

Date: December 10, 2019  
To: Property Owners along Sugar Creek  
From: City of West Des Moines  
RE: Sugar Creek Stream Corridor Improvements (Phase 1)

Dear Property Owner:

Significant bank erosion and channel degradation have occurred along Sugar Creek. With the increase in development upstream and in this area, these banks will continue to erode and ultimately impact both public and private infrastructure. A few photos of existing conditions along Sugar Creek are attached. A stream corridor improvement project is planned for Sugar Creek between Stagecoach Drive and Booneville Road (Phase 1). Project goals are to a) improve public safety, b) improve water quality, c) improve stream ecological functions, and d) protect infrastructure such as sanitary sewers, storm pipes, future trail and adjacent private property. This project is a result of efforts by multiple partners including funding by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (State Revolving Fund / Sponsored Project Program), with the support of the Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority (WRA) and the City of West Des Moines (WDM).

The disturbed area will be entirely within greenway property owned by the City of West Des Moines, and a portion of an outlot (Outlot BB) in the Michael's Landing/Woodland Hills development (near Booneville Road).

Improvements will include:

- Shaping stream banks to milder, stable slopes. Many banks are over 15-foot tall with near-vertical conditions. This will require significant excavation in several areas and removal of trees within the grading areas.
- Installing rock to protect the toe of the bank from further erosion, and to stabilize the channel bottom. Some of the existing rock will be modified to create more stable and safer conditions.
- Establishing native vegetation along slopes with deep roots to reduce erosion and enhance water quality benefits.
- Planting of new native trees where feasible along the upper portions of the stream corridor.



*Example of unsafe tall banks affected by accelerated bank erosion that continues to create unstable conditions and drop trees. The project plans to shape milder slopes to make riparian areas safer and more stable.*



The project schedule would include bidding in January 2020 with a notice to proceed issued to a contractor in February or March. Construction would begin in early spring with substantial completion by the end of 2020. Final completion to accommodate the site seeding and restoration is anticipated to be in the Spring of 2021.

The stream and greenway improvements will also accommodate a trail that will be constructed by the City of West Des Moines as a separate project. Construction of the trail and two associated pedestrian bridges is anticipated to begin in Spring of 2021. The trail project will include multiple trail spurs connecting adjacent residential neighborhoods as well as connecting to Woodland Hills Park located east of the planned greenway trail. At full completion, the Sugar Creek Greenway Trail would consist of a four-mile trail from the Raccoon River north to the WDM city limits at I-80, with an ultimate connection to the City of Waukee.

Additional information on the Sugar Creek Stream Corridor Improvements (Phase 1) can be obtained by visiting the City's construction webpage at [www.wdm.iowa.gov/constructionupdates](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/constructionupdates) and clicking on "List View of Parks & Rec Projects" or by contacting one of the staff representatives listed below. Please provide any comments, questions or concerns you may have by 12/31/19.

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