

CITY OF
Stillwater

Stillwater Gazette, April 21, 2005
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

As part of the planning for a new bridge across the St. Croix River, Mn/DOT and Wis/DOT (DOTs) have proposed several mitigation items with the Preferred Alternative package that, if implemented, will affect City of Stillwater (City)-owned park property (Stillwater Municipal Barge Facility property, Lowell Park and Kolliner Park.)

Following is a description of the affects: This information is being provided to fulfill City obligations under Chapter 1, Article 16 of the City Code (City Owned Land) which requires public review if the character of City-owned land is substantially changed or altered.

1.0 STILLWATER MUNICIPAL BARGE FACILITY PROPERTY

The new river crossing is located south of the Barge Facility property. Construction will not require the acquisition of any land from the site. Construction of a park access road at the south end of the sites will impact approximately 1.4 acres of site. This access road will connect with the Sunnyside Marina access and TH 95.

To provide mitigation for the impacts of a new river crossing on the recreational values of the Lower St. Croix Riverway, the DOTs have proposed a loop trail system between Minnesota and Wisconsin utilizing the new river crossing bridge and the Lift Bridge. The loop trail would consist of two components through the site: 1) bicycle trail adjacent to TH 95 utilizing the former railroad corridor, and 2) a pedestrian trail that would diverge from the loop trail at the south end of the site, follow the St. Croix River shoreline to the north end of the site, where it would reconnect with the bicycle trail through downtown Stillwater.

The Terra Terminal building on the Barge Facility property will be demolished and removed. Removal of the Terra Terminal building and hazardous material will require a temporary occupancy of the Barge Facility property.

2.0 LOWELL PARK

Completion of the loop trail system will include construction of the loop trail from the Barge Facility property north to Lowell Park and the Lift Bridge. The current alignment for the loop trail is along the former railroad right-of-way along the west boundary of Lowell Park between Nelson and Chestnut streets, connecting with the Lift Bridge along Chestnut Street.

With conversion of the Lift Bridge to a pedestrian/bicycle facility, the Lift Bridge will be closed to general use. City emergency vehicles (e.g. ambulance, fire, police) will continue to have access to the Lift Bridge.

3.0 KOLLINER PARK

Completion of the Loop trail system will include construction of a trail from the east abutment of the Lift Bridge to existing STH 35 in Houlton, Wisconsin. Two trails, one for bicyclists and one for pedestrians, will parallel one another up the Wisconsin bluff from the Lift Bridge. The loop trail will bisect Kolliner Park, similar to the existing roadway.

Removal of the existing STH 64 Lift Bridge approach and CTH E will eliminate general vehicular access to Kolliner Park, and downtown Stillwater from STH 35 in Wisconsin. The bicycle portion of the loop trail on the Wisconsin Bluff is a 12-foot paved trail with 2 to 5 foot vegetated shoulders. City emergency vehicles will have access to Kolliner Park from Wisconsin along the bicycle trail.

To mitigate for the visual and bluff impacts of a new river crossing, the DOTs have proposed to remove non-historic elements (e.g. existing driveway, parking area, other miscellaneous structures) from the Kolliner Park property. Minor regrading and plantings may be required. Some retaining walls will be left in place to maintain drainage. Historically significant elements exposed above the soil surface would be documented and covered with fill.

A public hearing will be held pursuant to the City Charter at 7:00 p.m., or as possible thereafter, on Tuesday, May 17, 2005 to gather public testimony regarding to the proposed alteration of this City owned property. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk at any time prior to the public hearing and will become part of the record.

More information is available by contacting the City Clerk.

Dated: April 19, 2005

Larry D. Hansen, City Administrator
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