



Tim Askin
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Dear Alderman Brostoff:

You requested a summary of the Historic Preservation Commission's position on Ravine Road in Lake Park. To begin, the entirety of Lake Park is regulated by Milwaukee's Historic Preservation ordinance and there are specific rules in place governing alterations to the Park.

Like the bridge above it, Ravine Road is a major contributing feature in Lake Park which has both a National Register listing and city historic designation as part of Milwaukee's North Point Historic District. This roadway has served as Lake Park's major link to the lakeshore below ever since its design by Frederick Law Olmsted. It was part of the original circulation plan of the park and allowed park users to get to the lakeshore without having to go out of the park and around its perimeter. Unlike the small rustic pathways that led down to the lakeshore, Ravine Road was always meant for vehicular traffic.

The "[Milwaukee County Parks and Parkways Historic Properties Management Plan](#)" from 2013 has guidelines for internal decision-making about park roadways as part of an historic system. The plan specifically notes the requirement to comply with Historic Preservation Commission rules regarding Lake Park.

The Historic Preservation Commission's guidelines for the park observe that "Lake Park still exhibits many features of the Olmsted scheme including the pathways and bridges, sculpture and plantings. ... Every attempt should be made to maintain the vehicular and pedestrian circulation system in the park including drives, paths, stairways, and bridges." Per Milwaukee's Historic Preservation Ordinance (MCO 320-21-11), all alterations must be reviewed and approved by the Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission through the Certificate of Appropriateness process. The following actions would be considered an alteration and include, but are not limited to, closure of the road to vehicular traffic; modifying the shape, width, or path of the roadway; or removing the roadway in its entirety. It is understood that the temporary



closure was necessary due to the safety issues presented by the deteriorated bridge. Those safety issues are no longer present and permanent closure would harm the character and purpose of Lake Park and the Milwaukee County Parkway System.

Further, as the Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the County is required to consult with the Wisconsin Historical Society for any facilities planning efforts (Wis. Stats. 44.42 & 66.1111(4)). I would note that the state process is not a substitute for review by the Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission.

Thank you for your interest in this topic. Please let me know if I can assist you with any further clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Askin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" being more prominent than the last name "Askin".

Tim Askin
Senior Planner