

March 17, 2020

Chairman James Schmitt  
Finance and Audit Committee  
Milwaukee County Board, Rm 201  
901 N. 9th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chairman Schmitt:

The Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers' Department of Environmental Health supports the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's (MMSD) Kinnickinnic (KK) River Flood Management Project in Jackson Park.

Sixteenth Street's mission is to improve the health and well-being of Milwaukee and surrounding communities by providing quality, patient-centered, family-based health care, health education and social services free from linguistic, cultural, and economic barriers. MMSD has been a strong partner of our Department of Environmental Health for more than a decade, helping bring the community voice into the conversation around the revitalization of the KK River through the creation of the KK River Neighborhood Plan, which includes community-driven recommendations to transform the surrounding community and residents' quality of life.

From 2016-18, Sixteenth Street created family-centered events that brought more than 150 people to share their opinions about the future of Pulaski Park and the KK River. We have also been, and continue to be, involved in MMSD's efforts to engage the public around future changes to the KK River within Jackson Park. Since 2017, we have held free community workshops at the Park, educating families about water quality, flooding, and how they can safely interact with the river. We also take elementary school students to the Park as part of our afterschool program to help them understand and better interact with their environment. Two members of our staff are part of MMSD's Jackson Park Action Task Force, helping to ensure that the public is informed about the project. Sixteenth Street's bilingual staff have translated fliers, announcements, social media posts and design boards to ensure that information is understandable to Spanish speakers as well as English speakers.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue outreach to the community surrounding Jackson Park, and appreciate MMSD's involving us in the process.

Sincerely,

Jamie Ferschinger  
Director of Environmental Health  
Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COUNCIL OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

c/o City of Glendale, 5909 North Milwaukee River Parkway, Glendale, WI 53209

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT'S KINNICKINNIC RIVER FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN JACKSON PARK IN THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE**

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC) includes the mayor, village president or administrator from each of the 19 municipalities inside Milwaukee County. The ICC meets to share best practices in delivery of public services, to discuss ways in which to save tax money and enhance services through cooperative efforts, and to discuss and advocate for change in state and federal law that are of common interest to ICC members. The ICC was created pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 66.0301; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) for the past decade has been engaged in the planning and construction of flood management projects designed to reduce the risk of flood related damage to more than 660 structures that are currently located in the Kinnickinnic (KK) River watershed high hazard floodplain; and

WHEREAS, the KK River has been in decline for several decades and has been named as one of "America's Ten Most Endangered Rivers" by American Rivers in 2007 due to the presence of contaminated sediments and severely degraded habitat; and

WHEREAS, MMSD has been partnering with Milwaukee County, City of Milwaukee, Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, KK River Watershed Advisory Committee, and others since 2016 to design and construct the KK River Flood Management Project in Jackson Park which is located on Milwaukee's South Side east of S. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Cleveland Avenue; and

WHEREAS, an extensive stakeholder and public planning process over the past few years has solicited input from dozens of organizations and residents to develop the design of the project in Jackson Park; and

WHEREAS, the KK River flows through the northern section of Jackson Park which as part of the proposed flood management project design would temporarily store flood waters in a section of the park once every five years on average; and

Whereas, MMSD is committed to funding the project with the goal of reducing flood risk, increasing public safety, and improving riparian and aquatic habitat; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project in Jackson Park project includes many ideas that, if approved, promise to revitalize and enhance Jackson Park, such as removing concrete lining and naturalizing 2,100 feet of river channel including daylighting a 700-foot section of the KK River that is currently buried in a concrete box culvert, removing contaminated sediments from the lagoon, restoring the lagoon edge and island, reconstructing the KK River Parkway Road, constructing a new recreational bicycle trail connecting with the Oak Leaf Trail System, renovating the Boathouse, and increasing the size of park by five-acres; and



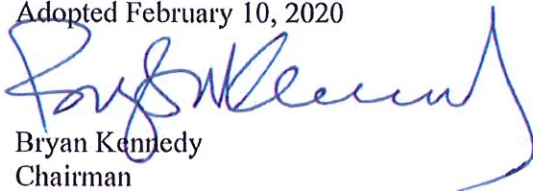
WHEREAS, per Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources floodplain permitting requirements, the additional flood storage in Jackson Park must be completed before MMSD can finish the section of the KK Flood Management Project downstream of Jackson Park between S.6<sup>th</sup> and S.16<sup>th</sup> Street; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COUNCIL, that the ICC supports and approves of the partnership between the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and Milwaukee County to construct the Kinnickinnic River Flood Management Project in Jackson Park as part of the overall Kinnickinnic River Flood Management Plan designed to reduce the risk of flooding to more than 660 structures currently in the high hazard flood plain; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposed design of the Kinnickinnic River Flood Management Project in Jackson Park will be the result of continued public outreach from a three-year public planning process for the watershed involving dozens of stakeholders, community organizations, and area residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution, upon adoption by the ICC be submitted as part of the record to the MMSD Commission, Milwaukee County Board, and Milwaukee County Executive.

Adopted February 10, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Kennedy", is written over the printed name and title.

Bryan Kennedy  
Chairman



March 17, 2020

Milwaukee County Courthouse  
901 N. 9th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

**Re: Support for Kinnickinnic River Watercourse Restoration and Flood Management in Jackson Park**

Dear County Supervisors,

On behalf of Milwaukee Riverkeeper, we are writing to support the Kinnickinnic River Watercourse Restoration and Flood Management Project in Jackson Park, and to urge you to approve it at the upcoming Finance and Audit Committee on March 18th, and at subsequent Parks, Energy, and Environment Committee and County Board meetings scheduled in the future. The proposed project will be largely funded by MMSD and ratepayers, and will reduce flood risk, naturalize the Kinnickinnic River, and improve vital park amenities in Jackson Park.

Milwaukee Riverkeeper has been involved in several advisory committees pertaining to this project as well as the larger flood management efforts throughout the Kinnickinnic River Watershed over the last 15 years. The Kinnickinnic River Watercourse Management Plan (KKRWMP) would reduce flood risk for approximately 330 structures along the Kinnickinnic River main stem. The Jackson Park project is a vital piece of this larger puzzle to mitigate flooding, improve water quality and wildlife habitat, and convert the Kinnickinnic River from an eyesore and safety risk to a community asset.

The Jackson Park project would provide more flood storage in Jackson Park and on the adjacent Dion-Simon Landscaping parcel, as well as remove 1,400 feet of concrete-lined channel, and replace 700 feet of underground metal culvert with a naturalized stream channel. This project will have direct impacts on Jackson Park and its facilities, and MMSD has entered into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement (ICA) with Milwaukee County Parks to ensure that all park amenities that are impacted will be replaced and improved.

Beyond just restoring impacted areas during construction, this ICA would: replace two pedestrian bridges, four recreational courts (e.g. tennis & basketball), two soccer fields, walking and bicycle trails, and picnic areas; construct a new pedestrian bridge, playground, and two picnic shelters; replace KK River Parkway from W. Forest Home Avenue to S. 43rd Street, including pedestrian improvements, traffic calming elements, and new parking areas; replace and relocate the County Park's service yard and related maintenance buildings to another location within the park; put in over \$750,000 in improvements to the Jackson Park Boathouse; dredge the lagoon and restore the banks with native vegetation and improved pedestrian access including four fishing/viewing piers and stepped stone access points at up to 10 locations; place \$2,750,000 in an escrow account for the County to use toward improvements to or replacement of the current pool facility; pay the County for trees removed within the project area in an amount not to exceed \$835,000; and other park improvements.

We believe that this project will result in significant positive improvements to Jackson Park. If we do not grasp this opportunity and move forward, we will lose out on an important opportunity to improve the

water quality and wildlife habitat of the Kinnickinnic River, and to improve the natural areas and recreational amenities of Jackson Park. These park benefits will allow us to better connect Milwaukee County residents to Jackson Park and the Kinnickinnic River, and allow for more community members to recreate in and enjoy our parks and rivers. In conclusion, we urge you to support the Kinnickinnic River Watercourse Restoration and Flood Management Project in Jackson Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Nenn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cheryl Nenn  
Riverkeeper

Cc: Jennifer Bolger Breceda, Executive Director  
Kevin Shafer, Executive Director, MMSD  
Guy Smith, Director, Milwaukee County Parks





Gary Belan  
American Rivers  
1101 14<sup>th</sup> St. NW Suite 1400  
Washington D.C. 20005

March 13, 2020

Mr. Jason Haas  
Chairman  
Parks, Energy and Environment Committee  
14<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor  
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
901 North 9th Street  
Courthouse, Room 201  
Milwaukee WI 53233

Dear Chairman Haas,

On behalf of American Rivers, I would like to express our support for the Jackson Park – Kinnickinnic River flood management project. As you may be aware, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and Milwaukee County Parks have worked with other local partners to create a proposal to reimagine Jackson Park in a way that creates a more natural river, reduces flooding and increases community amenities. To naturalize the river, more than 2,100 feet of concrete channel lining and enclosed culverts will be removed and replaced with a natural stream design. Because of this, elements of Jackson Park will have the opportunity to be re-envisioned to better support recreation and the community. Some of these improvements will include increasing the size of the park, removing contaminated sediments from the lagoon, improving trails, and updating sports courts.

American Rivers is a national nonprofit dedicated to the protection of wild rivers, restoration of damaged rivers and conservation of clean water for people and nature. American Rivers has a long history of working in the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area promoting the use of natural infrastructure practices that will help restore clean water flows into the City's streams and rivers while also providing community amenities.

In 2007 American Rivers listed Milwaukee's Kinnickinnic River as one of the Nation's 10 most endangered rivers, due to contaminated sediments and urban impacts on the river. Since that time, there have been a number of activities that have occurred to slowly help restore the Kinnickinnic River and make it a more valuable asset for the communities that live beside it. We believe that the Jackson Park Project would continue that process of restoration for the Kinnickinnic and are in support of the project moving forward. Additionally, we support project options that maximize natural floodplain functions, such as Site Plan Alternative B.

I would like to thank Milwaukee County for its leadership on this important project. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding our support for the project.

Sincerely,  
Gary Belan  
Senior Director, Clean Water Supply Program

