



Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.8

Agenda Item: MWMO Backyard Landscape Improvements

Presenter: N. Busse

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

The MWMO's backyard landscape was constructed in the fall of 2013. It was designed to serve as a model of sustainable riverfront development, showcase a variety of green infrastructure, and provide public access to the Mississippi River.

Since it was opened to the public a decade ago, the MWMO's backyard has seen countless visitors. Unfortunately, the site's growing popularity has led to a number of maintenance issues. Several foot paths have been worn into the slopes leading down from the parking lot area. These areas are now eroding, with the foot path nearest the river creating sedimentation issues whenever the river floods.

Additionally, some of the trees near the parking lot and amphitheater area have grown to the point where these areas are no longer visible to staff from the building. This has created an ongoing safety concern, as that location has become a popular spot for substance use as well as littering.

MWMO staff worked with Barr Engineering to design a series of proposed landscape updates that would fix the erosion issues, stabilize the slope, and facilitate safe access to the shoreline while accommodating visitors' desire for a quick walk down to the river.

Proposed Landscape Updates

1. Repair the eroded paths leading to the river, replant and stabilize with erosion blankets.
2. Install new stairways constructed of limestone steps and resin-bound aggregate that facilitate a direct path to the river and that match the current aesthetic of the backyard.
3. Move some of the limestone blocks from the amphitheater area to other locations in the backyard to create additional, more spread-out seating areas.
4. Repair a number of damaged gravel/aggregate areas along the main path.
5. Conduct tree pruning at various locations in the front and backyard to improve trees' appearance and facilitate improved sightlines.

Total Estimated Costs: \$79,200–\$101,200*

**Figures include 10 percent for construction administration fees.*

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2024-015

A RESOLUTION APPROVING CONSTRUCTION OF LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MWMO'S BACKYARD.

WHEREAS, The MWMO seeks to utilize its Stormwater Park and Learning Center to promote connection, understanding and care for water and natural resources in the watershed and beyond, as stated in its Watershed Management Plan;

WHEREAS, The MWMO's outdoor landscape provides a sustainable redevelopment model and learning laboratory for green infrastructure;

WHEREAS, More than a decade of use by the public has resulted in several maintenance issues in the MWMO's backyard, including erosion and overgrown trees;

WHEREAS, Barr Engineering has designed a number of landscape improvements to stop the erosion, stabilize the backyard, and create safe and stable stairways for visitors to reach the MWMO shoreline.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approves up to \$101,200 for backyard landscape improvements at the MWMO 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