From: Katherine Tarnowski
To: DNR ESTABROOK
Subject: REPAIR THE ESTABROOK DAM
Date: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 4:59:40 PM

I live on the Milwaukee River and have enjoyed the river for recreation and renewal. My husband and I specifically moved to our current home back in 2003 because of the recreational opportunities the Milwaukee River provided. I am very disappointed that the question of the Estabrook Dam is still unresolved but am encouraged to hear most recently that Milwaukee County will be moving forward with the repair/restoration of the dam.

I am in favor of repair of the dam because I feel that the Lincoln Park impoundment and the river directly north of it have in the past provided so many varied opportunities for recreation to so many **diverse** populations in the area. I know that my family is very fortunate to be living where we are (but believe me, we paid to be there!), and we HAVE taken advantage of what the Milwaukee River has to offer its community. When the dam was operational, we spent almost every day of our summers (my husband and I are both school teachers) down by the river doing something--often times it was just sitting and enjoying the little paradise in our backyard. We wanted to share this feeling with all our family and friends, and we did so every chance we got. We especially loved the social aspect of hanging out down there as we watched and visited with all the people who would paddle by (downstream AND upstream) in kayaks or canoes or pontoon boats. It was not uncommon to see entire groups of people (clubs) making a trip down the river (like the Boy Scouts, or some summer school programs). We would even see the "amphibious car" float by once or twice each summer. Smiles and warm greetings would abound.

We have waterskied, canoed, fished, swam, and just nature watched, sometimes in disbelief of how lucky we are to be living by such a wonderful location. We have not waterskied or used our pontoon boat for 7 years on the river; we have tried canoeing only a handful of times (maybe once a year) in 7 years because it is no fun to canoe when the river is either too fast or too low (when the water is high enough, you don't have to paddle going downstream, but you can't paddle upstream because it is too fast; when the river is too low you have to try to avoid the areas you can get stuck on the bottom while avoiding the rapids that result in some spots, and you still can't paddle upstream). I look forward to being able to again share the treasure Milwaukee County has in the Milwaukee River and the Lincoln Park impoundment

with new friends and family as well as old. I hope that so many more people who have never paid attention to this beautiful stretch of nature will take the opportunity to experience it themselves when it is restored.

I am also in favor of a partial winter drawdown for safety reasons and fully automated gates, eliminating the need to hire an individual to watch the weather and gage the flow of the river. We have often ice skated on the Milwaukee River in our back yard in the winter, but I must admit that I would be more hesitant to do so if there is no drawdown at all in the winter--the river is about 2.5-3 feet high right off our pier when the impoundment is filled, and when you go across the river from our house it can get to over 10 feet deep.

In short, this is a great resource for such an urban area. Please follow the order to repair! And thanks!

Sincerely,
Katy Tarnowski
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