



Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.6

Agenda Item: Little Earth Stormwater and Habitat Improvements 90% Design Plans

Presenter: E. Baskerville Doeckel and N. Stowe

Meeting Date: 14 July 2026

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: 14 July 2026

Background

A feasibility study was previously completed in partnership with Hennepin County (County), the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), and the City of Minneapolis (City) to identify a suite of water resource and habitat improvement opportunities within the East Phillips Neighborhood of Minneapolis, which is within the Southside Green Zone.

One potential project identified through this feasibility study is the Little Earth Stormwater and Habitat Improvements project. This 30% Design / Concept phase was recently completed, which included on-site stakeholder engagement sessions with representatives from Little Earth. The result is a concept plan for the nearly 10-acre Little Earth Housing Complex that incorporates a comprehensive suite of stormwater management and habitat improvements. Proposed features include an underground stormwater reuse tank that will capture runoff from Cedar Avenue and distribute it throughout the site for irrigation, an underground infiltration tank to reduce on-site flooding while providing pollutant removal, up to three stormwater play areas that both treat runoff and engage the community through interactive water features, up to four permeable pavement installations to manage runoff from large parking areas, and several rain gardens and tree trenches. The plan also includes up to 3.25 acres of native habitat restoration, featuring native trees, edible native shrubs, and restored prairie areas integrated throughout the housing complex. The next phase

of the project will develop 90% engineering plans for the sustainable landscaping plans, the underground infiltration tank, and the underground reuse tank.

MWMO staff is requesting approval of a not-to-exceed amount of \$330,000 in Capital Project funding for professional engineering services to advance to 90% Design Plans for the Little Earth Stormwater and Habitat Improvements project.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2026-021

A RESOLUTION APPROVING FUNDING FOR LITTLE EARTH STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS 90% CONCEPT DESIGN

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 and landowners 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 Capital Project funds available; and

WHEREAS, staff recommend that the Board of Commissioners approves Capital Project funds to complete the Little Earth Stormwater Improvement and Habitat Design 90% Design Plans.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approves not-to-exceed \$330,000 in Capital Project funds for professional services to develop 90% Construction Plans for the Little Earth Stormwater Improvement and Habitat Design Plans and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 14th day of July, 2026.

Review for the Board: _____

Connie Buesgens, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director