



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

Date: March 20, 2017

To: Jason Haas, Chair, Parks, Energy and Environment Committee

From: John Dargle, Jr., CPRP Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture (DPRC)

Subject: **Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District – Kinnickinnic River Watershed Restoration – Jackson Park Plan Update (INFORMATION)**

ISSUE

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) will provide an update on how its Kinnickinnic River Watershed planning efforts may impact Jackson Park.

BACKGROUND

The Kinnickinnic River Watershed is highly urbanized and continues to have many challenges related to flooding impacts from large storms. In response to an increased flood risk to residents, businesses and organizations on Milwaukee's south side, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) is undertaking a comprehensive flood management study on the Kinnickinnic (KK) River and its tributaries. MMSD has been working with the DPRC and other stakeholders to evaluate potential solutions that can reduce the impacts from flooding events within the watershed and improve the quality of life for its residents. Plans are currently being developed to make these streams a community asset once again by reducing the flood risk, restoring the river, and incorporating additional community enhancements.

Due to the proximity of the floodplains to several Milwaukee County parks and the likelihood that many of the alternatives could have impacts on these parks, updated park plans for several area parks are being developed. The planning effort is evaluating needs and opportunities within these parks. Feedback from the adjacent neighborhoods and other users of the parks are being incorporated with the intent that any modifications to the parks proposed under the flood management study will maintain the overall park vision, and ultimately, provide enhancements to the park and the community.

This flood management and park planning study began in 2015. Public meetings have been held to present the alternatives developed to reduce flood risk and enhance the



parks. Additional public meetings will be scheduled to present refined alternatives to the many Stakeholders. Pulaski Park will be the first to be modified as part of this initiative. Final plans for the concrete channel removal and improvements to Pulaski Park are currently being prepared. Jackson Park is anticipated to be the second location for the flood management and park improvements proposed by MMSD.

MMSD staff will provide a verbal status update to the Parks, Energy and Environment Committee on these planning efforts.

RECOMMENDATION

No action requested. Informational item unless further action required.

Prepared by: Kevin Haley, Landscape Architect – Planning and Development

Approved by:



John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director

- Copy: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
John F. Weishan, Jr., Supervisor, District 16
Marcella Nicholson, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee
Jeremy Theis, Director, DAS-Facilities Management
Allyson Smith, Committee Clerk, Office of the County Clerk
Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research and Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller