

CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2023

Present: Peter Hahn Jill Moskal, Recording Secretary
John Kamysz Dana Sievertson
Seth Marcus Agnes Wojnarski

Guest: Peter Falcone, Assistant City Administrator

NOTE: Meeting held via Zoom. Meeting ID: **858 1616 4601**

OPENING ITEMS

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Central Time by Agnes Wojnarski.

Roll Call

Roll Call proceeded. All Commissioners except Ed Madden were in attendance. However, a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 13, 2023

The minutes of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission Board Meeting of April 13, 2023 were reviewed. No changes or corrections were noted. Therefore, the meeting minutes of April 13, 2023 were approved.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS

Agnes and Dana added the following topic under New Business as new Item A to this evening's Agenda:

- Update on Remote Meetings

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays

Our volunteer workday of April 30, 2023 was conducted at the Slough and Pollinator Park for a smorgasbord of restoration work. The weather forecast is for rain; therefore, volunteers were instructed in the workday notice to check their e:mail in box on Sunday morning by 7:30 a.m. should a cancellation be announced.

The workday proceeded on April 30 where trails were relined, buckthorn resprouts were clipped around the Hyndman Plum Grove and Pollinator Park areas, as well as transplanting in the garage at 9 Marion Place.

The April 30, 2023 volunteer workday hosted the last Kielbasa roast of the season.

The upcoming volunteer workday of May 14, 2023 will be conducted in the southwest corner of the Slough and the area along the Hyndman Plum Grove for removal of buckthorn resprouts. After the workday, fruits, nuts, pastries and veggies will be enjoyed by volunteers.

Seth, Bruce Haerr and Dana worked at the Plum Grove on Friday, May 5, 2023 to separate buckthorn from the Plum trees. We did not conduct a prescribed burn into the plum grove and the woodland area did not burn well this season, so a full workday to remove buckthorn along Hillside Avenue is necessary.

Dana reported that current volunteer hours for the year total 768.5 hours. That is a lot of hours! Our volunteer workdays show a high number of attendees, and Transplant Wednesdays show volunteer attendance of between 11 and 30 people. Geezer Fridays' hours will be entered, and Dana has the individual hours but has not entered them into the database.

Pete has contributed significant hours and completed a magnificent amount of herbiciding. Pete remarked that he has only herbicided 25% of the area. There is a lot of more area to herbicide, and he is glad to know the summer interns start on Monday, May 15, 2023.

Agnes goes to the sites and observes and can't believe all the herbiciding accomplished. On Wednesday, Agnes and Seth visited the Remnant Sedge Meadow with Seth and remarked how much area Pete herbicided.

Dana provided a Shout Out to Joel Steffens for his super-human work on placing wood chips on the Slough trails from the area that parallels Hillside and then the Maple/Marion area to the Board Walk.

Dana provided a Shout out to Maja Wojdalski for her procurement and repotting of 200 oak tree saplings from the MWRD. Maja's thoughtfulness and hard work to repot 200 oak tree saplings as giveaways from the PHNRC is greatly appreciated.

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

Nature Speaks Program

The summer Nature Speaks Program presents Grace Hart for a live in-person at the Prospect Heights Public Library and via Zoom Presentation on July 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. The subject of Ms. Hart's presentation is "Saving the Bees: What Does it Mean, and What Role do Honey Bees Play?"

The relationship between humans and honey bees is one that spans generations and time with evidence of beekeeping dates back to ancient Egypt to medieval Europe to present time. The way beekeeping looks has evolved countless times before landing on the widely recognized iconic Langstroth hie.

The increasing popularity of backyard and urban beekeeping has brought up important questions of how to be a responsible beekeeper. Many people believe that the narrative of "saving the bees" is as simple as keeping a backyard beehive. What they do not realize is that there is a

complex ecosystem of native bees that needs to be part of the conversation. We have over 4,000 species of native bees in north America that are in need of the same advocacy that we give to the honey bee.

Honey bees are invaluable in the fight to make the world more pollinator friendly. However, it is important for beekeepers to be responsible for their impact. To ensure a beekeeper does not have a negative impact, it is necessary to be thoughtful about two things: (1) hive numbers and (2) hive health. Without monitoring these two things, a beekeeper could be spreading disease in contributing to over competition between honey bees and native bees.

Grace Hart is a professional urban beekeeper for Alvéole, working with honey bees in the Chicago area. Before working with bees, Grace's interests include a few different realms of animal care, including chickens, goats, pigs, donkeys, and shelter dogs. Caring for bees is not very different from any other animal, but the added bonus of urban beekeeping is that Grace gets some of the best view in the city that no one else has the opportunity to see.

Grace is passionate about urban greening and ecology, and loves that she gets the opportunity to spread the word to Chicago a more pollinator-friendly city.

The Spring Bird Walks with Mary Lou Mellon are scheduled on Saturday, May 13, 2023 and Saturday, May 27, 2023 from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. Currently six people are registered for the May 13 Bird Walk.

Please ensure to register for the July 19 Nature Speaks Program with the PHPL and the May 13 Bird Walk with the Prospect Heights Park District.

Slough Boardwalk Project – Update/Status

Dana reported that the Board Walk signs have been ordered and should arrive in about two weeks.

Dana advised that the Board Walk must be leveled and specifically in four or five problematic sections. John can adhere the bolts to the bottom of the posts to level the Board Walk during a volunteer workday. Dana will purchase the bolts. John cautioned that some of the bits are no longer functional and must be checked and tested.

Seth commented that the Board Walk sections were designed to lift up; however, mud is impacting this function for several Board Walk sections. John has an enforcer, and Dana has a six-foot crow bar.

Pollinator Park Update and Shoreline Restoration Project

Dana reported that the new Welcome sign for the Pollinator Park project was installed. The location is at Willow Road and Hillcrest Drive in front of the home of Tim and Heidi.

Dana said the second sign will be installed after the Shoreline Restoration project due to its proximity to this work area.

Dana presented information to Commissioners for the Shoreline Restoration Project.

Three factors must be considered: (1) Commissioners' availability to assist with this project; (2) weather; our work area must be as dry as possible; and (3) delivery of materials.

Material delivery last year was from a factory in Indiana and cost \$1,700. This year's material delivery will be local; therefore, freight charges should be minimal. The Project involves 130 linear feet with two rolls, 26 logs measuring 10 feet long at \$93.50 each for a total of \$2,431.00. A different type of erosion blanket that is a combination of straw and coconut, measuring 8' x 112' long will be utilized at \$65. Other materials are 150 stakes at \$1.10 per box of staples \$50, for a total material cost of \$2,711 plus Freight Cost of \$530 for a Grand Total of \$3,241.00.

The budget is \$5,000, minus \$3,241 leaves \$1,759 for aquatics or if we need to use a Bobcat. What we have in stock is 600 feet of half-inch rope; one and half of the old straw erosion blankets and half a box of staples and 179 stakes. A lot of stakes but still need more or 150. The length that we did on the north and south areas last year involved 317 stakes used in that project. We must not run out this time.

Delivery Time is 1.5 to two weeks. We must lock in the price 10 days from today. Let's go ahead and issue the Purchase Order and get the materials ordered with an open delivery time.

The future weather forecast reflects: Possibility of rain for May 12, 13 and 14 and June 26, 27 and 28. None of these dates really should impact water levels. The period of June 1 to June 9 looks good. July 1 to July 12 is optimal to get the project in.

John said early June works best with his schedule. The interns start work on May 15. It would be great to start now. We do not know how long the Hillcrest Lake banks will last due to desperate erosion occurring.

We will look to early June to begin the project. Dana will order the materials through Peter Falcone and have them delivered. We can locate a storage place for the materials before we begin the Project.

The only other real issue is the area has a lot of undercut. Therefore, we would do the same as last year: Put down the erosion blankets, put in the first roll, fold it over and cave in the top on top of it, fold the blanket back and set the next row.

Also, that area has tight quarters because of existing plantings. One patch of Indian Grass in its third year. Do not mess with it. That area must be done by hand. Probably 20'. It is tight quarters to operate a Bobcat. Lewis felt he can navigate it in the area and not do damage to the plantings. The grass walking path would be destroyed. The area this year has less tree roots.

Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes said that the Transplant Wednesday of May 10, 2023 was well attended, and many seedlings were transplanted. The current transplants need to be placed on the ground instead of on the shelves in the temporary Greenhouse. The covers were removed from the temporary holding Greenhouse due to the high temperature. The plants are sitting on the racks. The yard has been covered with woodchips but needs to be fenced.

Prospect Heights Community Day – June 3, 2023 and Oak Tree Saplings

Dana reported that our volunteer, Maja Wojdalski, sent a brochure to Dana of the MWRD giveaway program of native oak saplings (several varieties) and one Hickory tree. Maja requested about 240 oak tree saplings for the PHNRC to provide as giveaways at the Prospect Heights Community Day of June 3, 2023 and the Park District's Block Party of June 17, 2023. Additionally, Maja will pick up the saplings and care for them until the event giveaway dates.

Thank you very much, Maja, for thinking of us and your consideration and organization efforts.

Dana has registered the PHNRC for the Prospect Heights Community Day on June 3, 2023. Dana and Jill will manage the PHNRC table from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The pop-up banners will be utilized.

Prospect Heights Park District Block Party – June 17, 2023

Dana has registered the PHNRC for the Prospect Heights Park District Block Party on Saturday, June 17, 2023.

The Block Party will be conducted from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. However, as a vendor, we are permitted to stay until 11:00 p.m. Set-up time begins as early as 1:00 p.m.

We will giveaway plants in exchange for e:mail addresses and signatures and will include the native oak saplings procured by Maja Wojdalski from the MWRD.

Independence Day Parade, City of Prospect Heights

The Independence Day Parade will be held on Saturday, July 1, 2023 starting at 9:30 am. Dana has completed and submitted the City of Prospect Heights Registration Form to Karen Shultheis. John spoke with Lewis on procuring the auto trailer for our float and is awaiting confirmation.

John said our entry will be constructed like last year's entry with a few new embellishments. Our theme for 2023 is Monarchs and will include a giant 20-foot caterpillar proceeded by Milkweed people and followed by a Giant Monarch Butterfly. Six people are required to maneuver the Caterpillar. The Giant Monarch Butterfly (12 feet across) mounts to the back of the trailer and controlled by one person. People are needed to fill the costumes from 2022, such as, the Giant Blue Heron and White Egret.

John had a preliminary meeting with Kate Tully, Heather Killian, Andy and Dana and plan to start the framing of the 20-foot Caterpillar next week.

Next, John has procured the registration form for the Arlington Heights 4th of July Parade on July 4, 2023.

Summer Interns

Arianna (Ari) Blank and Kathryn Fisher will begin the PHNRC summer internship program on Monday, May 15, 2023. Agnes is preparing all of the educational materials and retrieving supplies from City Hall. On day one, the interns will tour all of the sites with Agnes, receive safety instructions, and receive a basic orientation. The interns' hours are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Peter Falcone mentioned that most of the interns' intake paperwork is completed but not the most important. He needs to know for tax purposes and have their direct deposit account information to get them into payroll. Also, one pre-employment physical is due.

Dana will touch base with them tonight. Dana said Kathryn wondered where to send the forms. Peter requested receipt of completed paperwork during the first week of their start date. The interns are good to start on Monday.

District 214 Micro-Internship

Jason, Sonya and Aba will participate in this summer's District 214 Micro-Internship with the PHNRC. One is from Hersey and two are from Prospect. The start date is June 7 from 1:00-4:00 pm and Friday mornings from 8:45-10:45 am. The timing is five hours per week for six weeks. Jason, however, requested to do 60 hours. Agnes will work with Jason on what he could do for the additional hours. Agnes has adjusted her schedule to ensure the Micro-Internship is covered.

The Micro Internship participants will not work with our summer interns; two separate programs. Agnes has adjusted her schedule to include the high school interns.

CONTINUOUS REPORTING

Annual Plan Review

Dana has not progressed further on this objective. Dana is hopeful to provide updated information soon.

NRC 2022-2023 Budget and Treasurer Report – John Kamysz

John provided Commissioners with the City of Prospect Heights Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 NRC Budget:

Budgeted Funding:		
City of Prospect Heights	\$	15,544.00
Prospect heights Park District	\$	7,500.00
Donation Funding	\$	500.00
TOTAL:	\$	<u>21,544.00</u>

The Hillcrest Lake Shoreline Restoration Capital Budget is \$5,000.00. John thought it was \$6,000. Peter Falcone said the total Project Budget is \$36,000 for six years. We can go over the \$5,000 but when Peter developed the budget, we went over last year about \$900; therefore, it must be made up over the next five years.

Site Monitoring Reports

ComEd Seeded Prairie (Dana Sievertson)

Three key observations are apparent at the ComEd Prairie.

1. How effective the Stantec burn was this spring.
2. How dense and hardy the vegetation is as a result.
3. How unbelievably dry and hard the ground is.

There are very few invasives compared to previous years. The combination of the Callery Pear mow down two years ago and this year's burn have really done a job on the woodies and the Eurasian grasses. The areas we seeded this year after the burn is showing signs of seedlings, Agnes could tell you what they are as I cannot. Also, effective is the herbiciding Peter and Agnes did this year to knock back the Canada Golden rod and the Canada Thistle.

Rattlesnake Master has increased its foothold, and Monarda is making a big comeback. All the vegetation is about ankle high at this point but even so, you can see the density of plant rosettes has increased. The far west end does have a few Buckthorn and Callery Pears to take care of and a smattering of Canada Thistle. This could be a very good get started herbiciding project for the interns. The east prairie needs inspected.

One annoying factor is the Redwing Blackbirds. I was repeatedly attacked on my walk through the west side. So much so that I did not venture through the east side more than a few hundred feet. It will be a problem for the interns and anyone else working there. Wide brimmed hats are a must along with a badminton racquet. There was also a half-eaten male Mallard near the very end of the west trail, and one of the two ComEd beehives is gone. I am reaching out to Grace to see if she took it away for some reason.

In summary, the ComEd Seeded Prairie is the best the prairie has ever looked this early on, and I am anxious to see the effects of the dodder we seeded in and what other species come in from our seeding.

Heron Pond (John Kamysz)

John reported that things at Heron Pond are becoming overgrown; however, a lot that we planted is coming back. Heron path could use a path clean-up and invasive removal work.

Hillcrest Lake (John Kamysz)

John reported that for Pollinator Park, the shoreline restoration cannot occur soon enough. A lot of erosion on the bank of the lake is present. Last year's plantings are less robust than other sites but coming in. John said the sign looks beautiful!

Nature Preserve (Gary Morava) (Pete Hahn)

The Nature Preserve is looking good. The paths need wood chips and very few invasive plants were noticed, except for the never-ending Buckthorn. New growth on our planted oak trees looks good. One white oak needs some nutrients as its leaves do not look normal.

The creek is full of stumps and debris.

The Nature Preserve has been improving over the years due to many volunteer work hours spent managing the site.

Seth asked Pete Hahn when he mentioned the logs in the creek in the Nature Preserve, can they be removed by humans? Pete said they are small measuring one to three feet in length and manageable. They were taken from the top area and placed right by the stepping stones near the gathering place. Debris is getting caught by the stepping stones. If we have more wood chips, we could place them in this area.

Remnant Prairie (Seth Marcus)

On March 31, 2023, Seth provided Commissioners with photographs and documentation on the current state of the Remnant Prairie.

Seth said when looking over the site that we manage, it appears that all the large woody plants are gone and the number of woody species in general is greatly reduced.

Com Ed performed a prescribed burn, and the burn was quite complete in the area that is covered. However, it covered a somewhat small percentage of the total property. It is unclear why they did not burn more area. In one area not burned it is notable for the quantity of prairie dock, as evidenced by the dried leaves from last season.

When standing at the south end of the property that we manage, it is quite noticeable that the large woody species began from there and goes on for quite a fair distance.

Seth strongly recommends that PHNRC consider methods of connecting the Remnant Prairie to the Remnant Sedge Meadow. Perhaps a brush hog can be used between the two properties to eradicate the tremendous amount of woody large plants. Perhaps Com Ed has a brush hog. Perhaps they would be willing to participate in such an endeavor.

Seth provided three photographs noting:

1. The general lack of woody species on the property that we manage.
2. The good quality burn over a fairly small percentage of the property.
3. The large woody species begins in abundance at the south end of our managed property.

Remnant Sedge Meadow (Jill Moskal)

The Remnant Sedge Meadow was reviewed by Agnes and Jill on May 7, 2023.

Our sincere appreciation to Pete for herbiciding the Canada Thistle and Teasel resprouts at the Remnant Sedge Meadow.

Two Monarda (Bee Balm) plants were located; a good thing.

Reed Canary Grass overtook the sedge area located by the High-Tension Towers near Foster Avenue. Agnes estimates it would take about five hours of herbiciding to clear the area of Reed Canary grass.

Sedges are located just east and south of the High-Tension Towers located near Foster Avenue. However, Reed Canary Grass is taking over the area. What types of sedges will be learned in about three weeks when they have “flowered.”

Various types of sedges have been located at the Remnant Sedge Meadow in past years along with Dudley’s Rush, Nodding Bull Rush and Spike Rush.

Canada Thistle is located due west of this sedge area. Agnes thought getting the interns to herbicide this area may be a priority. Teasel is located due South of this area. A stand of Milkweed will be emerging due west of the sedge area.

Yellow Loosestrife and various types of sedges and rushes (nicer things) are located due east of the Cattail area by the railroad tracks. Agnes and Jill were unable to survey this area today.

Native Wild Strawberry and Horse Tail, also known as Puzzle Grass, were located near the High-Tension Towers just south of the large Cattail area. Horse Tail is an old type of plant.

Phragmites have been spreading in certain areas of the Remnant Sedge Meadow and are outcompeting the Cattails. Agnes described the situation as “a real nightmare.”

Agnes complimented the ComEd Stantec crew for the brush hog work and noticed that the area just east of the bike path by the large stand of Cattails is easier now for us to herbicide and get to the phragmites. A method for eradicating the phragmites is to brush cut to cut it all down then rake the area and herbicide the invasive when it begins to emerge.

Saint Alphonsus (Ed Madden)

Ed reported that St. Al’s prairie is showing initial spring growth emerging predominantly from the burned areas or at least that is the most visible. Ed believes that the next month will show more.

Slough (Agnes Wojnarski)

Our appreciation to John who placed wood chips on the Slough trail. Put in a PCP pipe culvert and chipped over it. It is holding up through recent rain events. Dana said it makes a huge difference and is a good technique.

Tully Park (Wendy Dewar)

Wendy Dewar reported that things are growing slowly at Tully Park, and she is unsure of exactly what is growing.

Wendy understands that the house at 214 Wheeling Road will be demolished in about six (6) weeks, and the City wants to bulldoze the property through the back fence of that yard and into Tully Park where the pollinator garden is currently located. Therefore, Mary Ellen Siemens and Wendy will be meeting with the Prospect Heights Park District Executive Director to discuss how we may alter this plan to avoid destroying seven (7) years of hard work. Wendy and Mary Ellen have alternate ideas and really hope that they will be considered.

NEW BUSINESS

Remote Meetings

The meeting of May 13, 2023 will be the last fully remote Zoom meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission due to the conclusion of the three-year Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation. Therefore, starting with the June 8, 2023, PHNRC meetings will be conducted in City Hall Chambers. However, if a Commissioner is out of state at the time of the meeting, the Commissioner could participate via Zoom.

The official decree is stated as follows:

“With today’s conclusion of the state’s public health emergency, fully remote meetings will no longer be allowed due to COVID-19. The allowance for those remote meetings was critical to keep public bodies active and to get the people’s business done, while maintaining local government transparency and safety. Remote attendance by individual members of public bodies will still be allowed if a quorum is physically present and the member cannot physically attend due to personal illness/disability, employment, public body business or family/other emergency.”

Living Green Expo II

Jill reported that Grace Lutheran Evangelical Church on Wolf Road and Euclid Avenue in Mt. Prospect will host the Living Green Expo II on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The PHNRC will manage a table at this event.

The Living Green Expo II focuses on learning sustainability for:

Your Home Mount Prospect Monarchs and how to install a Butterfly Garden; adopt a dog or cat; Teegen Composting; Solar Power Pete – Solar 101, and Village of Mount Prospect on Compost and Recycling for your home.

For Kids Hands on Gardening with Lurvey’s Kids Garden Club and the Grace Preschool Singing at the Center Stage.

For Your Health John Amling and Bike Maintenance. A Food Table provided by Grace Lutheran and Petra Church.

For Your Community River Trails Park District and Prairie Restoration; River Trails School District Green Schools and Parking Lots; Grace community Garden to Food Banks – Northwest Compass; and Grace Green Team with free gifts for your use.

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

Jill highlighted notes from the following March 2023 City Council and PHPD Board meetings:

City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting – April 10, 2023

Public Comment on Agenda Matters:

Richard Hamen – 860 E Old Willow Road, Prospect Heights – said that he had an event that raised \$560 for SSA 5.

He said that he will have another event the end of next month.

Mr. Hamen said that SSA 5 and SSA 8 have almost \$1,000,000 to be used for flood protection projects such as repairing and improving Willow Woods retention pond; repairing and improving the “outdated concept” of Willow Heights front parking lot.

River Trails, he said, also has flooding issues.

He would like to see more projects with the money that is already there.

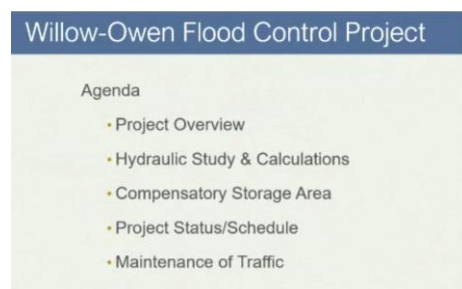
City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting – April 24, 2023

City Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024: First Reading of the Budget was conducted at the City Council Meeting of April 10, 2023. Final Approval at the City Council Meeting of April 24, 2023.

A City Council Budget Hearing was held on April 24, 2023 at 6:30 pm to receive comments from the public on the proposed Budget. Notice of the hearing was published in the Daily Herald on April 13, 2023. The tentative Budget includes information about the City’s anticipated receipts and expenditures for this fiscal year.

Budget was approved.

Presentation: Willow Road Design Progress Presentation by City Engineer Dan Strahan



Project Overview

Project Background

- In 2013, Cook County Department of Transportation & Highways (CCDOH) requested that MWRDGC (District) review the Flooding Issue at Willow Road under the District's Phase II Funding Program.
- The project was later expanded to include Owen Court at the request of Prospect Heights.

Overtopping

- Willow Road- Overtopping at 2-year flood event; significant overtopping (>6") at 5-year flood event.



Scope of Project for Owen Court and Willow Road. Overtopping of water = above 6 inches at the 5-year flood event. Owen Court is more frequent.

1% annual chance of occurring – 100-year flood event.

Project Overview

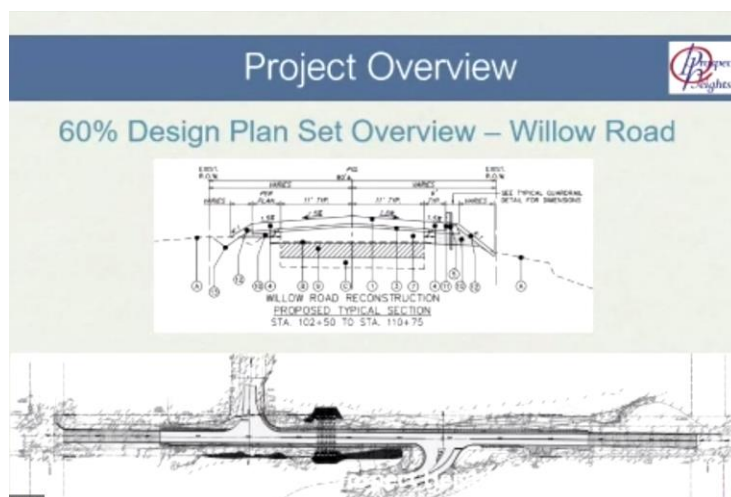
Project Objectives

- Elevate Willow Road centerline to 100-year floodplain elevation (652.1).
- Elevate Owen Road centerline to 10-year floodplain elevation (651).

Construction Funding Sources

- CCDOH - \$817,000
- MWRDGC - \$1,800,000
- City of Prospect Heights - \$300,000

\$3 million Project



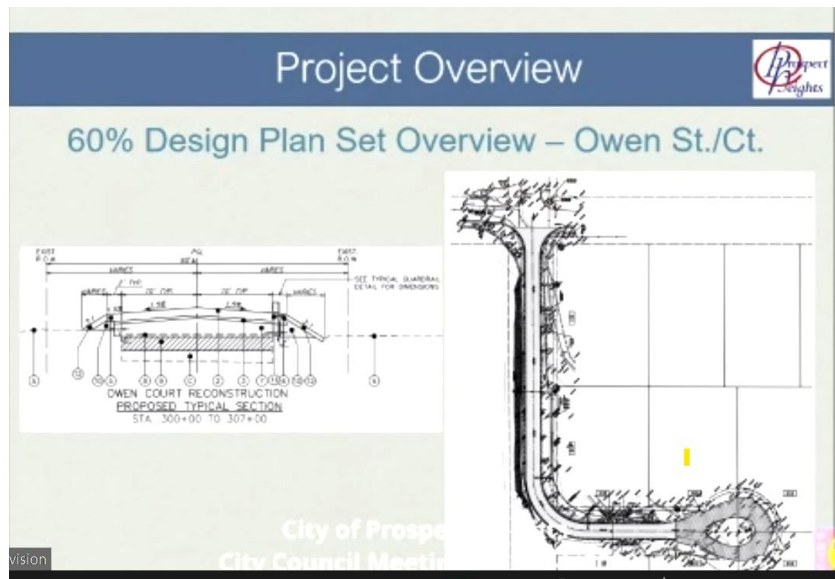
Grey area represents the part of Willow Road that will be elevated.

Honeycomb area = resurfacing will occur.

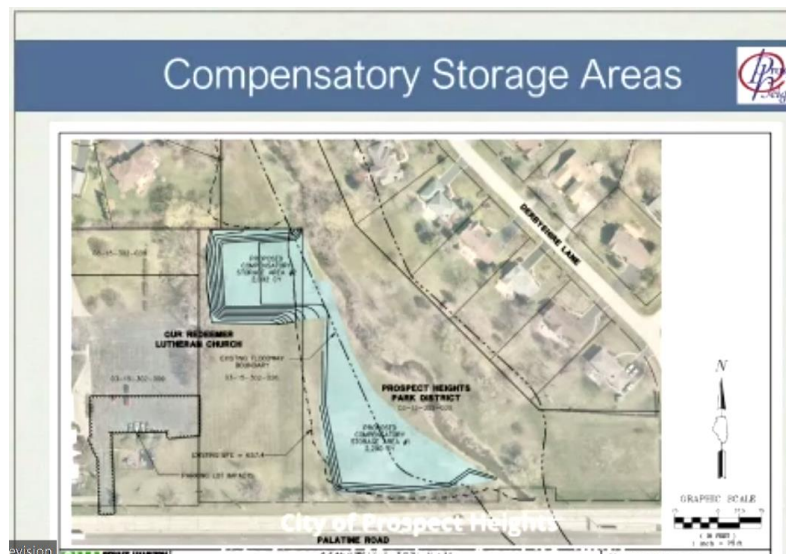
4 to 1 slope

Guardrails = yes

5, 60-inch culverts will be installed.



3 to 2 side slopes
Resurfacing



Elevating Willow Road means 2,100 cubic yard of material.
WMO requires an additional 10% factor.
250 truckloads of material to remove from the flood plain to somewhere else.
Near McDonald Creek by Palatine Road and Schoenbeck Road

Project Status / Schedule

Project Status - Permitting

- Permit Applications Submitted with 60% Set
 - Cook County DOT – April 7, 2023
 - MWRD / USACE – April 19, 2023
 - Design Progress Meeting with CCDOTH/MWRD – April 19, 2023

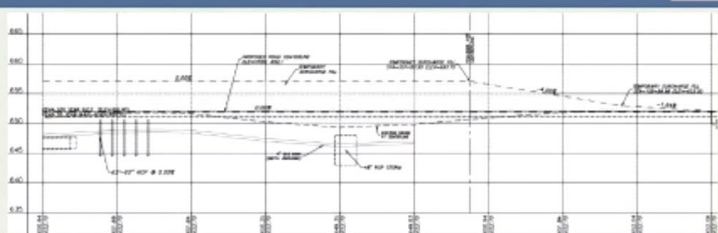
Next Steps

- May 2023 – Finalize Easements & IGA
- May 2023 – 98% Plan & Spec Submittal
- July 2023 – 100% Submittal & Bid Advertisement
- Mid-November 2023 – Interim Completion Date

City of Prospect Heights
April 24, 2023

Project Completion Date: June 2024

Maintenance of Traffic



The diagram shows a cross-section of a road construction site. It includes a top layer labeled 'EXISTING ASPHALT PAVEMENT', a middle layer labeled 'C86 MATERIAL', and a bottom layer labeled 'GRAVEL ROAD OVER THE CONSTRUCTION AREA'. The diagram also shows a 'SIDEWALK' and a 'SHOULDER'. The vertical axis is labeled with elevations from 5.00 to 5.80. The horizontal axis is labeled with stationing from 10+00 to 10+50.

Maintenance of Traffic

- Initial Construction Phase – October-November 2023 – Full Closure of Willow Road
- December 2023 – March 2024 – Temporary Surcharge Loading – Local Traffic Only
- April 2024-June 2024 – Final Construction Phase – Periodic Closures of Willow Road

City of Prospect Heights
April 24, 2023

Where are you placing the fill? Removal of pavement. C86 material. Gravel road over the construction area.

It will not be paved.

During the period that it is just gravel will be over the winter. Problem with snow removal? It is a County Road. The time for the road to be closed.

A lot of times the road would be inaccessible for Willow Road and Hillside.

Enough room for a sidewalk? 2 feet on either side. 22 feet edge to edge and a paved shoulder.

Public Comments:

John Kamysz: John lives on Hillcrest Lake and inquired of the shoulder – 6 feet on each side of Willow Road. Currently, parking occurs in this area. Will this area be open to additional parking once the new road is installed? John understands that Hillcrest Drive will be opened for public parking. It is currently prohibited. Is there a plan for parking? Any thought about the speed limit on the new road? Currently, the road is a bit of a drag strip from Elmhurst Road or Route 83 to Wheeling Road. Perhaps a Stop sign or speed bump could be installed. The road has a lot of foot traffic.

Response: A guardrail will be passing across Hillside, extra feet, and a paved shoulder area east of Hillside. Spoke with the County about it, and they are receptive to it. Must demonstrate that the guardrail is effective.

Currently, the speed limit on Willow Road is 30 mph. Currently, no plans to change it. Willow Road is a County Road and a connecting roadway; therefore, it is not under our jurisdiction to make a change in the speed limit.

Currently, there are no plans to change parking restrictions. It is still a topic re: Rosenthal plan to improve parking. Existing parking will be re-utilized and addressed again. Neighbors are requesting access to the Lake. It will be a topic for discussion but not in the near future.

How far would you be able to go to the east and widening it? The guardrail will determine the end.

Richard Solberg: Is there a process of construction resettlement over the winter on Owen Court? Surcharge loading is basic to Willow Road. MWRD did not find similar soil issues on Owen Court as on Willow Road.

During the construction on Owen Court, how will residents get in and out when under full construction? The intent is one at a time.

Compensatory Storage Area: That's upstream of Hillcrest Lake? Would that affect the frequency of flooding? Hillcrest Lake is part of the tributary to McDonald Creek. The Compensatory Storage Area is located upstream. McDonald Creek backflows into tributaries. Downstream just has fill.

Mr. Kupchak: Increasing the culvert size? The culverts themselves would not have an impact on the watershed and where the water is flowing from. The culvert is for hydraulics and to maintain flood elevations.

The flow is upstream to the compensatory storage area and should not create issues with flooding by that area.

Dredging the Lake. Will water flow into the Slough and Lake because of the Arlington Countryside Project? No, the Project is pumping water through the sewer system. Same water going to the same place. The Project is an emergency sump pump. Only kicks on when that area is inundated with water. Pump water into the IDOT storm system. Camp McDonald tributary is right there. Only making it automated for flooding moments. Same water, same direction, and just below that area. Water will rise and touch the pump. Most of the overflow will be to Lake Arlington. Water will pond through the church area but we're giving it more space. We will never have enough compensatory storage. The Lake evens itself out.

We're still going to have flooding. We want to keep the road open.

Next Meetings: The next City Council Regular Hybrid Meetings are scheduled for May 8 and May 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of April 25, 2023

Announcement: Dino Squiers, Superintendent of Facilities and Parks, will retire after 20 years' service at the end of July. The position of Superintendent of Facilities and Parks will be posted next month with interviewing for the position to begin in June. Christina reported that the new Superintendent will be on the job in July to review policies, procedures, and day-to-day with Dino.

Special Board Meeting: The PHPD Board of Directors held a Special Board Meeting on April 11, 2023 to discuss future planning. The meeting was facilitated by Jan Peterson Hincapie.

The discussion included how staff and board listened to residents, a plan was created accordingly, and funding was sought via referendum. The request was denied with 44% of the votes.

The Rec Center is beyond its useful life. The pool is also reaching the end of its useful life. The park district's mission is to provide programs, facilities and other amenities for all ages, abilities, and interests. Staff share resources with other taxing entities to provide community events and services. Staff adjusts services based upon budget to make it the best for the residents.

With tax caps and other limitations, the Park District seeks to maintain these appropriately sized facilities and programs while trends are changing. This is a challenging situation. The Park District wishes to provide what residents requested: a walking track, modern facilities, a larger gym, and more efficient space.

The Park District needs to evaluate its responsibilities: recreation center, swimming pool, 14 park sites, a golf course, bike path, etc. With the failed referendum, replacing the swimming pool with a modern pool is not an option. If the pool is closed, a spray park or splash pad may be an alternative.

The Park District's budget cannot continue to repair a facility at the end of its life with a replacement roof, mechanicals, and HVAC. Certain changes were discussed for the future, such as using different verbiage: "in district" versus "resident." Explore a new referendum is an option. The scope of the project would change – eliminate the tennis courts? Eliminate the swimming pool? Add the splash pad? Move the Rec Center to the admin building site?

Christina Ferraro will create a potential referendum timeline for the next Board Meeting.

Bike Path: Currently, the Bike Path and Park rules indicate motorized vehicles are not permitted except for compliance with ADA, which includes electric bikes, electric scooters, and motorized skateboards because they are motor driven. Also, dogs must be leashed and proper clean-up by owners required. The Park District continues to receive complaints from residents whose yards back up to the bike path. Residents are reporting both motorized vehicles and unleashed dogs.

Proposal: Posted signage on the Bike Path:

- *All bicyclists, joggers, walkers, wheelchairs, and skaters welcome*
- *Dogs must be leashed & proper clean-up by owners required*
- *Motorized vehicles are not permitted except for compliance with ADA*
- *No alcoholic beverages, firearms, or drones*
- *Cyclists should not travel at excessive speeds*
- *Helmets and eye protection are highly encouraged*
- *Keep to the right, except when passing*
- *Communicate intent to pass in advance 'passing on the left'*
- *Yield to other users and traffic at intersections*
- *Stay in your own lane and on paved path only*
- *Respect nature, wildlife and private property*
- *Place all litter in its proper receptacle*
- *Keep headphone volume low*
- *Use path at your own risk*

Find Prospect Heights Park District ordinances, violations and fines at www.phparks.org or call (847) 394 – 2848. Call 911 to report emergencies

Tully Park (City IGA): City has taken ownership of 214 Wheeling Road. The city is working to obtain demolition permits to utilize in June. Restoration will follow. Everything is now up to the city.

Art Walk: The Art Walk returned to Izaak Walton Park on April 22, 2023 and will be conducted this spring and summer. This year's theme is "Birds of a Feather." Sculpture, objects, assemblies, paintings, or drawings are welcome. The use of recycled materials and found objects is encouraged.

Next Meeting: The Prospect Heights Park District Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Hts., IL.

Announcements to the Public

John is cleaning up tons of trash at the Slough, mostly plastic. John would like to persuade the general public not to purchase laundry detergent in large plastic containers. You can purchase sheets of detergent that are quality, get the job done, and are biodegradable. Shampoos and conditioners may be purchased in bar form. Comes in sealed boxes and no plastic bottles. Making these changes decreases usage of plastic. The price in the store is average.

Dana requested John to send the links to these products.

Visitors' Comments

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Central Time in City Hall Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary