



## Arbor Day Summary

**Date/Time:** April 29, 2017; 9:00 AM – 11:45 AM

**SHC Team:** JSH, JMD

**Materials:**

Setup included a large mounted aerial for activity, and postcard handout with project website.

**Activity Summary & Notes:**

Participants were asked to identify their *favorite place* in Lake Elmo. Several people were unable to identify a specific place saying, “I like everything in Lake Elmo, I can’t pick a favorite.” A summary of the indicated favorite places, and general comments from our discussion are identified below.

Green Dots (Favorite Places)	General Comments
Lake Elmo Park Reserve (6 dots & anecdotal comments)	Great Trails Perfect place for a walk/hike Accessible trail system (flat, well maintained, ADA) Awesome natural resources Variety of natural resources (trees, prairies, wetlands) Wildlife
Sunfish Lake Park (6 dots & anecdotal comments)	Natural Resources are fantastic Great vistas/views Trails (cross country and pedestrian)
Reid Park (2 dots)	Good place to walk with dogs Connected to adjacent neighborhoods Good variety of activities Ballparks are important
Lake Elmo (1 dot)	Deep water lake Need to protect
Lake Jane (4 dots)	Great recreational lake Important to tri-lakes area Boat launch is important to access
Lake DeMontreville/Lake Olson	Important to tri-lakes area neighborhood Strong sense of neighborhood connection (water ski shows, neighborhood gatherings, etc.)



	<p>Views/vistas</p> <p>Accessible to community</p>
Jesuit Retreat (1 dot & anecdotal comments)	<p>Secluded trails</p> <p>Natural resources</p> <p>Allowed to walk property during non-event times</p> <p>Good neighbor</p>
Individual Farmsteads/Homesteads (2 dots)	<p>Gracious farmsteads/homesteads surrounded by similar uses</p> <p>Serene, buffered properties</p> <p>Active farms provide rural lifestyle</p>
Farmstead Gateway on CR-14 (1 dot)	<p>'Gateway' entrance to the city are iconic farmsteads, says 'Lake Elmo'</p> <p>Need to protect the important historical farmsteads</p>
Keats/I-94 Intersection (anecdotal comment)	<p>Opportunity to do something 'unique' here given existing property conditions</p> <p>Need to engage landowners with large tracts of land in this area to understand their plans</p> <p>Important to create something different that is distinctly Lake Elmo</p>
Pebble Park (1 dot)	
Old Village (anecdotal comments)	<p>Nice restaurants</p> <p>Good place to run into people, especially people not in your neighborhood</p> <p>Interesting history, interesting old (historic) structures</p>



Participants were asked to identify their *least favorite place, or a place that needs improvement* in the City of Lake Elmo. Interestingly, there were several residents that indicated that they couldn't think of anything/anywhere bad enough to 'dot' it. A summary of the indicated least favorite places/areas that need improvement are identified below.

<b>Red Dots (Least Favorite/ Needs Improvement)</b>	<b>General Comments</b>
Old Village (3 dots)	<p>We can do better</p> <p>Need to increase commercial uses in Old Village</p> <p>All of the streetscaping was removed (trees, etc.) and the Old Village feels very different now</p> <p>Quaint quality is gone, CR-14 is too big, not safe, and makes Old Village not walkable</p>
City Hall (2 dots)	<p>Concern about the politics and the decision-making</p> <p>Feels like City Hall is not a place to be heard, and things are done under the table</p>
Lions Park & VFW Ball fields (2 dots)	<p>Ballfields are important</p> <p>Incompatible adjacent uses, need better plan for area</p>
Sunfish Lake Park (5 dots)	<p>Could do something better with the former dump site/land in the park</p> <p>Invasive species are becoming more prevalent in the park (buckthorn, garlic mustard, etc.)</p> <p>Trails not as accessible as in Lake Elmo Park Reserve</p> <p>Trail access could be improved from some directions</p>
Access to Lake Elmo Park Reserve (3 dots & anecdotal comments)	<p>Access into park is challenging if coming from the north and north-central area of the city</p> <p>Need better/safer bikeway on Inwood to access park</p> <p>Some connections into park are private/semi-private – is there a way to improve the connections and make them public?</p>
Drainage issues Individual Properties (3 dots & anecdotal comments)	<p>Concern regarding surface water drainage direction</p> <p>Pooling/ponding on individual lots, perception that water from new roadways/developments/etc., are increasing surface water retention on individual private properties</p> <p>Concern regarding effect of increasing surface water on lakes (DeMontreville, Olson, Jane, Elmo)</p>



<p>Pressure to develop farmsteads (1 dot &amp; anecdotal comments)</p>	<p>Concerned that Lake Elmo will lose all farmsteads and farm operations</p> <p>Pressure to develop into areas that are currently rural, with sprinkling of farmsteads, homesteads, etc.</p> <p>Don't want to lose the rural areas</p>
<p>Intersection and area of CR-14 and Manning Ave</p>	<p>Concerned about safety of intersection in area</p> <p>Land uses around the area, and when/how will controlled access be determined? (stop light, etc.)</p>
<p>Wildflower neighborhood (1 dot &amp; anecdotal comments)</p>	<p>Concerned that development of this density so close to adjacent farmsteads will negatively impact values of existing homes</p> <p>Feel like 'buffering' of the use was not done, and is incompatible with adjacent farmstead</p> <p>When these types of development go in the mature vegetation is removed and ruins the viewshed of adjacent properties (can see to CR-14 and could not before, etc.)</p>
<p>Lake Elmo (1 dot)</p>	<p>Concern regarding water quality of lake</p> <p>How do we address 'impaired' DNR designation</p> <p>Seems to be a runoff issue from east into lake</p>
<p>Dot north of unnamed lake</p>	
<p>Tartan Park/Golf Course (1 dot &amp; several anecdotal comments)</p>	<p>Concerned about density of new project</p> <p>Feels like a done deal, politically underhanded</p> <p>Why would we change the zoning/land use and put property in sewer when it wasn't supposed to be?</p> <p>If development does go through, very concerned about loss of mature vegetation in northwest corner of project</p>
<p>Larger property southwest of Lake Olson (1 dot)</p>	<p>Concerned about how this property will be developed</p> <p>Can it be subdivided? Right now it is relatively untouched with mature vegetation, don't want to lose the trees</p>
<p>Light Pollution (1 dot)</p>	<p>Concerned about preserving the 'night sky'</p> <p>Light pollution is everywhere, can we protect the dark sky in the more rural areas</p>
<p>Jesuit Retreat (1 dot)</p>	<p>Invasive species are taking hold</p> <p>Lack of maintenance of natural areas</p>