

Fredrick-Miller Spring / Riley Creek

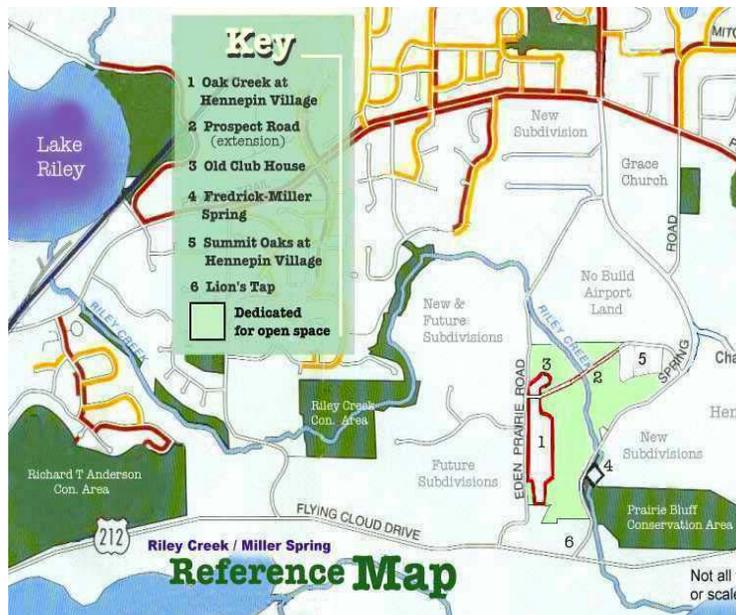
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Oak Creek at Hennepin Village is a proposed, 73.2 acre residential subdivision in southwest Eden Prairie which is currently going through the City's review process. A proposed road over the creek that is being recommended by the City and less than effective, rain water runoff management systems from Lake Riley to Eden Prairie Road, could harm Riley Creek and the Spring. The stream is spring fed from Eden Prairie Road to Frederick-Miller Spring and could, with trout habitat projects again support Brown, Brook and Rainbow Trout. Fredrick-Miller Spring, a popular source of artesian water, is arguably Eden Prairie's single most popular, year-round water resource after Lake Riley.



TO GET INVOLVED, SEE BELOW

Oak Creek is the next phase of the sprawling Hennepin Village complex, a large-scale, sometimes controversial, cluster development which spans land between Flying Cloud Airport and the Minnesota River bluffs west to Eden Prairie Road.



Click on the small reference map for a larger version of it.

[Click here a detailed map and plan for the development \(in PDF form\).](#)





ng water at Miller Spring

The site for Oak Creek is planned to include 93, single-family homes and is situated on the east side of Eden Prairie Road. This is the site of the former Cedar Hills Golf Course and ski area. The City of Eden Prairie and Pentom Land Company, the developer, have agreed that much of the land along the creek will be dedicated for a natural buffer for the creek. The city has developed a concept plan for a trail in the valley which boasts state park quality scenery. The Metropolitan Airport Commission owns much of the no-build land north of the creek.

WHAT'S HAPPEND THROUGH TO AUGUST 3

As a result of comment, information and questions presented by citizens, the developer and planning commissioners during the project's first public hearing, discussion of the proposal has been continued to the August 14 Planning Commission meeting.

Wrappng up a long session, Commission Chair Ray Stoelting identified the key issues that commissioners want more information on before making any kind of recommendation to the City Council.

These issues include 1) the environmental impact on the spring and creek of the proposed road over Riley Creek, 2) the use of infiltration ponds and rainwater gardens (recommended by City Environmental Coordinator Leslie Stovring and supported by Pentom and citizens) which are arguably better for underground aquifers than standard rainwater runoff ponds; 3) the proposed road and the future traffic needs of the larger area east and west of Eden Prairie Road, 4) Pentom's request to exchange approximately acres of mostly wooded land on the top of the Riley Creek Valley for 4 acres of land and the old Cedar Hills Golf Course club house for city park land and 5) monitoring and enforcement of silt erosion control requirements during construction.

The Planning Commission also directed pertinent City staff officials to meet with all concerned parties to work out a "compromise" for managing future traffic in the broader area. Development of lands west of Eden Prairie Road to Old Dell Road and between Riley Creek and the crest of the Minnesota River Valley bluffs are expected to be developed over the next five to ten years. The city anticipates that 330 homes will be built in this area translating into approximately 3,500 vehicle trips a day by more than a thousand people.

During its Tuesday August 1 meeting, the City Council, during a briefing provided by the city staff, was told that the staff is considering seven transportation options for this section of SW Eden Prairie. According to one of citizens' groups leader, Mike Boland, who was on hand, "Cost, not benefit, was emphasized." In most cases, developers build and pay for most new roads and then deed them to the City. Three of the scenarios would improve the connection between Eden Prairie Road and Highway 212; two others

involve connecting Eden Prairie Road to Highway 212 via routes further west; another would make the extension of Prospect Road over Riley Creek a bridge rather than an earthen crossing over a culvert, and the final option would be to do nothing.

In terms of protecting the aquifer and springs that feed Miller Spring and Riley Creek, effective treatment of rainwater runoff from current and future roads, driveways and rooftops is a major concern. As a result of discussions with City Environmental Coordinator Leslie Stovring, Pemtom is proposing that it construct rainwater gardens and infiltration ponds in its new subdivision. The City, however, has yet to fully consider how these methods can be applied to handle runoff from Eden Prairie Road or the proposed Prospect Road extension. The earthen fill and stormwater retention ponds needed for the Prospect Road crossing would likely destroy springs which help keep the creek cool, clear and healthy.

ACTION SO FAR

Mr. Boland's group had filed a petition with the State of Minnesota's Environmental Quality Board to require an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for Prospect Road but has been asked to get some additional petitioners to sign the request. The City of Eden Prairie might also be requesting an environmental assessment worksheet for the development itself. As of this writing it is not known whether the two entities were actually making those requests. The environmental worksheet process would provide decision makers with more detailed environmental information.

[Click here for Eden Prairie Sun Current coverage of the proceedings and issues.](#)

GET INVOLVED IN PROTECTING THE SPRING & CREEK

It is important that citizens participate in City's review of the proposal. For scheduled hearings held by the EP Planning Commission and the EP City Council, contact the City of Eden Prairie Community Development Planner listed below, check the City's website at <http://www.edenprairie.org/> the legal notice section of the Eden Prairie Sun Current or the Events section of this website.

The Planning Commission makes recommendations and conditional recommendations on development proposals to the City Council based on city ordinance, State law, zoning, Eden Prairie's Comprehensive Guide Plan, public comment and information supplied by the developer (Hennepin Village Limited Partnership - Pemtom), the City Staff and pertinent public agencies.

Typically, projects will be changed by proponents (developers) to reflect recommendations from the Planning Commission before being sent to the City Council hearing. Because a planning commission recommendation for approval or denial does not necessarily mean the City Council will approve or reject the project, public concern expressed through letters and attendance at public hearings and knowledgeable input at public hearings is critical.

Contact a group which is working to protect the spring and creek:
Jan Mosman: 952/934-7065 or via email at: jmosman@mn.rr.com
Mike Boland 952-934-7279 or via email at: obeollain@aol.com

Contact the City of EP

For information on Oak Creek at Hennepin Village, contact Mike Franzen, the City's Project Planner at 952-949-8487 or via email: mfranzen@ednprairie.org

See the [events section of this website](#) for future meetings pertaining to Frederick Miller Spring and Riley Creek.