



Northside Park, March 28th, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes

Introductions – Mike Benard

Attendees were mostly business owners along Main Street or home owners along Cole. There were also residents from Park Circle as well as representatives from the Theosophical Society and St. Mark's Church.

1. Overview of the project

- a. Grading of Shoreline – Deb Seymour
- b. Creation of buffer – Deb Seymour

- i. Physical description
- ii. Establishment timeline

There were some questions about the test site that was completed about ten years ago and why it failed. That project did not include grading that is anticipated to counter some of the wave action that worked against establishment of the buffer. In addition, an overall approach to the shoreline should discourage geese that had previously been attracted to the small source of plants. Some examples of successful restorations were given and the efforts of this project were described as a global solution.

There was a question about how wide the buffer would be. The width will vary depending on where in the park; generally the areas that are not currently being mowed are representative of where the buffer will be.

- iii. Shoreline stabilization
- iv. Geese deterrent

The Wheaton Park District's efforts (including dogs, shaking eggs and sweeping) were talked discussed, in addition to how the buffer will help.

- c. Installation of paths – Rob Sperl
- d. Dredging – Rob Sperl

- i. Hydraulic – low impact
- ii. Storage site along Gary Avenue
- iii. Timeline

Assuming a permit is received this spring, construction of will begin this fall beginning with lowering the weir, grading the shoreline and replacing the bridges in the park. Main Street must follow the lowering of the weir and will likely happen next spring.

- iv. No impact on storm water storage

It was noted that dredging does not increase the storage of storm water in the lagoon. Dredging will benefit the water quality, appearance and use for recreation.

- e. Replacement of weir and bridges – highlight bridge 4

2. Stormwater – Erik Gil

- a. Pre-settlement description
- b. Impact of development
- c. Flooding throughout the park
- d. Main Street flooding at culvert

A distinction was made between flooding caused by “conveyance” of storm water vs. “storage” of storm water. The project will improve the conveyance of storm water and will reduce the likelihood of flooding in small rain events. However it will do little to improve the storage of storm water and properties in the floodplain will still likely see some flooding in the larger rain events. It is hard to say that the project will protect against a certain number of inches of rain because so many factors play into the equation. For instance, the rain this last February was more pronounced because the ground was frozen.

It was noted that the existing culverts are being checked regularly to insure debris does not clog them.

3. Status of Project – Erik Gil

- a. Permit Submittal
- b. Comments Received
- c. Grants applied for – Mike Benard

The WPD is actively pursuing funding from source outside of local tax dollars.

- i. OSLAD
- ii. DuPage Water Quality
- iii. Legislative Initiative

4. Location of Additional Information – Rob Sperl

- a. Website
- b. Email updates
- c. Disks from previous meetings
- d. Kiosk at Park

5. Questions and Answers

How can access to the condos be maintained during floods?

- Park district staff will work with the City of Wheaton on potential solutions.

Will this project address the culvert from the Theosophical Society’s property running under Cole?
(It gets clogged with debris and floods Cole.)

- Park district staff will work with the City of Wheaton to ensure the culvert remains clear.
The grate was recently upgraded to a larger style.

Has the Sanitary District been contacted? (Sanitary lines appear to leak and take on storm water)

- The Sanitary District and City of Wheaton have a plan in place to improve their systems.
Currently storm water is entering the system and exceeding capacity. More information is available on the city’s website.

How can the residents help this project to happen?

- We are currently working through the process and will enlist help when it is needed.