From: lee -- bunny
To: DNR ESTABROOK
Subject: Estabrook Dam
Date: Thursday, March 31, 2016 1:26:21 PM

I have been a resident of Glendale for 43 years and live within 2 blocks of the Milwaukee River. In that time, I have experienced two floods in my area. I have enjoyed the river while on walks and as I cross the bridge on Silver Spring Drive. I have also noticed a decline in river traffic over the past 43 years--fewer canoes, piers, and such. The dam is open and the level and flow of the river are a joy to observe and, especially, to see the changes that occur with the seasons. I note the fishing for salmon in spring and have watched the salmon scale the waterfall in Kletzsch Park. It is a wonderful natural resource in this area.

I wonder, in the heat of whether to replace the dam or not replace the dam, anyone has ever looked at current patterns of recreation on or near the river. Times change; foci change. Are we still viewing the river as we had fifty years ago? (I'm told of pontoon boats carrying evening party goers, of water-skiing, of motor boating.) Or should we be reflecting the current view of natural beauty and an environmentally appropriate stewardship of this natural resource?

I am vehemently opposed to the the reconstruction of the Estabrook Dam. The gates are currently open. Since the gates have been open, there seems to be a sufficient water level to fill the various outlets and ponds in Estabrook Park which have had their shore lines beautifully restored. To spend the amount proposed by the county government to repair the dam for the enjoyment of a few Milwaukee County residents is, in my mind, an incredible waste of money. I am aware that the Milwaukee County Board has approved a new dam; I am also aware that the County Board has, in the past, made some unwise choices re: the parking annex over the freeway, the O'Donnell Parking structure, the lack of maintenance of the Mitchell Domes. And now we are faced with a 5 million dollar project that will probably continue to tax the citizens of Milwaukee County far beyond my life span. I believe better use could be made of the money with upgrades to parks all over the county which would benefit a larger population than just a few Glendale residents.

I hope the DNR prevails in this issue. If not, I hope that an assessment for the expenditure is borne by those few who have raised loud, selfish voices to maintain a water level for their personal benefit.

Bernice A. Balicki