



---

## March Board Cycle

**Milwaukee County Parks**  
9480 Watertown Plank Rd.  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226  
(414) 257-PARK

Date: February 6, 2019  
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors  
From: Guy Smith, CPRP, Parks Director  
Subject: **Overview of MMSD's Interest in Using Portions of Jackson Park for Regional Flood Storage (INFORMATION)**

### Issue

Use of Parkland by Other Governmental Agencies

### Background

In March of 2000, the Milwaukee County Board adopted a policy ([File 00-191](#)) in order to responsibly address requests by governmental units to use parkland, establish an orderly process, protect parkland and County resources, and inform other governmental units what is required in order to successfully establish these arrangements and partnerships.

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) has been evaluating how to achieve necessary flood management within the Kinnickinnic River Watershed. Some of the projects proposed include removal of the existing concrete channel that lines the KK River. While such projects restore the natural functions of the river's riparian zone, flood storage is not necessarily accomplished. In order to provide the acre-feet needed for flood management in the area of concern, large-scale detention basins are needed. MMSD has been studying the watershed for years in order to understand the alternatives that may be available for flood storage. The current proposals favored by the District include utilization of significant acreage in Jackson Park.

Parks has used the Board's Use of Parkland by Other Governmental Agencies while reviewing the draft concepts that MMSD has developed for large-scale flood management in Jackson Park. While Parks has been open to the idea of removing the Kinnickinnic River's concrete channel and restoring the natural waterway, flood storage has been evaluated as a separate scope of work. Mature natural areas including valued trees as well as recreational amenities like picnic areas, tennis, etc. fall within the conceptual project areas studied by MMSD. Following the Board's direction in the adopted policy, staff has not yet established that the use of parkland in Jackson Park for regional flood storage purposes is appropriate.



Empowering People  
Strengthening Community

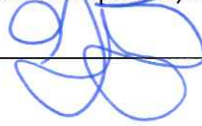


**Recommendation**

There is no recommendation at this time, this report is for informational purposes.

Prepared By: Sarah Toomsen, Manager of Planning and Development, Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Guy Smith, CPRP, Parks Director



**Attachments**

- Attachment 2 – Policy on Use of Parkland by Other Governmental Agencies
- Attachment 1 – Jackson Park PPT Presentation (MMSD)

**Copy**

- Chris Abele, County Executive
- Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive’s Office
- Jason Haas, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 14
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Marcella Nicholson, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 5
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 8
- John F. Weishan Jr., Supervisor District 16
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS



Empowering People  
Strengthening Community

