

Dam debris to be used for park walkway

Written by Steve Ostermann
Wednesday, 20 October 2010 18:33

Village Board OKs cost-saving plan that will create slope to Lime Kiln Park lagoon from demolition rubble

The razing of a dam in Grafton may soon give local residents easier access to a recreational area in Lime Kiln Park.

The Village Board on Monday unanimously agreed to have concrete, rocks and dirt from the demolition of the Lime Kiln Dam hauled to a former quarry that has a lagoon near the center of the park. Plans call for the rubble to be dumped in the 40-foot-deep quarry and used to create a 120-foot walking slope from the top to the bottom.

Village Engineer Dave Murphy presented the plan, which he said would reduce the razing cost and add usable land to the park, which is bordered by the Milwaukee River and Green Bay Road.

“We can add to the area to create a safe slope that can be used by people to reach the lagoon,” Murphy said.

The village is working with Ozaukee County to have the dam removed as part of a \$7.2 million Milwaukee River restoration project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other grant money.

The project has \$133,700 budgeted to raze the dam, which has been in disrepair for years. However, officials voiced concern about the actual cost after all three bids received for the work exceeded that amount, ranging from \$193,000 to \$852,000.

Since then, village and county crews have begun a collaborative effort that includes dewatering the dam to allow it to be more closely inspected. During the process, water in the dam basin will be lowered six inches per day for about three weeks.

In a report to the board, Murphy said depositing dam debris at the quarry site would be less expensive than hauling material to a county quarry north of Highway 33. Using the park would require only two trucks and drivers rather than five trucks for the county site, he noted.

Plans call for village crews to remove part of the fence that surrounds the quarry ledge, dump the fill over the edge and create a graded slope. Murphy said he would work with John Safstrom, the village’s parks and recreation director, to make sure the filled area is properly restored.

The dam is scheduled to be razed by the end of this year.