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Carol Albright
has the original.*

Carol Albright
Vergas Park Advisory Board
1210 Frazee Ave E
Vergas, MN 56587

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with your city park advisory members on June 7, 2022 and to answer many questions related to Long Lake Park and your trail and park improvement projects. These projects don't happen overnight and funding opportunities are not always available. Thankfully your city received donations and was awarded an Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to help with construction and installation of the new floating boardwalk, bridge, retaining walls, and trail system along Long Lake. Engineering plans for the project were designed so it functions as intended for many years.

We discussed several portions of your project as we walked the trail and boardwalk along Long Lake. One item of concern was the proximity of newly planted trees near the retaining walls. Trees have large root systems essential for growth and the roots of trees can do severe damage to retaining walls. While we can't see where tree roots grow underground, the problem with trees too close to these walls usually surfaces when the retaining wall cracks or bulges out, losing structural integrity. Eventually the retaining wall will need to be repaired. Trees should be planted a minimum distance of half the height of the tree when it is fully mature from a wall or house foundation. For example, a mature oak or maple tree can reach over 50' tall, so at a minimum these trees should be planted at least 25' from a retaining wall. My suggestion would be to have these trees removed as soon as possible to prevent future damage to the retaining walls. Removing the trees this fall after the leaves dry up and they go into dormancy would be the best option.

Thanks again for the chance to view your project and provide assistance. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Anne Oldakowski

Anne Oldakowski
Forestry Technician
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