



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Main Stem Bassett Creek Streambank Erosion Repair Project (2017CR-M) Feasibility Study Public Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Project Background:

The proposed Main Stem Bassett Creek Streambank Erosion Repair Project is in the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's (BCWMC) current Capital Improvement Program (2017CR-M) and scheduled to be constructed in 2017. The project would address needed stabilization and restoration along the Main Stem of Bassett Creek from Cedar Lake Road to Irving Avenue S. Additional areas under consideration for the project include a section of stream from Irving Avenue S to Dupont Avenue N and to 2nd Avenue N (the entrance to both the old and new tunnels); and an additional reach adjacent to the Fruen Mill.

As is required for BCWMC CIP Projects, a feasibility study to examine methods for stabilization and restoration must be completed and should include input from area residents, property owners, and other interested parties. This plan lays out a process to inform and engage public stakeholders at the beginning of the feasibility study and again when draft study results are available. Although technical stakeholders such as the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Rec Board are separate from public stakeholders, they will assist with implementation of this plan.

Stakeholder Groups & Contacts:

- Bassett Creek Valley Redevelopment Oversight Committee (ROC): Vida Ditter <vidayditter@gmail.com>
- Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association (BNNA): organizer@bmna.org Kevin Thompson, president@bmna.org, 612-26-5409 or organizer@bmna.org (Patricia Wycoff)
- Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA): Noelle Barber, Environmental and Climate Justice Organizer Noelle@hnampls.org
- Friends of Bassett Creek (FOBC): Dave Stack ds329ds@hotmail.com
- City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development, Beth Grosen, Beth.Grosen@minneapolismn.gov
- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board: Cliff Swenson cswenson@minneapolisparcs.org, 612-230-6473

Purpose of Early Public Engagement:

- Inform public of the nature and scope of the project
- Answer questions
- Understand concerns
- Gather information on the historic and current uses/condition of project area
- Gather feedback on different project elements and restoration techniques the BCWMC is considering

Initial Message:

- Description of problem, photos and maps of project area
- Goals of feasibility study
- Goals of project itself – streambank stabilization and in-stream/near-stream restoration (NOT creek realignment or other enhancements beyond stabilization)

Plan for Informing Stakeholders/Gathering Initial Input:

1. Website

Maintain a project webpage with pertinent documents, meeting announcements, project progress, and contact information. <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/CIP-Information/CIP-Projects/Minneapolis/MainStem-Minneapolis-2017/MainStem-CIP-Project2017-Minneapolis.htm>

2. Letter to Residents and Businesses

On or before November 17th: Mail a letter (postcard?) to residents and businesses in the Bryn Mawr and Harrison neighborhoods. The letter will include the “initial message” components stated previously and will invite residents and businesses to neighborhood meetings. The letter will include language translation services in Spanish, Hmong, and Somali. The letter will include the project website, BCWMC Administrator contact information, and offer to provide email address to stay informed through project email list.

3. Email List

Develop and maintain list of email addresses gathered at meetings, events, or other methods. Communicate project progress, meeting announcements, project milestones, etc. via email to any interested individuals or groups.

4. Neighborhood Meetings & Newsletters

The City of Minneapolis can assist with language translation, as requested, at meetings and in print materials. (City policy: Public meeting notices should include a line advising Limited English Proficiency individuals that interpreters will be provided upon request if there is at least 5 business days’ notice.) Contact Howard Blin (612) 673-3163 or howard.blin@minneaplismn.gov.

Harrison Neighborhood Assoc. (HNA)

- November 21, 2015 – Attend quarterly Harrison Art Festival and have BCWMC display/vendor booth space
- December 14, 2015 – Present proposed project to HNA Board at regular monthly meeting
- Include informational article in HNA e-newsletter email: denetrick@hnampis.org

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Assoc. (BMNA)

- December 9, 2015 – Present proposed project to BMNA Board at regular monthly meeting
- Include informational article in December BMNA newsletter (The Bugle) (with assistance from Commissioner Welch); deadline November 20th

Bassett Creek Valley Redevelopment Oversight Committee (ROC)

- Invite ROC members to attend BMNA or HNA meeting for project presentation and input

Friends of Bassett Creek (FOBC)

- Invite FOBC members to attend BMNA or HNA meeting for project presentation and input
- Request project information be shared through FOBC email listserve or posted on FOBC website <http://www.mninter.net/~stack/bassett/index.htm>

Plan for Input on Results of Feasibility Study:

In late January/early February, a second round of communication and presentations at meetings will be used (similar to the above) to gather feedback on the results of the feasibility study. Public feedback will be brought to the Commission ahead of their approval of the final feasibility study.