



June Board Cycle

Milwaukee County Parks

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Wauwatosa, WI 53226

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Date: May 21, 2021
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: **South Shore Breakwater Update –INFO**

Issue

Informational update on efforts by Milwaukee County Parks to address necessary repairs to the South Shore Breakwater.

Background

The South Shore Breakwater serves as a nearshore structure that protects the shoreline and coastal assets along Cupertino, South Shore, and Bay View Parks. The existing stone on the north section of the breakwater is undersized for the forces that are applied from storm events and ice. Over the years the existing stones have been moved due to these forces flattening the breakwater and developing gaps. Last investments related to construction on the breakwater took place in 2006, and the condition of the asset has deteriorated over time. Age, high water, and wave action have resulted in numerous openings in the breakwater, and large stone that had made up the structure has been moved into the navigation channel that is adjacent. Significant investments have been made to the Oak Leaf Trail, South Shore Yacht Club, South Shore Boat Launch, and related assets that rely on the protection of this breakwater.

While the breakwater was subject to damages during the January 2020 storm that was declared a federal disaster, the project has so far been denied FEMA funding. Milwaukee County has filed an appeal to this decision for the northernmost segment of the breakwater, and that appeal determination is pending as of the date of this report.

The 2021 Milwaukee County capital budget allocated \$1,066,471 in funding for project WP70601 in which the initial phase of work will include planning and design. Reconstruction of the northerly segment will likely consist of reconfiguring the existing stone to create space to set new appropriately sized stone on top of the existing stone. The larger stone will be sufficient to handle the forces applied from stores as well stabilizing the smaller stones by holding them in place. Phase 2 of the South Shore Breakwater repair will address the south section of the breakwater located off



the shoreline of Bay View Park. A similar approach will be considered for the south section repairs. An alternative approach for the south section will consider dismantling the south section of the breakwater and relocating the salvaged stone to construct an onshore stone revetment to better protect the Bay View bluffs from continued erosion.

In addition to potential FEMA money available through appeal and 2021 capital design money, it is also possible that recent actions by the federal government could provide financial resources for an infrastructure project such as the South Shore Breakwater. Parks has been working with other County Departments and local municipalities to identify any and all possible funding options through current and future federal bills.

Each of the above listed funding options means that the South Shore Breakwater will experience multiple seasons of impacts to its already deteriorated condition. Milwaukee County may choose to evaluate the potential of addressing the 2021 breakwater need by accessing funding in a different way in order for a project to take place this year. Options for evaluation include:

- Contingency request to address the immediate needs of the northern segment of the South Shore Breakwater.
- Reallocation of capital funds in WP70601 to move some funding from design to immediate repair actions.
- Debt Service Reserve could be utilized to free funding for a 2021 project for northern breakwater repairs.
- ARPA funding may become available for a breakwater project.
- Future infrastructure bills could become available to address the project.

Parks intends to include future phases of capital construction funding for consideration as a part of the 2022 budget, in accordance with the Department's 5-year plan. Those projects will include mitigation efforts for the breakwater that will increase its resiliency against storm impacts.

Recommendation

No action required, informational update only.

Prepared By: Sarah Toomsen, Manager of Planning & Development Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks  _____

Attachment

- A1 – South Shore Breakwater (North Segment) Cost Estimate

Copy

- David Crowley, County Executive
- Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office



- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 8
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12
- Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1
- Ryan Clancy, Supervisor District 4
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
- Aaron Herzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
- Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
- Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
- Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
- Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB

