

From: [John Vitale](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: objection to the Wheelock Pkwy/Grotto Street (2025) Street reconstruction Phase 1 proposal
Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 8:32:39 AM

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City Council and The City of Saint Paul,

I'm a resident and homeowner at 888 Ivy Ave W and I'm writing in regards to the Wheelock Pkwy/Grotto Street (2025) Street reconstruction Phase 1 proposal. I received a letter in the mail which gave this email as a place to object to the project. I'm sure the Council is aware that there has been significant objection from our neighborhood concerning this project. The reasons for my objection are as follows:

1. Our neighborhood is functioning properly as is. To sacrifice full grown trees for additional sidewalks and curbs is unnecessary given that the proposed streets for reconstructions have a fully functioning sidewalk already in place. As I'm writing this I can see a family using the sidewalk with a stroller enjoying the walkway that is already there.
2. The environmental impacts for construction is significant. There are double digit full grown trees that have to be cut down just within our small portion of the project. Hopefully the environmental importance of the trees doesn't have to be overstated since **healthy homes and clean air** is highlighted as a part of our Council Women's platform. She states this on the front page of her website. Besides shade, clean air exchange, etc., these trees are also a habitat for the dwindling bat population which play a significant role in the overall environmental health of the city.

The city website also states that "hardscapes" such as sidewalks significantly increase water pollution. We are within sight distance from Como Lake, a city lake that has struggled with pollution. It seems counterintuitive to construct unnecessary sidewalks in such close proximity to a lake the city is trying to clean up.

3. The quality of life and aesthetics of this neighborhood will be significantly altered without these trees. The canopy of trees played no small part in why my wife and I purchased a home on this street. Trees play such a significant role in quality of life that cutting down healthy trees causes a known decrease in property value.

The conservation portion of the city website states "The natural resources of Saint Paul are also an important part of our city to this day; our drinking water comes from the Mississippi, **boulevard trees provide shade for our homes and yards, and the natural beauty of our city enhances overall quality of life.** My hope is that this statement is not just performative and is truly meaningful to the Council members we elected.

Respectfully,

John Vitale

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