



THE CITY OF
West Des Moines®
www.wdm.iowa.gov

Parks and Recreation

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Date: March 3, 2020
To: Property Owners along Sugar Creek
From: City of West Des Moines
RE: Sugar Creek Stream Corridor Improvements (Phase 1)

Dear Property Owner:

We're following up with another update regarding the above noted project (initial introduction letter sent to adjacent property owners on 12/18/19). The WRA (Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority) has bid the grading and bank stabilization project and awarded the contract to RW Excavating Solutions from Prairie City, Iowa. Both the construction limits and grading limits have been staked. The construction limit line is essentially the property line between the greenway owned by the City of West Des Moines and each private property. The streambank grading will occur within the grading limits, but the contractor has access out to the construction limit line (property line) for equipment access and passage. The contractor has been instructed to keep a minimal distance from the property line as to not damage any private property, but in some cases the access width is narrow. In the narrowest areas, temporary construction fencing will be placed as additional protection.

As a reminder, the improvements will include the following between Booneville Road and Stagecoach Dr.:

- Shaping stream banks to milder, stable slopes. Many banks are over 15-foot tall with near-vertical conditions (see photo). 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.

Generally, the contractor plans to work from the north end (Stagecoach Dr.) and move south toward Booneville Road. The tentative project schedule includes:

March – Contractor mobilization, install construction fencing, and removal of trees within grading limits.

April – Underground storm sewer adjustments along entire project, grading and rock placement activities begin on north end.

May through August - Grading and rock placement activities along creek channel, followed up with permanent and/or temporary seeding.

September – Tree plantings and substantial completion

Please note this is a tentative schedule submitted by contractor and is subject to change depending upon weather conditions and other unforeseen situations. Also due to time of the year, some sections of native seeding may need to be delayed to the following 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. That project is currently under design and anticipated to begin later in Fall after the WRA project is substantially complete. The project will include a trail along the west side of the creek between Stagecoach and Booneville Road, as well as a pedestrian bridge crossing over the creek connecting the trail to Woodland Hills Park located at 1230 S. 95th Street. In addition, the trail project will join multiple trail spurs connecting adjacent residential neighborhoods. 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 and clicking on "List View of Parks & Rec Projects", or by contacting one of the staff representatives listed below.

Sincerely,

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