



Tree Planting at Kinnickinnic River Parkway

August 9, 2024 | Peter Bratt, MKE County Parks



Information Item

From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks providing an informational report regarding a tree planting partnership at Kinnickinnic River Parkway

Background

- Expanding the tree canopy within MCP's system is a key priority of the department's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan
- To further the department's tree planting efforts, MCP is working in partnership with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and the Milwaukee Riverkeeper

Background

- MMSD's Reforestation and Wetland Restoration (RWR) Program seeks to plant six million trees and restore 4,000 acres of wetlands over ten years throughout its service area in southeastern Wisconsin
- Mature trees and healthy wetlands are naturally effective resources to manage stormwater and bring additional local benefits
- Natural flood management captures and holds stormwater where it falls, reducing the volume of stormwater in the sewerage system and the amount of pollution discharged to surface waters

Background



- Milwaukee Riverkeeper's (Riverkeeper) mission is to protect, improve, and advocate for water quality, riparian wildlife habitat, and sound land management in the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic River watersheds
- MCP has significant experience working with Riverkeeper on waterway cleanups, targeted lagoon cleanings, and Area of Concern projects throughout Milwaukee County

Background



Background



- MMSD was awarded a grant from the United States Forest Service (USFS) that provides funding to support reforestation in southeastern Wisconsin
- As part of this grant, MMSD is providing funding to implement natural flood management infrastructure for other governmental units, nonprofit organizations, and other property owners through its RWR Program

Background

- Riverkeeper is looking to plant trees on MCP property as part of the RWR program
- The first identified site is Kinnickinnic River Parkway
 - North of the Kinnickinnic River between Montrose Avenue and W. Sumac Pl
- Trees will be planted in an .5-acre area that is currently turf grass

Background



Background



Background



- This work will be governed by a memo of understanding between MCP, MMSD, and Riverkeeper prior to the commencement of the work
- Upon the completion of the work in the third quarter of 2024, Parks will be returning to the County Board with an action item to approve a conservation easement to for the newly planted trees
- This easement will be with MMSD and will dedicate this reforested area for a limited term

Parks Strategic Plan Alignment



- Equitably balance the Parks system to be more sustainable
 - Increase tree plantings and reduce actively managed lands
- Actively engage community and cultivate creative partnerships
 - Partnership with MMSD and Riverkeeper

Next Steps

- Milwaukee County Parks to return to the Parks and Culture Committee with an action item in December 2024 cycle



Questions?



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