

Public Information Meeting

May 25, 2023



North Bluff Park Plan

Project Description

The City of Oak Creek has contracted with a consulting firm, Edgewater Resources, to develop a plan for creating a park along the North Bluff that would provide public recreational space. This plan will build on the new area created by construction of the revetment and bluff stabilization that will be completed in early 2024. The initial plan options were developed over the past year through community outreach (public meetings, National Night Out), design charette (brain storming), concept development (4 different concepts presented) and finally a consensus plan. The consensus plan was approved by Plan Commission on May 10th and Common Council on May 16th.

Project Purpose

The North Bluff Park Plan is in response to the project that was being planned to stabilize the bluff. This plan will create a shoreline and blufftop “ribbon park” that will secure public access to this area of Lake Michigan shoreline for future generations. City of Oak Creek Officials recognized the chance for a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to transform the shoreline from unsightly former industrial brownfields, into a generational public park with newly created native habitat and greenspaces. This new park will include trails, sitting areas, and other amenities providing experiences and recreational opportunities. The long-term plan includes a goal to connect the park to the south (Bender and Lake Vista) via new shoreline paths. In all planning, a healthy environment, as well as newly created habitat for birds and pollinators will be incorporated.

Project Goals

- Connectivity – Create one large continuous lake front experience and park network by connecting the North Bluff and Lake Vista Park.
- Accessibility – Provide everyone in the community with a way to experience the views, native landscapes, and Lake Michigan, regardless of their physical ability.
- Maintenance & Cost – Construct a park in a way that requires less upkeep and reduces the cost of maintenance, as well as allowing the plan to be implemented in independent phases.

Project Schedule

- 2023/2024 – Complete the design phase and apply for available funding through grants.
- 2025 – 1st phase of park: park entrance, natural gardens, nature play areas, and top of bluff path and improvements.
- 2026 to 2030 – Implementation of remaining phases (sequence depending on need and funding opportunities).