From: - -
To: DNR ESTABROOK
Subject: Repair the Estabrook Dam
Date: Sunday, April 03, 2016 9:21:33 PM

To Kristina Betzold, Department of Natural Resources,

I am in favor of repairing the dam or as a compromise, building a rock ramp.

I feel the state/county has an obligation to provide public nature experience and accessibility to the community. With the current condition of the river, quiet water recreation is becoming and will become unpassable for canoeists and kayakers and small fishing boats, especially at Lincoln Park. I think having open water (a lake) for part of the year provides many more recreational and nature based opportunities for Milwaukee city residents especially African American neighborhoods on the west border of the park. I am for quiet water recreation as is the Lincoln Park Friends.

We canoe and kayak and invite friends and the community to join us. With the dam, people of all abilities including novices were able to safely enjoy a paddle on the river. Currently, since the dam has been open, the river is not safe with fast current and in Lincoln Park when there is low water, not passable. I have seen youth groups have a very difficult time and capsizing with the fast current. Also, in the Lincoln Park area, people, especially novices cannot pass over shallow areas.

The area affected by the Estabrook Dam is an urban area that provides nature recreational opportunities for city residents many of whom do not have the means to travel to other nature areas. For that reason, the consideration of what is best for the river needs to include the nature and recreational needs of the community.

In addition, according to research done by David Holmes, an environmental scientist and urban revitalization consultant, the removal of the dam would not provide any more safety from flooding than having the dam repaired. Also, there is a possibility that removal of the dam does not significantly benefit the environment, and in fact may make the environment of the water worse. I suggest that there be a study with scientists that evaluate with current data and information the effects of the dam on flooding, cost and environmental effects as there are serious conflicting reports.

Thank you,

Diane Steigerwald

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