
CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Underwood Creek Parkway – Land Transfer – April 2014
Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the extent of the land to be transferred?**
*The 1.7 acres to be transferred lies just north of Watertown Plank Road, and is approximately 600' in length. An aerial exhibit has been included with the Board Report. **Attachment 3 – Red hatched area.***
- **Why was Underwood Creek Parkway realigned so that this portion is no longer traveled?**
*The parkway was realigned due to the WDOT's realignment of nearby Swan Boulevard, which now runs along the west side of US-45 and creates a new major intersection just a few hundred feet east of where Underwood Creek Parkway intersects with Watertown Plank Road. Given the parkway proximity to this new intersection as well as the intersection of Mayfair Road and Watertown Plank Road just a few hundred feet to the west, DOT standards mandate that the parkway be realigned to reduce hazards due to cars stacking, turning movements, speeds, etc. The new alignment through a roundabout and connecting east to Swan Boulevard was installed in 2013 and paid for by WDOT. **Attachment 2.***
- **How is this piece of the parkway currently used?**
*This portion of parkway road is no longer connected to Underwood Creek Parkway due to the new roundabout construction, and is therefore no longer used by Parks or park patrons. **Attachment 2.***
- **Why would parkland be sold?**
While this piece of land was used by the County for the roadway connectivity of Underwood Creek Parkway, it has never been classified as parkland. There are no significant environmental or recreational benefits to this land other than connectivity, which will be maintained for trail users with the no cost to the County.
- **Are there potential park uses for this property?**
Because the roadway is no longer connected, but the remnant asphalt remains in place, there are no recreational or environmental benefits to be gained from this land other than a trail connection.

As a part of the purchase agreement, a new trail connection will be built along side the roadway and will connect pedestrians and bicyclists from Watertown

Plank Road to both the Oak Leaf Trail on Underwood Creek Parkway and the future Park and Ride lot. The purchasing party will construct this trail, and no costs will be borne by Milwaukee County. The trail and associated land will be exempted from the land sale and remain under the control of Milwaukee County.

- **How will the proceeds from the land sale be used?**

The Parks Department has proposed to use the proceeds to fund 2 projects in 2014: the construction of a new pavilion and restroom in Veterans Park, and FEMA flood-repair projects stemming from the storm event that took place in 2010.

 - *The Veterans Park pavilion and restroom will be built to replace the facility that was recently demolished. The new building will be not only a functional replacement, but will also provide ADA accessible features that will improve the facility for park users.*
 - *The funding for FEMA flood-repair projects will be used as County match funding for various projects related to stabilization, regrading, and debris clearing. These funds represent the 12.5% that the County is responsible for under this funding scenario, with the other 87.5% being paid by Federal and State sources.*

- **What if the remnant piece is to be used as a private drive, have the necessary approvals been granted?**

Yes, both WDOT and the City of Wauwatosa have agreed to a private drive that is configured only to allow right turns in and out.

- **What if the remnant piece of land is not sold?**
 - *Milwaukee County will not receive \$400,000*
 - *Milwaukee County will need to allocate the \$225,000 of needed cash funding for our FEMA match.*
 - *Milwaukee County will need to allocate the \$175,000 of needed cash or bond funding to complete the new Veteran Park Pavilion.*
 - *The remnant road will be pulverized and used for the base materials for the new bike trail.*
 - *Milwaukee County will need to allocate the funds needed in constructing the new bike trail.*