwy 19, or further east. The proposed route in the Lower Arboretum would run generally parallel to Canada Avenue, between Hwy 19 and the Cannon River. Additionally, depending on the final route chosen, the trail may need to run parallel to Hwy 19, between Spring Creek Road/Hall Avenue and Canada Avenue, on either the south or north side of Hwy 19. Enclosed is a map of the Arboretum showing the general location of where we understand the proposed trail route could fall.

Carleton is open to considering a trail that would follow the proposed alignment along the edge of the Upper and Lower Arboretum, as long as it would not infringe on the Arboretum interior nor interfere with College uses, such as intercollegiate cross county races and other more casual uses, including walking and running along Arboretum trails. Carleton is also seeking to maximize the amount of habitat it provides for native plants and animals in the Arboretum. The College would consider a trail that is at the edge of the property so as not reduce this critical



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habitat area, especially in the Upper Arboretum's small area of original forest as shown as landmark ten on the enclosed map. We specifically want to emphasize that in the Upper Arboretum we would expect the trail to be built primarily on the City owned land associated with the roadway, with as little as possible of Carleton land being utilized.

We also need some clarification about various trail design issues. We are interested in making sure that unauthorized bike use does not happen; for example, bike use of the cross country race course in the Upper Arboretum or trails in the Lower Arboretum where bikes would not be allowed anywhere except on the paved bike trail. Knowing the footprint of any proposed underpass will also be important for our decision making process.

Carleton appreciates that the costs of mitigating the topographical conditions on the edge along Spring Creek Road/Hall Avenue, crossing Highway 19, and traveling along Canada Avenue, are not small. Likewise, if a trail is to use our property edge, we have legitimate concerns to be resolved before giving our consent to a specific plan.

In the meantime, please be in touch if there is anything else you need from the College.

Sincerely,



Nancy Braker
Director of the Cowling Arboretum



Joe Hargis
Associate Vice President for
External Relations

cc: Scott Haugen, Acquisition and Development Specialist
Minnesota DNR
9700 170th Street East
Nerstrand, MN 55053

Trail Map Cowling Arboretum Carleton College

- Possible Bike Route
- Alternative Bike Route
- Alternative Bike Route on Land Owned by Others
- Trails
- P Parking near Arboretum
- P Other Parking
- College Boundary (2013)

Cannon River

LOWER
ARBORETUM

UPPER
ARBORETUM

Landmarks

- ① Historic Iron Bridge
- ② Oxbow Pond
- ③ Kettle Hole Marsh
- ④ Turtle Pond
- ⑤ Pond
- ⑥ Water Tower
- ⑦ Arb Kiosk
- ⑧ Hill of Three Oaks
- ⑨ Monument Hill
- ⑩ Original Forest

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Created by ENTS GIS Lab. June 2016.

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