



Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.1

Agenda Item: Bottineau Field Park Habitat and Stormwater Implementation

Presenter: Nancy Stowe

Meeting Date: 12 March 2024

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 March 2024

Background

At its July 11, 2023 meeting, the MWMO Board approved funding for a feasibility study to identify opportunities for water quality and habitat improvements at Bottineau Field Park in northeast Minneapolis (“*Bottineau Field Park Stormwater and Habitat Feasibility*”). The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has commissioned a redesign of Bottineau Field Park that will include a variety of new amenities, including a new playground, splashpad, skatepark, updated walking paths, and a full basketball court. MWMO staff have worked closely with the MPRB and the engineering consultant Emmons and Olivier Resources (EOR) to understand and assess the stormwater and habitat alternatives that were evaluated in this study. The study considered an array of flood reduction, reuse, water quality, and wildlife and pollinator habitat opportunities within the park.

Several opportunities were identified for incorporating both native habitat and stormwater features into the park for Phase I, with a goal of adding these amenities to the park in 2024. These opportunities include 0.53 acres of native habitat restoration and the construction of a tree trench along the western side of the park, adjacent to NE 2nd Street, providing water quality treatment,

along with the other urban canopy benefits of increased urban cooling, carbon sequestration, improved human health and well-being, forage and cover for migrating birds, and education.

The proposed native habitat includes a large restoration area adjacent to the railroad corridor along the west side of the park. This railroad corridor has been identified in the MPRB's Above the Falls Regional Master Plan as a Riverway Street, i.e., corridors intended to lead residents and visitors from the neighborhoods down to the riverfront parks. The inclusion of native pollinator plants along this corridor will enhance the park's contribution to supporting pollinators and will also serve as a corridor connector between this park and other pollinator-friendly areas along the future Riverway Streets and the river. The proposed habitat plan also includes native enhancements and a pollinator-friendly bee lawn adjacent to the soccer and baseball fields, and several native habitat pockets within the main park area.

Stormwater management alternatives were also assessed, many of which may be considered after further analysis in Phase II. However, for Phase I, a tree trench adjacent to NE 2nd Street is proposed that will treat stormwater runoff from 1.36 acres within the park and will result in annual removals of 305 pounds of TSS and 1.2 pounds of TP before entering the Mississippi River. The tree trench will collect water from the plaza on the western portions of the park, including the sidewalk, the basketball court, and some surrounding park areas near these features. The tree trench will include five new trees within the park, which provide important wildlife habitat and benefits for the neighborhood. Additionally, four new trees will be planted near the tree trench using traditional planting and watering means, and will serve as a study area to allow us to assess the effectiveness of tree trenches in urban landscapes.

Staff is requesting approval of a not-to-exceed amount of \$284,222 in CIP funding to complete the final engineering design, the installation of one tree trench, and the restoration of 0.53 acres of native habitat, along with three years of native habitat establishment support. The final design work will begin immediately, with the goal to complete construction in 2024.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2024-008

A RESOLUTION APPROVING FUNDING FOR PHASE I NATIVE HABITAT IMPLEMENTATION AT BOTTINEAU PARK, AND

- WHEREAS, The MWMO strives to protect and improve water quality and habitat within its jurisdiction through planning and implementation of stormwater best management practices; and
- WHEREAS, The MWMO works to enhance and restore ecosystem functionality within its jurisdiction through the planning and implementation of habitat projects; and
- WHEREAS, The Bottineau Field Park Stormwater and Habitat Feasibility Study analyzed several alternatives and identified a preferred concept to implement habitat improvements and stormwater treatment within the park, which has been agreed upon by both MWMO and MPRB staff; and
- WHEREAS, The MWMO has funds available in the CIP fund to cover the cost of the proposed work; and
- WHEREAS, Staff recommends the Board of Commissioners approve funding for the Bottineau Field Park Stormwater and Habitat Phase I Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approves up to \$284,222 for finalization of the tree trench and restoration plans, construction of the tree trench and supporting infrastructure, native habitat restoration of 0.53 acres of land at Bottineau Field Park, and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 12th day of March, 2024.

Review for the Board:

Randy Stille, Chair

Review for Administration:

Kevin Reich, Executive Director