

# Steve McCarthy

December 31, 2001

Sheri Zimmer  
926 E. centennial  
Rapid City SD 57701

Re: Mary Hall Park

Dear Sheri,

I am writing you to voice my concerns regarding the improvements to Mary Hall Park. I am neither a Kiwanian, neighbor of the area or friend of Mary hall Park. I am a concerned citizen who uses the Rapid City Parks almost every day of the week for exercise. In December, I attended the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting and feel that both sides should be able to compromise and reach a solution that is amenable to everyone.

In the last few years we have emphasized recreation over park land. I have become increasingly concerned about the amount of recreational improvements that have been added to our park system, especially on the west side. The much needed work to the Sioux Park swimming complex, plus the tripling of tennis courts and parking and the addition of the Pete Lien Field are all wonderful additions to the recreational facilities of the City, but have been at a detriment to the parklike nature of the area. The addition of Mary Hall Park to the system could help to rebalance the equation between park land and recreational facilities on the west side of town.

I hope your committee takes the current opportunity to retain Mary Hall Park as a nature park with limited development and restore some needed park land to the wonderful west side park area of Rapid City.

Best Regards,



Steve McCarthy