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

Date: February 17, 2017

To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr, Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

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

Subject: **Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement between the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and Milwaukee County for Kinnickinnic River Rivercourse Restoration in Pulaski Park (Action)**

POLICY

Authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement (ICA) with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) to remove the concrete channel from a segment of the Kinnickinnic River in Pulaski Park, restoring a more natural riverbed, and improving the impacted park and recreation areas of Pulaski Park.

BACKGROUND

The Kinnickinnic (KK) River watershed is located on the south side of Milwaukee and is the most urbanized watershed in the State of Wisconsin. The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission recently updated the floodplain mapping for the watershed and identified over 650 structures located within the 1% annual probability floodplain (floodplain). In response the MMSD developed the Kinnickinnic River Watershed Flood Management Plan to reduce the flood risk, restore natural function back to the streams and riparian corridors, and leverage additional improvements within the community. The plan recommendation includes multiple flood risk reduction strategies and the removal of over six (6) miles of concrete lined stream channel.

One of the first phases of this work is a project on the KK River within Pulaski Park. Pulaski Park is a 25.9-acre park located at 2677 S. 16th Street in the City of Milwaukee. The project will replace 1,900 feet of concrete-lined channel with a rock-lined main channel and an expanded vegetated floodplain along the segment of the KK River within Pulaski Park. The construction of the expanded channel will impact several park amenities and open space areas including a playground, basketball courts, pedestrian bridge, and park trails. These park amenities will be replaced outside of the planned floodplain along with other park improvements as part of the river segment project.

Some provisions of the ICA include the following elements:

- MMSD will fund design, construction to remove the concrete lining and creating a naturalized stream, and park improvements in accordance with County standards.
- MMSD will design, construct, restore, and replace impacted park amenities to include, but not limited to, the pedestrian bridge, playground, basketball courts, permeable plaza space, scenic overlooks, and parks trails.
- MMSD shall maintain the river segment and infrastructure associated with the storm water and channel improvements and shall provide the County a Long-Term Maintenance Plan assuming responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the channel.
- Milwaukee County will have final approval of all designs, construction plans, and specifications for KK River channel construction and park improvements.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the DPRC to enter into an ICA with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District for Kinnickinnic River Rivercourse Restoration in Pulaski Park.

Prepared by: Megan Haeger, Contracts & Projects Manager

Approved by:



John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Fiscal Note
- Attachment 2 – Resolution
- Attachment 3 – Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement Draft

Copy: Chris Abele, County Executive

Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office

Jason Haas, Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board

Marcella Nicholson, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

Marina Dimitrijevic, County Supervisor 4th District

Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk

Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research and Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller