



May 20, 2022

Subject: Engagement Opportunity - Revised 50% plans
DeCola Ponds SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project
City Project 20-27; BCWMC CIP Project BC-2,3,8,10

Dear Resident:

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) and the City of Golden Valley are working to finalize plans for the SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project in Golden Valley (see attached location map). This project serves to benefit the areas around DeCola Ponds D, E, and F by reducing flood levels and flood damages to nearby homes and infrastructure, improving public health and safety, reducing public liability and cost, and preserving economic value.

The project also provides a unique opportunity to invest in a neighborhood park and open space by improving water quality, increasing ecological diversity, enhancing wildlife habitat for pollinators like bees and butterflies, and creating educational and recreational opportunities.

We appreciate all the comments, ideas, and feedback you provided during the planning study, engineering study, and design process to help guide the project team in developing the plans. As we head towards a 90% design, we wanted to give you a quick project update.

What's Been Done?

- Started final design and stakeholder engagement fall 2021
- Engaged with Open Space and Recreation and Environmental Commissions in January 2021
- Presented 50% plans and hosted a virtual engagement opportunity for residents in January and a live chat session on February 3, 2022
- Met with stakeholders including Robbinsdale School District and SEA School representatives

What's New?

- Since the virtual engagement February 3, 2022, the project team has continued to work on the design and meet with stakeholders.
- New information has emerged in meetings with Robbinsdale School District representatives. The school district has plans to invest in the SEA School building and site over the next few years. This investment includes working cooperatively with the City to

construct a new playground on school district property. As part of this partnership, the district would design and construct a new playground that will serve the school, the neighborhood, and all community residents – just like the current playground. As a reminder, the current playground at Wildwood Park was constructed in close partnership with the school in 2014. It is located on City property next to the school and serves as the school's primary playground.

- The new proposed playground area would be located next to the school's athletic field, connecting to Wildwood Park with ADA accessible trails. See attached plan for more information.
- Shifting the playground area allows the school's bus exit (north driveway) to remain in its current location, while continuing to meet project goals by providing the storage necessary to lower flood levels and flood risk for homes around DeCola Ponds D, E, and F, and preserving the most valued features of the park and school properties.
- By avoiding the school's north driveway and the associated grading, utility, and landscape work, the project limits can be reduced, resulting in less impact and disruption to the school site and operations.
- The existing play structures at Wildwood can be reused at a park to be determined.

What's Next?

- We want to share the latest plans with you and engage online and in person.
 - **In person**
Informal Open House
Wednesday, June 1, 2022. Come anytime between 5 pm and 7:30 pm
Brookview Golden Valley, 316 Brookview Pkwy S
Wirth Lake Room
 - **Online**
On the City's project webpage you will find the project boards and plans for your review, along with a button for providing comments. Go to <https://bit.ly/3FJpv0s> or type "SEA School–Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project" in the search bar on the City website. Please provide comments by June 10. All comments will be reviewed and considered during the design process.
- If supported, the City and school district staff would begin working on the details and timing of the new playground installation (tentatively scheduled for summer 2023).
- Update the design to incorporate restoration, landscaping, natural resource education and potential outdoor classroom space and nature play areas.
- Share the 90% design plans with you later this summer.
- Work with the school district to engage with students and the community on the playground design.

If you would like this information translated into another language, do not have a computer or mobile device, or prefer to receive materials and submit comments by mail, please call 763-593-8030 for assistance. If you have any questions about the design process, the partnership with

Robbinsdale Area Schools, or the DeCola Ponds long-term flood mitigation plan please contact me at eeckman@goldenvalleymn.gov or BCWMC Administrator Laura Jester at laura.jester@keystonewaters.com to set up a phone call.

Sincerely,



Eric Eckman
Environmental Resources Supervisor



