

## Attachment A

Blue Mounds State Park-Lower Mound Lake Basin Restoration EAW

Public Comments Received

**From:** Anna Toenjes  
**To:** [MN Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Mounds EAW  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2018 8:35:42 AM

---

Hello,

I am wondering if the possibility of leaving the damaged structures at Blue Mounds is a possibility since it has created wildlife habitat for larger snake species such as native western fox snakes? When I participated in the Minnesota Herpetological Society field survey in June, 2017 we found multiple adult fox snakes in the old concrete structures including gravid females which use the broken dam structure as cover and a refuge to thermoregulate. Would there be consideration for safely removing snakes from the structure as it is broken up? Could the broken dam be left as it is and the trail and new dam be diverted slightly up or downstream? I thought these animals worth considering in your environmental review. DNR staff Jeff LeClere should have put together a report of the species found at Blue Mounds and the usefulness of the old dam structure for wildlife habitat.

-Anna Toenjes  
10431 Kilbirnie Rd  
Woodbury, MN  
55129

651-208-0413 (cell phone)

Sent from my iPhone

April 20, 2018

To whom it may concern,

The Blue Mound Park is a disgrace. The flood was in 2014 - now it is 2018 - not a thing has been fixed. The dam went out. It should have been fixed the next summer because now it is just a mess - the area behind the dam is now full of weeds and volunteer trees that are good for nothing. Wouldn't it have been easier to fix them as to leave it go to rot. It is not a pretty site.

Then it was the water problem, again nothing gets done, why would people want to camp there - no water, no showers, can not wash their hands.

The trees around the camp sites need trimming, I have heard so many people complain about their campers getting scratched.

Bays for the silver minnows were dug and the dirt was hauled away, why could not that dirt be used to help rebuild the dam, use some common sense.

The Manfred House was a great attraction the visitors to the park. It has great history information of the

Blue Mounds. I was a host at the House for a few years, there were so many visitors from all over the United States and foreign countries, now it is closed and left to fall down. Why was it kept up with repairing things as it needed to be done? Doesn't anybody care about the park in southwest Minnesota? Are you letting it go to shambles so you can close it? The Blue Mound Park brings in a lot revenue for Rock County - Luverne - Minnesota.

Blue Mound park was a beautiful park attracting campers, hikers, rock climbers from all over the country filling up the campsites - last summer it was lucky if it got half full - does that tell you something?

What happens to the money from the buffalo sales - never stays local - it goes to some other park - why not use that money to re-invest into the Blue Mounds Park? Again where is the common sense.

I have observed these happening at the park because I worked there

for 10 years - cleaning bathrooms and gathering garbage + recyclables every day.

Like I say, I have watched it go down down hill. So many people enjoyed that park and came back year after year - the last few years these people no longer come - why would they?<sup>2</sup>

I expect to hear a reply and explain this situation as I am concerned if the park is going to survive. Government rules + regulations need to be fixed

A concerned worker  
and citizens,  
Jerome W. Wink  
1017 W Fairview Dr.  
Luverne, Mn 56156

P.S. I have resigned from my job at the park because I can't watch the park go to ruin.



520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300

800-657-3864 | Use your preferred relay service | info.pca@state.mn.us | Equal Opportunity Employer

April 25, 2018

Ms. Kathy Metzker  
EAW Project Manager  
DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Box 25  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN, 55155-4025

Re: Lower Mound Lake Basin Restoration, Blue Mound State Park Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Dear: Ms. Metzker:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Lower Mound Lake Basin Restoration, Blue Mound State Park project (Project) located in Blue Mound State Park, Rock County, Minnesota. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff has reviewed the EAW and have no comments at this time.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Project. Please provide the notice of decision on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement. Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the Project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this EAW, please contact me at 651-757-2482.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Steve Sommer'. Below the signature is a small, handwritten mark that appears to be 'for'.

Kevin Kain  
Planner Principal  
Environmental Review Unit  
Resource Management and Assistance Division

KK:bt

cc: Dan Card, MPCA, St. Paul  
Jim Courneya, MPCA