

Oak Creek Parkway Mill Pond & Dam Project Update

June 10, 2025



Background:

2012 - DNR issues order to replace sluice gate

2013 – AECOM performs inspection of dam masonry

2015 – AECOM develops preliminary plans to repair the dam sluice gate

2021 - SEWRPC publishes Restoration Plan for Oak **Creek Watershed**

2022 – AECOM conducts sediment sampling

2023 – Board authorizes public input and potential design alternatives as part of scope

2024 – Public Engagement regarding concepts

Alternative A: Partial Pond Rest	oration	
EGEND ACCESS LOCATION	Major Construction Components: Sluice Gate Repair Dredge Southern Pond Lobe Fill Northern Pond Lobe Recreational Enhancements Create approximately 1.7 acres of open water One platform for fishing	Maintenance Requirem Exercise Sluice Gate Dam Inspections Periodic Dredging Vegetation Mainten Creates pond dept up to 7-9 feet
POND DREDSING	Construction with 35% Contingency: \$2,202,000	Ongoing Maintenance*: \$3,125,000
IIIIIIII SLUICE GATE SYSTEM	2019 Worth Cost	\$5,351,000
TEMPOBARY SHEET PILING	*Maintenance costs include dam inspections	and dredging for a 50-year perio
Alternative B: Full Pond Restora	tion	
	Major Construction Components: Sluice Gate Repair Dredge Pond Area Recreational Enhancements Create approximately 5.7 acres of open water Two platforms for fishing	Maintenance Requirem Exercise Sluice Gate Dam Inspections Periodic Dredging Creates pond depth up to 7-9 feet
LEGEND SOIL CORE SAMPLING ACCESS LOCATION	Construction with 35% Contingency: \$6,897,000	Ongoing Maintenance*: \$5,464,000
POND DREDGING	2019 Worth Cost:	\$12,410,000
SILICE GATE SYSTEM SILICE GATE DREDSINS TEMPORARY SHEET PILING	*Maintenance costs include dam inspections	and dredging for a 50-year perio
Alternative C: Dam Removal & C	hannel Restoration	
LEGEND SOLI CORE SAMPLINS POCLS RIFFLES RIPRAP SLOPE RIPRAP SLOPE VEGETATED BENCH RIPRAP SLOPE VEGETATED BENCH RIPRAP SLOPE VEGETATED BENCH RIPRAP SLOPE VEGETATED BENCH RESEDED AREA	Major Construction Components: Dredge Pond Area Lower Pond Area & Create Flood Plain Dam Removal Establish Vegetation Riffle-Pool Channel Recreational Enhancements Create a walking path near warming house Optional skating pond with additional walkway	Maintenance Requireme Vegetation Maintenan O Pools would have a main depth of about three
RESERVED AREA WALKING PATH OPTIONAL SKATINE FOND	Construction with 35% Contingency: \$11,816,000	Ongoing Maintenance*: \$61,000

2019 Worth Cost: \$11,926,000

*Maintenance costs include vegetation maintenance for a 5-year period.



Public Engagement Objectives:

- 1. Identify and actively involve stakeholders 2. Solicit input to ensure that the project will best meet the needs of the community 3. Communicate remaining alternatives to enhance
- community understanding and build consensus





Parks Project Webpage

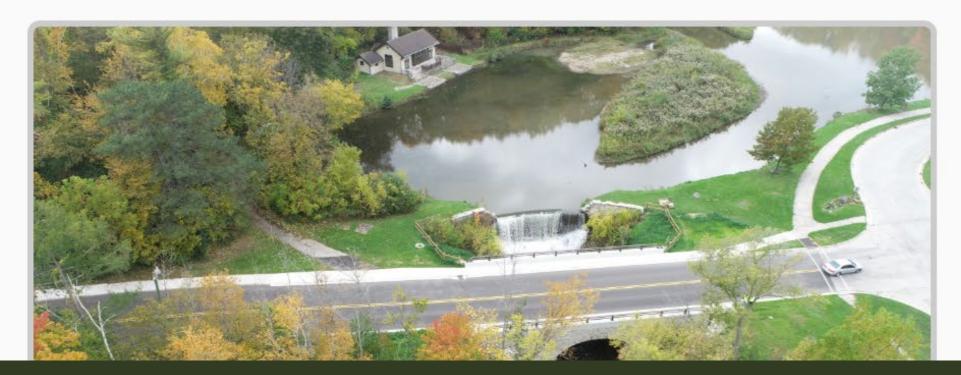
- 2,172 webpage visitors
- 32 comments (5 of those comments were from repeat commenters)



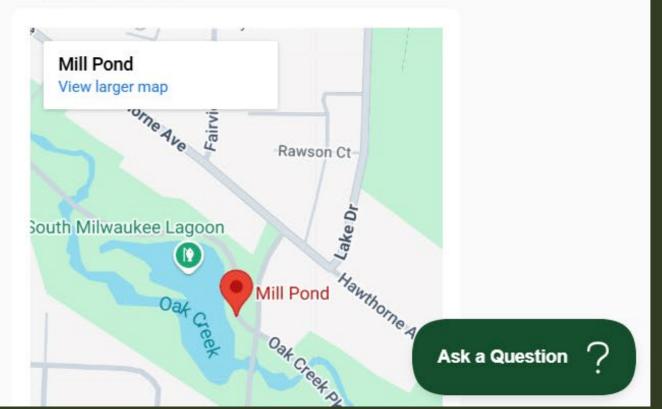
Home / Oak Creek Parkway - S. Milwaukee Mill Pond Dam

Oak Creek Parkway - S. Milwaukee Mill Pond Dam

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Project Location





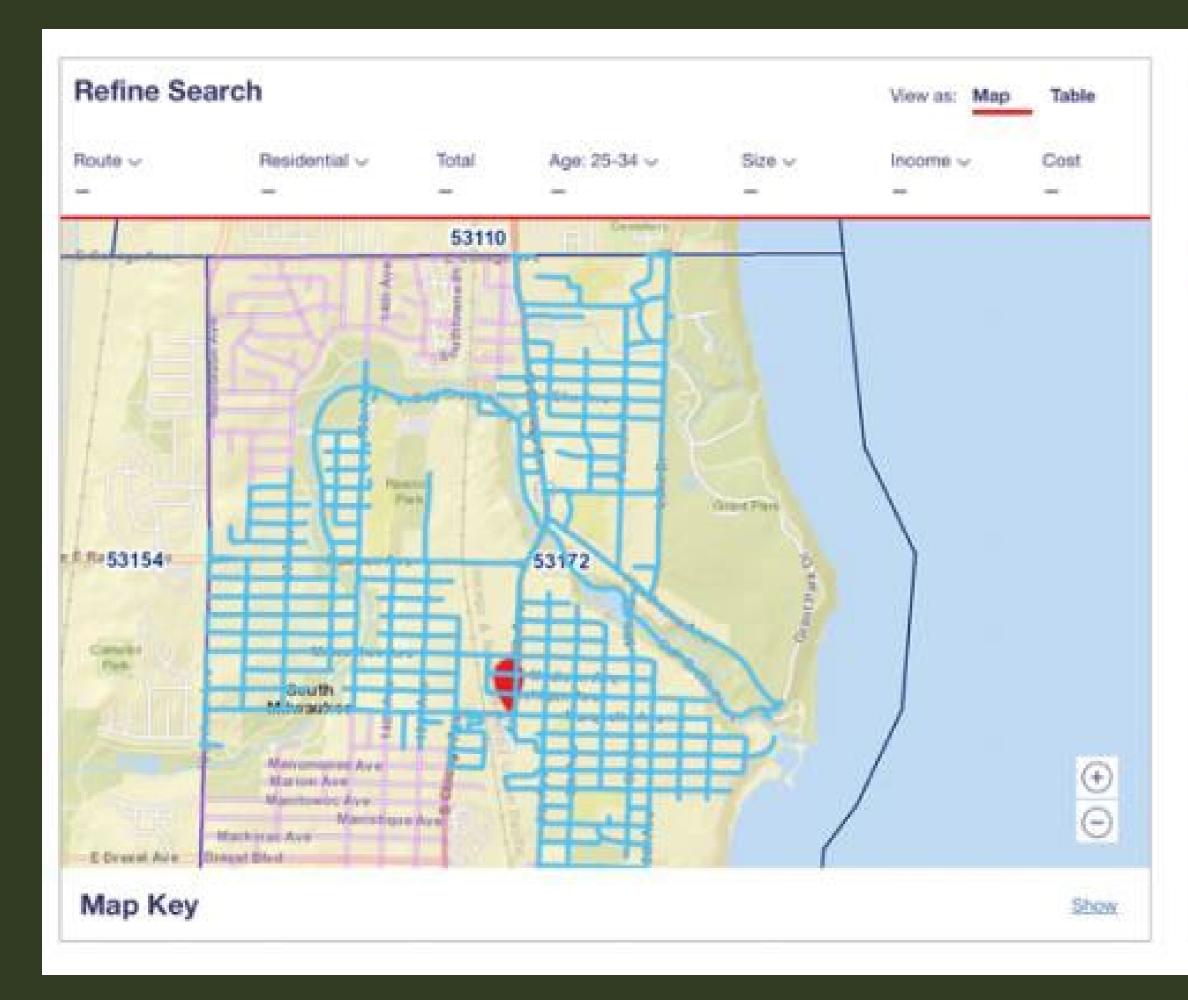
Community Survey



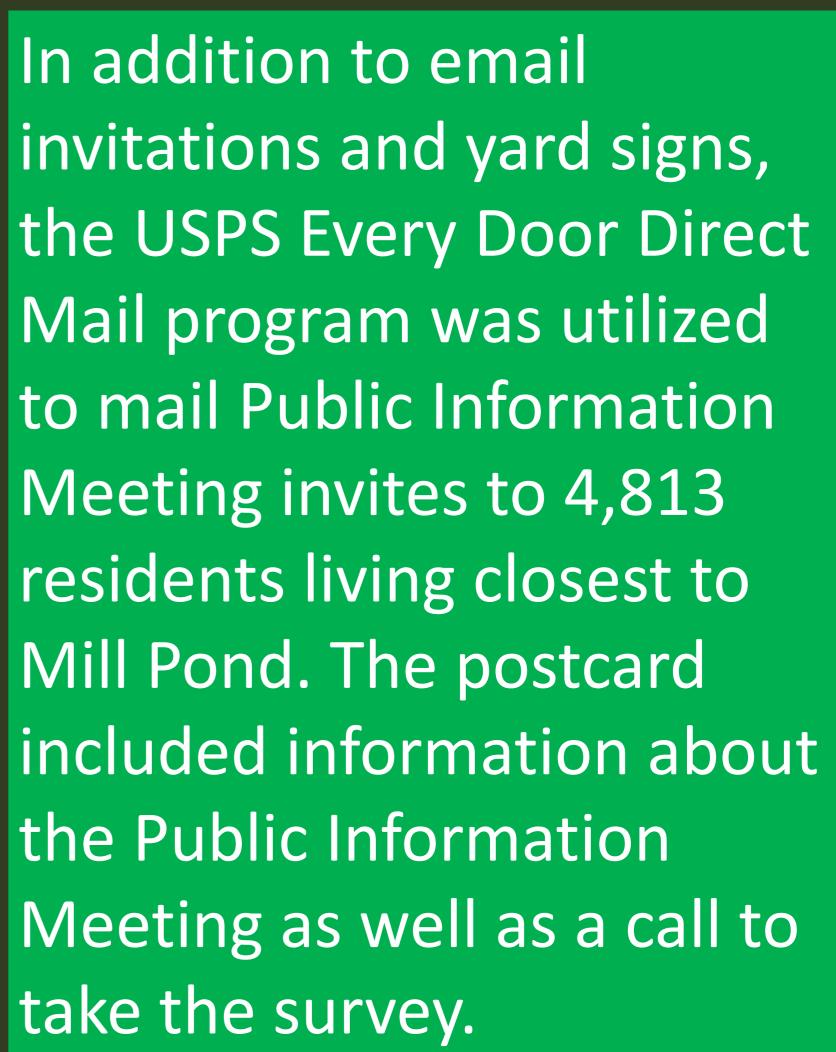


- Promoted via 10 yard signs in the • area
- QR code for the survey was included on the nearly 5,000 direct mail pieces that were sent out inviting the public to the first public information meeting.
- The survey garnered 865 responses with over 500 of those providing an email address to receive updates about the project.

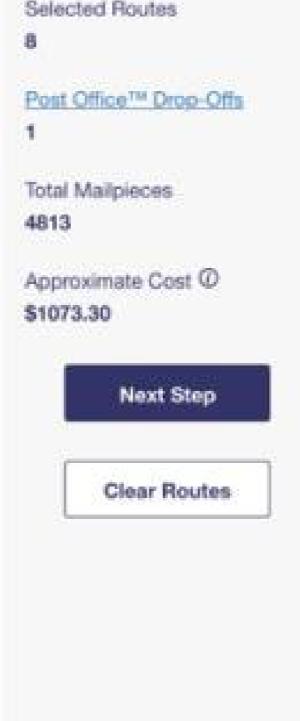
Public Information Mtg #1







Order Summary



Public Information Mtg #1

On December 3, 2024 from 4 - 6 pm, a public open house at Wil-O-Way Grant was held. Nearly 100 neighbors visited to review project boards, ask questions of the staff, and leave written comments.









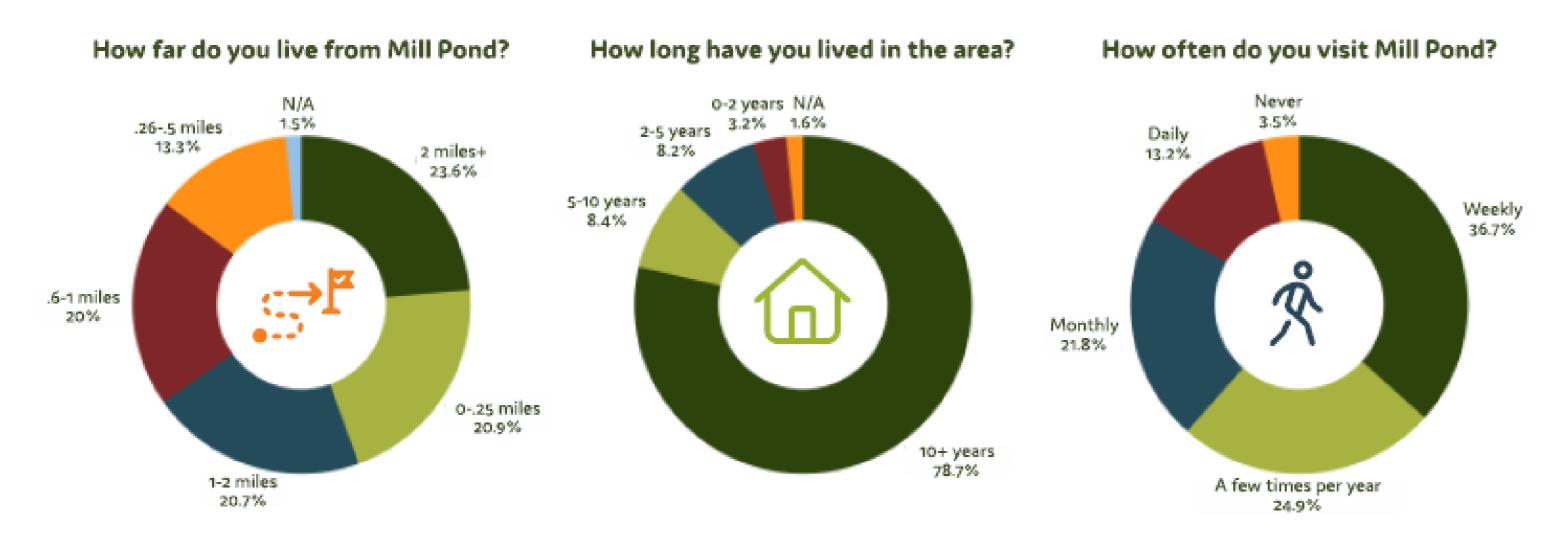
Public Information Mtg #2

On February 19, 2025 from 4 - 6 pm, a public open house at Grant Clubhouse was held. Approximately 50 neighbors visited to review boards, project boards, ask questions of the staff, and leave written comments.



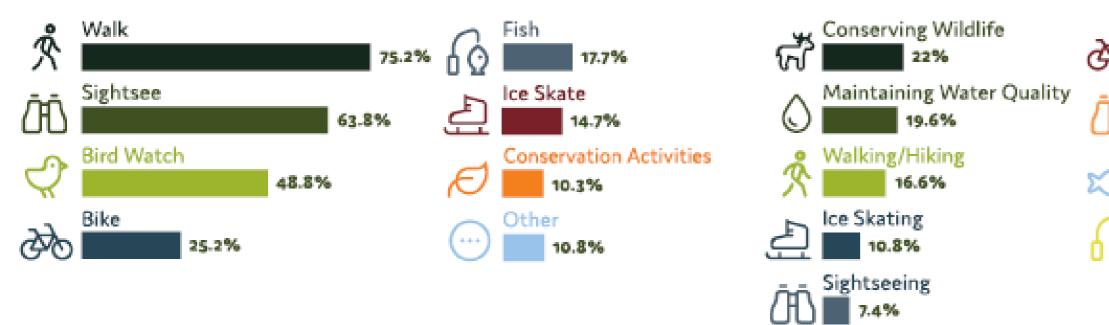






What do you do when you are at Mill Pond?

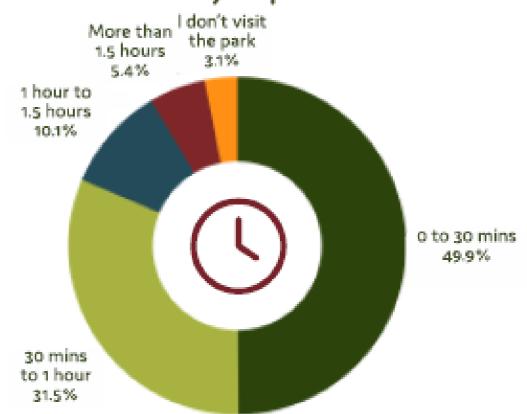
What do you value most about the Mill Pond and Oak Creek Watercourse area?

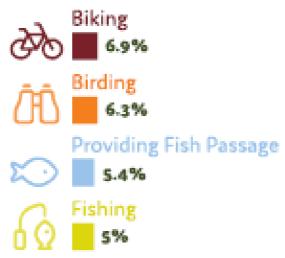


www.mkecountyparks.org/millpond



How much time do you spend at Mill Pond?





When thinking about improvements to the Mill Pond and Oak Creek Watercourse area, what do you value most?



Takeaways

- Public opinion on dam removal with stream restoration vs pond dredging and dam maintenance was essentially split.
 - Those in favor of restoration discussed long-term maintenance costs, and habitat benefits
 - Those in favor of pond dredging discussed historical uses like skating
- Due to contamination, costs for disposal of sediment will likely have a multimillion-dollar impact on the project costs.
- Grant opportunities are more readily available for stream and habitat restoration than dam maintenance.



Next Steps

- passive recreation, resource appreciation.
- Seek grant opportunities.
- Accurately estimate total project costs to be borne by County versus grant monies.
- Communicate with DNR and project stakeholders regarding next steps and timelines.



Target project objectives to meet community input – environmental cleanup,