



**COMMISSION FILE NO:** 26-082-6 **DATE INTRODUCED:** June 8, 2026

**INTRODUCED BY:** Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

**REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO:** Policy, Finance, and Personnel Committee

**RELATING TO:** Update to the Menomonee River Watercourse Management Plan

**SUMMARY:**

The Commission is requested to approve an update to the Menomonee River Watercourse Management Plan (MRWMP) as described below.

According to Commission Policy 1-01.15, Flood Risk Reduction Policy, the District will develop watercourse management plans for watercourses within its jurisdiction. These plans will identify flood risks and the preferred alternatives to reduce flood risks. District staff will present watercourse management plans to the Commission for adoption. Further, in response to changed conditions or new information, District staff will propose updates to watercourse management plans.

Honey Creek is a tributary of the Menomonee River under District jurisdiction that is included in the MRWMP. It generally flows from south to north, starting near S. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Edgerton Avenue and joins the Menomonee near the intersection of Honey Creek Parkway and N. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street. Honey Creek flows above ground through McCarty Park, then enters twin box culverts just south of W. Arthur Avenue, between S. 81<sup>st</sup> and S. 82<sup>nd</sup> Streets. A trash rack installed at the culvert entrance prevents large debris from entering and potentially obstructing the 2.5 miles of culverts from McCarty Park to where Honey Creek daylight north of I-94. Accessing and removing obstructions is difficult, so preventing debris from entering the culverts is important. In addition, the trash rack prevents individuals from entering the culvert system. McCarty Park is owned by Milwaukee County Parks and is located within the City of West Allis. The MRWMP currently identifies 138 structures remaining in the floodplain.

**ATTACHMENTS:** **BACKGROUND**  **KEY ISSUES**  **RESOLUTION**   
**FISCAL NOTE**  **SBE**  **OTHER**  \_\_\_\_\_

*PFP\_Menomonee\_River\_WMP\_HoneyCreekMcCartyPark\_Update\_legislative\_file.docx  
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**COMMITTEE ACTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMISSION ACTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## SUMMARY (Cont'd)

### Update to the Menomonee River Watercourse Management Plan

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During the August 9-10, 2025, floods, a large amount of debris collected on the trash rack, reducing its capacity to convey flow to the twin box culverts. This loss of capacity, combined with the exceptionally high rainfall driven flows, caused stormwater to back up behind the culverts and may have contributed to flooding.

On August 27, 2025, the Executive Director issued an emergency declaration related to flooding at McCarty Park. The declaration authorized staff to proceed with both design and construction of trash rack related improvements.

In 2021, the District performed planning level work to reduce flood risk in the vicinity of McCarty Park and identified, at a conceptual level, improvements for flood flow entering the twin box culverts, which will reduce flood risks related to debris accumulation at the trash rack.

The District has built on the 2021 conceptual analysis and has evaluated multiple alternatives to reduce the risk of flooding from debris accumulation in collaboration with the City of West Allis and Milwaukee County Parks. Staff now have a recommended alternative and are working quickly under the emergency declaration to finalize the design and prepare for construction of the proposed improvements. The District is soliciting public input during the design phase and will continue to conduct outreach to the public prior to construction.

This updated MRWMP includes the following recommendations to reduce trash rack debris accumulation related flooding in the vicinity of the McCarty Park trash rack:

- Replace the existing trash rack with a trash rack that is significantly larger than the existing. The trash rack design is intended to allow for high flows to pass through even with significant debris accumulation. The trash rack is also designed to facilitate post storm debris removal.
- Construct upstream devices to intercept large debris prior to reaching the trash rack.

Until the August 2025 flooding and resulting emergency work, the District's Honey Creek watershed-based planning had focused primarily on the open-channel sections of Honey Creek. As staff investigated the August 2025 flooding and conditions associated with the McCarty Park trash rack, it became apparent that structures in the vicinity of the entire 2.5-mile-long closed culvert sections have also experienced flood damage.

## SUMMARY (Cont'd)

### Update to the Menomonee River Watercourse Management Plan

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For this reason, staff recommends development of a Honey Creek watershed-based plan that evaluates the entire watershed, including all District jurisdictional watercourses consisting of both open channel and culverted segments. The Honey Creek plan would become part of the MRWMP and would update flood risks and preferred alternatives to reduce those risks. As part of the 2027 Capital Budget, staff propose funding to develop this plan. Future budgets would then consider funding for engineering design and construction of the preferred alternatives.

Below is a table showing the number of structures in the MRWMP. While the planned improvements do not remove structures from the floodplain, they do reduce flood risks associated with trash rack debris.

	MRWMP
Total number of structures in the floodplain (without District improvements)	402
Number of structures no longer in the floodplain	264
Number of structures remaining in the floodplain	138

## RESOLUTION

Update to the Menomonee River Watercourse Management Plan

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**RESOLVED**, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the updated Menomonee River Watercourse Management Plan as described is approved, and that the Executive Director is authorized to implement the updated plan, subject to Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission budget approval.