From:	Anne Steinberg
To:	DNR ESTABROOK
Subject:	Comments on DNR DEIS for Estabrook Dam, Milwaukee Co.
Date:	Saturday, April 02, 2016 3:44:50 PM

I am writing to support removal of the Estabrook Dam. The DNR's Draft Environmental Impact Statement should include that option and not only the option of rebuilding the dam.

I support a free flowing natural river like the Milwaukee River is a bit further downstream where the North Avenue Dam was removed.

I've lived near that section of the Milwaukee River for 26 years and have watched the vast improvement since the dam was removed. The water quality is better with more species of fish, birds and other wildlife in and near the river. The old floodplain now includes developed and well-used multi-used trails. With the leadership of the Urban Ecology Center, the River Revitalization Foundation and other groups, many volunteers have helped to turn the old mud flats into well-enjoyed areas. I believe water quality will also be better when the Estabrook Dam is removed.

In addition, I am a paddler and enjoy taking my canoe or kayak out on the Milwaukee River. I prefer a free flowing river with natural looking banks and not an artificial impoundment. I don't like the river is a good place for motor boats and don't find them compatible with non-motorized paddlers (in the river or with an impoundment). I believe there are many more paddlers who use the Milwaukee River -- and the impoundment only benefits a few nearby homeowners with motor boats. I understand that at times during the summer and fall the water levels can get low in the Milwaukee River, but that is the natural process and people can adapt to that.

Another reason to remove the dam is that it increases the possibility of flooding for homeowners above the dam. Many of them also prefer the removal of the dam.

And lastly, this is a time of reduced resources for our state and local governments. Removing the dam is the least expensive option. I prefer the money being used elsewhere in the park system where it can benefit more people than the 80 or so homeowners who want a private impoundment.

Sincerely,

Anne Steinberg
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