

Dear Commissioner Carter,

The Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County strongly object to the sale and development of the Ponds at Battle Creek Golf Course and nearby open space.

This proposed action violates Ramsey County's "No-Net-Loss of Park and Open Space" amendment, passed with the overwhelming support of 85% of Ramsey County voters in 1994. This amendment specifically states:

**"At a minimum, the policy shall provide that park, recreation and open space land acquired for such purposes may not be converted to another use unless such land and recreational facilities are replaced in an equivalent amount and of similar quality."**

Ironically this amendment was originally advanced to prevent the sale and loss of Goodrich Golf Course. Protection of parks and open space has always been highly valued in Minnesota's smallest, most populous county. The 85% voter approval confirms this.

The 77-acre open space north of the golf course is technically "guided for institutional use" as it is adjacent to the county correctional facility. Please note that this large parcel is also adjacent to Battle Creek Regional Park and contains quality wildlife habitat; specifically it is one of the only places in the Twin Cities where Saint Paul Audubon has observed scarce grassland birds including Eastern Meadowlarks, Dickcissels and Clay-colored sparrows.

We request Ramsey County Commissioners follow the overwhelming will of the people as voiced in community meetings and codified in the Charter to preserve the Ponds at Battle Creek Golf Course and nearby open space.

Sincerely, Richard Arey and Scott Ramsay, Chair of the Friends of Saint Paul and Ramsey County Parks and Trails