



MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.5

Agenda Item: East Phillips Neighborhood Water Quality Improvements and Habitat Enhancement Feasibility Study

Presenter: Nancy Stowe

Meeting Date: 12 September 2023

Flexibility: Yes No

Estimated Time: Consent Agenda 10 Min. 15 Min. 30 Min. 45 Min. 1 Hour

Action Request: Information/Review Motion to approve Budget Change Other

Board Action: Approved Denied Tabled Accepted Report Other

Date of Action: 12 September 2023

Background

MWMO staff are proposing to lead a feasibility study, in partnership with Hennepin County (County), the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), and the City of Minneapolis (City), to identify water resource and habitat improvements within the East Phillips Neighborhood of Minneapolis. The impetus of this study is a series of transportation and park projects within close proximity that are planned for implementation within the next five years within the East Phillips Neighborhood, including (see Attachment A):

- Cedar Avenue Reconstruction (County);
- Open Space Master Planning (MPRB), which includes East Phillips Park, Cedar Avenue Field, and is anticipated to include additional private and public spaces adjacent to parkland; and
- 18th Avenue South, EM Stately Street, and Ogema Place Reconstruction (City).

This concentration of projects, combined with the importance of providing resources to communities in the City’s Southside Green Zone, provides a timely opportunity to identify water resource and

habitat improvements that can be layered into the proposed transportation and park / community open space projects to maximize cost and resource effectiveness.

To capitalize on this opportunity, a feasibility study is sought that will identify and evaluate a suite of options that addresses the goals as outlined below, while applying an equity lens developed through previous and current input from the community:

1. Identify and assess opportunities within the study area to improve water quality discharging to the Mississippi River, stacking water conservation or volume reduction, where feasible;
2. Identify areas of high ecological value, prioritizing native plants, trees, and wildlife and pollinator habitat; and
3. Through previous and current input from the community, identify local equity and public health improvement opportunities.

MWMO staff is requesting approval of a not-to-exceed amount of \$178,000 in Watershed Assessment funding for professional engineering services to complete the East Phillips Neighborhood Water Quality Improvements and Habitat Enhancement Feasibility Study.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2023-028

A RESOLUTION APPROVING FUNDING FOR EAST PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD WATER QUALITY IMPROVMENTS AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

WHEREAS, the MWMO strives to protect and improve water quality and habitat within its jurisdiction, through the planning and implementation of stormwater best management practices;

WHEREAS, the MWMO strives to partner with other local units of government to collaboratively find cost-effective ways to manage stormwater and improve habitat;

WHEREAS, the MWMO recognizes the importance of providing resources to communities in the City's Southside Green Zone;

WHEREAS, the MWMO has sufficient Watershed Assessment funds available; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the Board of Commissioners approves up to \$178,000 in watershed assessment funds to complete the East Phillips Neighborhood Water Quality Improvements and Habitat Enhancement Feasibility Study.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approves up to \$178,000 in watershed assessment funds for professional services to complete the East Phillips Neighborhood Water Quality Improvements and Habitat Enhancement Feasibility Study and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 12th day of September, 2023.

Review for the Board: _____

Stephen Eggert, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director