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**January 2020 Board Cycle**

**Milwaukee County Parks**  
9480 Watertown Plank Rd.  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226  
(414) 257-PARK

**Date:** December 19, 2019  
**To:** Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors  
**From:** Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks  
**Subject:** **Update on South Shore Beach Water Quality Project - Informational**

**Issue**

Parks has been working in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to study the near-shore water quality at the South Shore Park Beach and to develop designs for potential beach improvements that provide enhanced recreational opportunities.

**Background**

As a part of capital project WP560, Milwaukee County has retained consultants SmithGroup JJR to complete Phase 1 of a beach improvement study. The first phase of work primarily involves compiling information from previous studies and planning efforts, and the development of three concept designs that provide improved water quality and the potential for significantly reducing swimming beach closures. If the County and partners decide to move forward, Phase 2 of the project will include the preparation of final design and specifications based on a refined concept. Phase 3 will include bidding and construction oversight. Only Phase 1 is funded at this time.

**Project progress to date:**

October and November of 2017: Meetings were held with stakeholders – including elected officials, the Bay View Neighborhood group, the South Shore Yacht Club, Friends of South Shore Park, Great Lakes Sport Fisherman, Milwaukee Port Authority, South Shore Farmer’s Market, and DNR/UWM/County Parks staff – to get input on the park and beach.

January 2018: SmithGroup JJR presented four alternative designs and cost estimates to County Parks and DNR. The concepts were designed around the Lake Michigan currents and wave data, hydraulic modeling, and other science-based data researched and collected by the consultants. The initial evaluation determined that it would

be unlikely that improvements solely at the existing beach location would improve water quality to the point of noticeably fewer beach closings. Cost estimates for construction of the alternatives ranged from \$4.4 million to \$7.7 million.

April 2018: SmithGroup JJR presented three revised alternatives. Cost estimates for construction of the alternatives ranged from \$3.5 million to \$4.3 million. The County and DNR staff shared several comments related to the modeling work and data, whether the designs adequately addressed water quality problems, and other data-driven concerns. Parks requested refinements of the designs and the development of a fourth less-costly concept.

June 2018: SmithGroup JJR addressed the concerns shared with them in April and presented the DNR and County with an additional alternative at the lower cost of \$2.9 million.

September 2018: County Parks held a Public Information Meeting (PIM) from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm on Monday, September 10th, 2018. County Parks staff also had a table at the Saturday, September 8, 2018 South Shore Farmer's Market with the concept designs and information about the PIM. More than 100 people attended the PIM and the majority supported the south shoreline location for the relocated swimming beach.

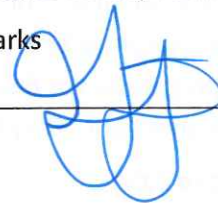
Design solutions have been evaluated and refined by staff and consultants throughout 2019, culminating in a Public Information Meeting held at South Shore Pavilion on December 2, 2019. Overall public sentiment has been positive, and Parks is continuing to work with SmithGroup JJR to pursue a water quality improvement option that would relocate the swimming beach to the south. While work continues to request construction funding through AOC funding sources, EPA and DNR are conducting a cross-check of the data and design solution to date.

**Recommendation**

No action requested. Informational item unless further action required.

Prepared By: Sarah Toomsen, Manager of Planning and Development, Milwaukee County Parks  
Therese Gripenotrog, Landscape Architect, Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director



**Attachments**

- December 2019 Public Information Meeting Presentation

**Copy**

- Chris Abele, County Executive
- Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Jason Haas, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 14
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Marcelia Nicholson, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 5
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 8
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Mark Yatchak, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs, Department of Administrative Services



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