

# Tom Dimond

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As a neighbor of the Pig's Eye Waste Treatment Plant. I have served in numerous roles including Saint Paul City Council, Planning Commission, and MNRRA Commissioner. The Met Council has a responsibility to address negative impacts to our BIPOC majority neighborhoods. MCEC's past and proposed waste burning along with pollutant discharges into wetlands and aquifer have negative consequences that affect people, wildlife, the water we drink and air we breathe.

Saint Paul and Ramsey County have called for the Met Council to transfer 80 acres east of the Waste Treatment Plant to the Regional Park System. The Met Council has expressed their support of managing the 80 acres as Regional Park. The MWCC told Saint Paul they were willing to transfer 80 acres to Saint Paul's Pig's Eye Lake Regional Park. The Met Council assured the public the ash ponds would be cleaned up. The public was led to believe the polluted ash pits and 80 acres would be cleaned up and managed as the valued habitat and recreational opportunities the Pig's Eye Lake Park Plans envision.

The Metropolitan Council should transfer the land outside the berm for use as Regional Parkland. The highest and best use. The Regional Park System and residents of BIPOC majority neighborhoods would benefit from management of the flood plain forest as part of the Regional Park. This flood plain forest should be managed as part of Pig's Eye Lake Regional Park. The flood plain is of Regional Significance and part of St. Paul's Great River Passage plan. The area is a National Park, State Critical Area and State Scientific and Natural Area.

Pig's Eye Lake was created by glaciers prior to the existence of the Mississippi River in Saint Paul. It is a significant geological, wildlife habitat, and recreational treasure. Pig's Eye Park Planning began before any of us was born. The Met Council approved the 1975 Regional Recreation and Open Space Plan for Saint Paul. The Plan is a Regional Park complex including Indian Mounds Park, Battle Creek Park, and Pig's Eye Lake Park. In 1975, the Metropolitan Council received a Pig's Eye Park Reserve Master Plan from Ramsey County. The plan called for picnicking along the river shore, boating in the lake, access to the river, and protection of the heron rookery. The Met Council approved the plans. Pig's Eye Lake Park Plan implementation is overdue. Our neighborhood, the region, and State deserve better. We deserve better opportunities to enjoy what the Park has to offer when access is enhanced, pollution removed, and habitat restored.

In the 1980 Critical Area Plan review the Met Council approved removal of 278 acres from the park plan. Saint Paul called for the 80 acres east of the levee to be included in the park and ash pit area restored. After decades of waiting, it is time to act and include the land outside the berm in the park.

The State Critical Area designation calls for parkland next to treatment plants. The area is classified

as parkland.

The BIPOC majority neighborhoods around Pig's Eye Lake Park have waited 43 years for the Met Council to implement an agreement with the City or County so recreational use and natural resource restoration can move forward on 80 acres of public land outside of the berm. An agreement should be in place prior to any discussion about possible expansion with adding another burner.

The Met Council should support removal of the ash pit berms built with pollutant, removal of the pollutant that soaked into the ground, and restoration of wetland. The public has waited too long to enjoy the amazing potential of this park as illustrated in the Great River Passage Plan.

PFAS is only one of the toxic pollutants that should be a focus of the cleanup at Pig's Eye. The waste treatment plant was supposed to protect us from pollutant. Instead it operated for years with pipes that dumped toxic pollutant into our aquifer. We can get angry or we can do something to correct the mistakes of the past.

I appreciate and support comments submitted by Saint Paul Councilmember Jane Prince, and Ramsey County Commissioners Rafael Ortega and Mia Chong Xiong.