

## Burnsville

# Quarry mining company, city debate lake depth

## Timetable sought for development

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The city of Burnsville and the company mining a limestone quarry that eventually will be a spring-fed freshwater lake are disputing how deep the mine can go.

The lake, which won't exist for 15 to 30 years, will be part of a mixed-use development in the city's Minnesota River Quadrant that will include a city park with a boat launch and public beach, a trail system and a golf course.

City officials filed amended planning documents in 2007 that specified a depth for the mine and subsequently the lake. Kraemer Mining and Materials, owners of the quarry, disagreed with the mining depth and filed formal objections in 2008 with Dakota County District Court.

The two sides have been meeting regularly to try to reach an out-of-court resolution.

"I can tell you that we have (the original planning document) that was put together in 1994 by the company and the city, and there was no depth limit," said Dave

Edmunds, executive vice president for Kraemer.

The dispute is over 40 feet of depth, but perhaps more important is the timetable. Mining deeper means the city would have to wait longer for a lake.

"I can tell you that the city would like to set a limit so they have a clear idea of when we're done," Edmunds said.

Initially, the company thought mining would be finished about 2020. But demand for limestone has fallen, Edmunds said, and the company estimates it will be finished 20 or 30 years from now.

City Manager Craig Ebeling said the city would like a more specific timetable.

"We're still working on it," Ebeling said. "There are lots of things that we're talking about."

Turning a 340-acre hole in the ground into a lake mostly involves turning off the pumps that prevent 10 million gallons a day of spring water from seeping in.

If a lake is too deep, it won't support a varied life system, but Edmunds said the company is committed to creating a "living lake" that would include aquatic plants and fish.

Don Fosnacht, with the Natural Resource Research Institute at the University of Min-

nesota-Duluth, said it's possible to truck in clean rock material to make a quarry lake shallower. He said he wasn't sure what the cost would be, but the materials are fairly inexpensive.

Fosnacht said a lake with some deep areas and some shallow areas is usually preferred.

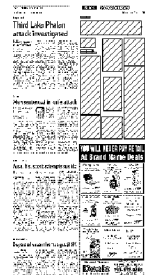
"You could probably create a pretty good environment from what I've seen down there," Fosnacht said.

Both the city and Kraemer said recent discussions have been very productive. Edmunds said he thought an updated planning document would be issued soon.

"We have good discussions and we think we have a lot of the same common goals, and we'll work at it," Ebeling said.

Edmunds said he'd like to focus on the positive things happening with the quarry. He said that with the recent creation of a tax-increment-financing district for the quadrant, roads are starting to be planned so development can begin. He said that in a perfect world, much of the development would be complete before mining is finished.

"Some visionary is going to come along with a great idea for what to do with it," Edmunds said. "The possibilities are endless."



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Kraemer Mining and Materials Inc. and the city of Burnsville disagree over how deep the company's mine, which will eventually be a spring-fed lake, can go.



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