

COMMISSION FILE NO: 26-016-1 **DATE INTRODUCED:** January 12, 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: Agreement among the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the City of West Allis, and Milwaukee County Parks Regarding McCarty Park Post-2025 Flood Improvements

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to authorize the Executive Director to execute an intergovernmental cooperation agreement (ICA) among the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the City of West Allis (City), and Milwaukee County Parks (Parks) regarding McCarty Park Post-2025 Flood Improvements.

Honey Creek is a tributary of the Menomonee River under District jurisdiction for flood management and is included in the Menomonee River Watershed Management Plan. It generally flows south to north, beginning near South 43rd Street and Edgerton Avenue and joining the Menomonee River near Honey Creek Parkway and North 72nd Street.

The creek flows above ground through McCarty Park (located in the City of West Allis) before entering twin box culverts just south of West Arthur Avenue, between South 81st and 82nd Streets. A trash rack at the culvert entrances prevents large debris from entering and clogging the 2.5 miles of culverts extending from McCarty Park to the daylighting point north of I-94. The rack also serves as a barrier to restrict individuals from entering the culvert system. Instead of traveling downstream, debris accumulates at the rack where it can be more easily removed.

District evaluations have identified about 30 structures in the regional floodplain in the general vicinity of McCarty Park. Project W24004, Honey Creek Reach 4 – McCarty Park to Morgan, addresses not only flood risks in the vicinity of McCarty Park, but also naturalizing 8,500 feet of existing concrete lined channel from West Arthur Avenue upstream to West Morgan Avenue. The project will also reduce flood risk on approximately 11 structures near South 72nd Street.

ATTACHMENTS: **BACKGROUND** ☐ **KEY ISSUES** ☐ **RESOLUTION** ☒
FISCAL NOTE ☐ **S/W/MBE** ☐ **OTHER** ☐ _____

PFP_ICA_McCarty_Park_legislative_file.docx
12-15-25

COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Agreement among the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the City of West Allis, and Milwaukee County Parks Regarding McCarty Park Post-2025 Flood Improvements

The District had previously performed planning level work to reduce flood risk in the vicinity of McCarty Park and had 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 conceptual plan consists of designing and constructing a spillover weir structure and culvert in McCarty Park, with the culvert connecting to the existing twin box culverts downstream of the trash rack. In addition, the plan recommends increasing the capacity of local catch basins and storm sewers at the intersection of S. 82nd Street and W. Arthur Avenue.

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 in the vicinity.

On August 27, 2025, the Executive Director issued an emergency declaration related to flooding at McCarty Park, authorizing staff to proceed with both design and construction of improvements to reduce flood risks. The District subsequently contracted with Hey and Associates (Hey) to provide design engineering services.

Hey has initiated preliminary design of improvements to reduce flood risk in the vicinity of McCarty Park. Throughout this phase, the District has worked collaboratively with Hey, the City, and Parks to develop a design that meets project objectives and each party's needs. As part of this coordination, the District, City, and Parks have drafted an ICA that clearly defines roles and responsibilities among the three parties. Following is a summary of these responsibilities.

The District will:

- Contract for design of proposed improvements and provide to the City and Parks for review.
- Contract for construction of proposed improvements.
- Fund design and construction of improvements.
- Conduct a construction substantial completion inspection and invite City and Parks input on any punch list tasks before construction final completion.
- Provide record drawings and operation and maintenance manuals of the construction to the City and Parks.
- Own and maintain improvements.

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Agreement among the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the City of West Allis, and Milwaukee County Parks Regarding McCarty Park Post-2025 Flood Improvements

The City will:

- Review the draft design and provide comments to the District.
- Grant the District right-of-entry or temporary easements for the work at no cost to the District.
- Provide the District all permits required for the work at no cost to the District.
- Take ownership of municipal storm sewers constructed with the project.

Parks will:

- Review the draft design and provide comments to the District.
- Grant the District right-of-entry or temporary easements for the work at no cost to the District.
- Provide the District all permits required for the work at no cost to the District.
- Provide permanent easements and access to maintain the improvements.

RESOLUTION

Agreement among the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the City of West Allis, and Milwaukee County Parks Regarding McCarty Park Post-2025 Flood Improvements

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized to execute an intergovernmental cooperation agreement among the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the City of West Allis, and Milwaukee County Parks regarding McCarty Park Post-2025 Flood Improvements.