



Memorandum

TO: MMSD Commissioner Jeff Stone

FROM: Kevin L. Shafer, P.E., Executive Director

DATE: January 20, 2025

RE: **Guiding Principles for Projects Involving Milwaukee County Parks and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)**

Fruitful discussions have been occurring between Milwaukee County Parks and MMSD about mutually beneficial approaches to improving parkland while also providing sewer and flood management improvements for our residents.

MMSD would like to establish a set of guiding principles for these discussions and for future collaborations with Milwaukee County Parks.

1. Milwaukee County Parks is tasked with operating, maintaining, and managing existing parkland that in many cases bounds area rivers.
2. MMSD is tasked with providing 100-year flood management protection for Milwaukee County residents surrounding the area rivers.
3. MMSD wants to do its part to insure a sustainable, vibrant Milwaukee County Parks System while providing improvements.
4. Many of the rivers are heavily urbanized with homes, businesses, and streets. It often makes cost-efficient sense to temporarily store floodwater in parkland, reducing the need to demolish homes and businesses to make room for flood management facilities.
5. MMSD, with input from Milwaukee County Parks, will lead the public outreach efforts to help shape MMSD projects located within Milwaukee County parks.
6. MMSD will improve, replace in kind, or repair park features impacted by MMSD projects.
7. Required property rights will be provided within 30 days of application at no charge by Milwaukee County for MMSD's staff, consultants and contractors to access the defined park space.
8. Easements will be provided within 6 months of application by Milwaukee County.
9. Once the construction period has concluded, MMSD will return the park to Milwaukee County in equal to or better condition as agreed upon by both parties.
10. Project cost, scope, and schedule will be approved by the Milwaukee County Board and the MMSD Commission. Any changes proposed by either government, that result in a cumulative increase greater than 6-month time extension or a cost increase greater than 10%, will require approval from the Milwaukee County Board and the MMSD Commission.

These principles provide guidance for future negotiations between the two government entities.