

Public Information Meeting

May 25, 2023



North Bluff Revetment and Stabilization

Project Description

The City of Oak Creek is contracting to stabilize the eroded bluff and construct a traditional two-ton stone diameter revetment at the bluff toe to mitigate wave induced erosion. This project will restore stability to the eroding bluff face and secure environmentally impacted soil from further sloughing off into Lake Michigan. The proposed project area extends from the Milwaukee Metro Sewerage District (MMSD) South Shore Wastewater Treatment plant at the north end to the Water Utility Raw Water Intake Facility to the south.

Project Purpose

Due to a combination of recent high-water levels, groundwater and surface water runoff, and sand starvation from the MMSD north of the property, the shoreline at the project site is experiencing severe erosion. The bluff face is unstable, and at some areas nearly vertical. The bluff is at a high risk for failure and therefore discharge of potentially impacted soils into Lake Michigan from previous industrial uses. A shoreline protection system is necessary to protect the upland area from erosion in efforts to also protect the lake from potential impacts.

Project Goals

- The City is required by WDNR to environmentally cap the site and provide protection from wave action to maintain the integrity of the environmental cap and prevent legacy industrial materials from eroding into Lake Michigan.
- Create new native habitat for birds and pollinators by vegetating the stabilized bluff face with native grasses and flowers known to support pollinators and other beneficial species.
- Create new public access to the shoreline from the top of the bluff, including ADA accessible walking paths from top of bluff to the shoreline.
- Eventually, provide a public promenade along the shoreline with access to the water and sitting areas to fish and/or view the lake.

Project Schedule

- June 2023 – Begin construction of revetment (large armor stone).
- August 2023 – Begin bluff stabilization (filling in behind revetment).
- Winter 2023/2024 – Complete the construction of the revetment.
- Spring 2024 – Complete the bluff stabilization and install native plantings.