

250 East Sixth Street #409
Saint Paul, MN 55101

April 2, 2013

Dear Mayor Coleman, Councilman Dave Thune, and Saint Paul City Council:

I am writing today to express my concern regarding the loss of one of Saint Paul's city parks. The Lowertown Dog Park is an off-leash area at Sixth Street and Broadway next to the I 94 on-ramp. Over thirty mature trees provide shade and a touch of nature for city dwellers and their pets. City of Saint Paul's Parks and Recreation services the park's trash cans, and volunteers turn out when needed to spread wood chips. Although the City provides no litter bags or water for dogs using this off leash area, these items, as well as tennis balls and other dog toys, are generously left by neighbors who regularly bring their dogs to the park. The park is like a big back yard for pets living in the numerous apartment buildings in Lowertown. Please do not let this park disappear while making room for the Saint Paul Saints Ball Park Stadium.

Further, I am concerned about the loss of so many parking places in the area. These parking places serve residents of the Market House, visitors to the Farmers' Market, and many people who live and work in downtown Saint Paul. I can't imagine the congestion and confusion on Lowertown streets on game day or on a weekend visit to the Farmers' Market.

It is my understanding that another construction plan for the Lowertown Ball Park has been suggested by Bill Hosko, Tom Erickson, and others. I support this plan, because it takes our community into consideration by preserving our dog park and parking while providing many other amenities which could be used year-round.

I spoke to surveyors this morning while at the dog park with my dogs this morning. It's beginning! But, it is not too late to stop and reconsider what is about to happen. Can't we please make it better for Lowertown residents, their pets, and visitors to our area as we welcome the Saint Paul Saints into our neighborhood?

Sincerely,

Dorothy Lees Riddle
DRiddle289@gmail.com

cc: Pioner Press, Saint Paul Villager, Community Reporter, Downtown Voice, Tom Erickson, Bill Hosko, St. Paul Farmers' Market, Saint Paul Saints