



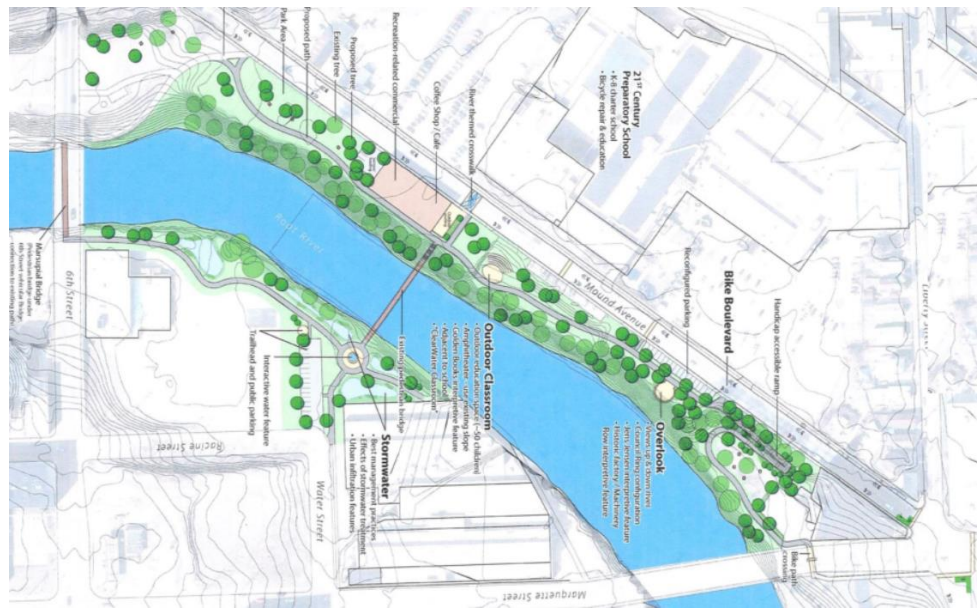
City of Racine, Wisconsin
AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE:	August 7, 2017
SUBJECT:	Item # 733-17 West Bluff Streambank Stabilization project
PREPARED BY:	Amy Connolly, Director of City Development Kathryn Kasper, Purchasing Agent

SUMMARY:
 The results of Official Notice #11-2017 - Request for Proposals for Engineering Services for the West Bluff Streambank Stabilization resulted in one response received from Smith Group JJR of Madison, WI. Permission to authorize Racine County Economic Development Corporation (RCEDC), who is the recipient of the Fund for Lake Michigan Grant that will pay for the majority of the project, to negotiate and contract with SmithGroup JJR for the provision of Engineering Services for this portion of the project.

PROJECT BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:
 The Root River West Bluff Overlook project was conceived as part of the Rootworks Planning efforts, dating back to 2010. The project is designed to improve the public areas adjacent to the Root River and work towards creating a walking/bike path/river walk area along the Root River in a loop between Lake Michigan and the 6th Street Bridge.

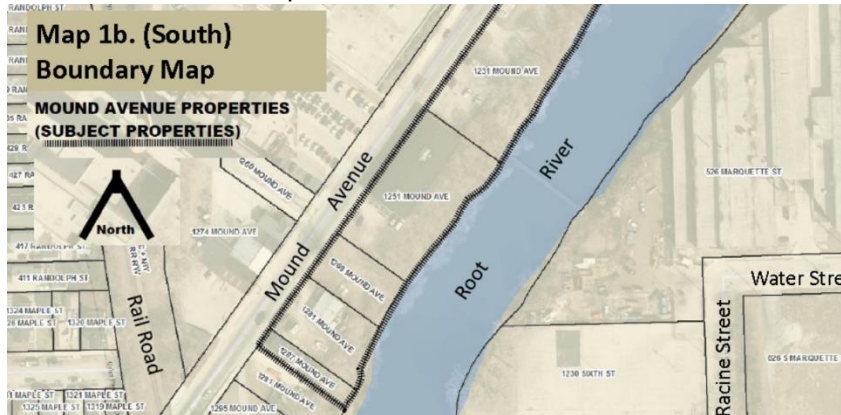
In the West Bluff area, a bike path, overlook, and outdoor classroom was conceptually designed a part of the Rootworks Plan, as well as plans to improve the banks of the root river to properly stabilize the banks, plant attractive landscaping, and prevent further erosion.



In 2015, the Racine County Economic Development Corporation applied for and received a grant from the Fund for Lake Michigan of \$95,000 to conduct one phase of a streambank stabilization, in one

area of the West Bluff. The City is not required to provide a match for the project, but initially budgeted approximately \$20,000 as a project match for the project.

The project has stalled for a time while the City obtained properties and demolished structures. Those properties were obtained and structures demolished this spring. Now, the City and RCEDC are ready to move forward with the first phase of streambank stabilization that will begin to prepare the West bluff for further redevelopment.



The area covered by this project is the west bank of the Root River, roughly between 1287 Mound Avenue and the Recreation storage building. Future West Bluff Stabilization projects would move north along the Root River toward the Yacht Club property.

The City, collaborating with RCEDC, issued a RFP for the work to be provided under the Fund For Lake Michigan Grant in May and received one proposal from SmithGroup, JJR. The response was read and evaluated by Rachana Kothari of RCEDC, Kathy Kasper, City's Purchasing Agent, and Amy Connolly, Director of City Development. This team believes the sole response more than adequately covered the specifications as outlined and that SmithGroup JJR would do an excellent job in this capacity.

Phase One of the project is covered by the proposal received from SmithGroup JJR. This proposal outlines the cost for this project to be **\$114,700** with RCEDC/Fund for Lake Michigan grant bearing the majority of costs (**\$95,000**). As part of the negotiation/evaluation of the project, RCEDC is working to reduce the total of the contract to City's contribution/match **\$5,000** or below. There is a need to conduct soil borings to assist in project implementation that might cause the City's costs to exceed \$5,000. Soil boring costs could possibly be considered as environmental studies and therefore be eligible to be funded by brownfield investigation grants. City staff will continue to investigate these optional funding sources

Phase Two of this project, which would be completing the stream bank stabilization from this southerly area and moving north along the river bank to the just south of the Yacht Club property is estimated to cost approximately \$500,000. Phase One deliverables will include specifications for this phase, the City and RCEDC will continue to apply for grants to assist the City in paying for this important work.

Approximately \$160,000 was budgeted in the 2017 Capital budget for West Bluff Demolition and West Bluff Construction plans. Another \$750,000 is planned for 2018-2020 for implementation of full West Bluff plans. The Capital Budget anticipated using the Intergovernmental Shared Revenue Fund for these expenses. Total cost estimates for the entire West Bluff Overlook project, including stream bank stabilization, bike and walking paths, property acquisition, and infrastructure improvements is approximately \$4.0M.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the Common Council authorize RCEDC to negotiate and contract with SmithGroup JJR for the provision of Engineering Services for a West Bluff Streambank Stabilization project.

FISCAL NOTE:

The City's share of the costs are estimated to be \$5,000, but not to exceed \$20,000, with \$95,000 of the project coming from a grant from the Fund for Lake Michigan via RCEDC. There are funds available in the 2017 Intergovernmental Revenue Sharing Budget #45260 57110 Land Improvements for the City's share. The balance in this account exceeds \$1.6 million.