



CITY OF STOUGHTON

207 S. Forrest Street, Stoughton, WI. 53589

(608) 873-6677 www.ci.stoughton.wi.us

To: Caree Kovacevich, Senior Project Manager, Army Corp of Engineers

From: Dan Glynn, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Stoughton

Date: October 2, 2022

Re: Stoughton River Park Public Comment Response

Project History

The Yahara River Park project is the creation of a paddler's park in Stoughton by modifying the existing dam. This will create a south channel with three drop structures, one drop structure downstream of Fourth Street, and an adjustable wave feature for river surfing and whitewater paddling. The south channel is designed to be usable by paddlers of all skill levels and will create navigability for paddlers in the river that currently does not exist. The south channel will connect the two sections of river which will allow fish passage. The adjustable wave feature allows the City to control the shape of the wave. Each paddling sport has a preferred wave shape and the adjustability will allow the City to control this. The final feature is the inclusion of a pneumatic gate upstream of the adjustable wave. It was a long arduous process to get to this point which is highlighted below.

The Yahara River Park project started in 2017 when a community member visited a paddler's park in Iowa and shared the idea of having one in Stoughton with the City. The community member knew that it was a goal of the City's to improve recreational use of the river and saw how it transformed the community in Iowa. City staff from the Parks & Recreation Department started vetting the idea of having a paddler's park in Stoughton. The vetting process included talking with senior Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff, talking to leaders from communities who have a paddler's park, talking to several engineering consulting firms that build paddler's parks, and talking to river restoration consultants. The process also included looking at recreational trends at the regional, state, and national levels, construction and operational costs, and economic benefits. The data overwhelmingly supported moving forward with the project. At this point, the City funded a conceptual plan design and selected Recreation Engineering and Planning (REP) from Boulder, CO. REP was selected due to their experience and expertise. REP has been involved in some of the most successful parks in the country including Argo

Cascades in Ann Arbor, MI, Salida Whitewater Park in Salida, CO, and the Truckee River Whitewater Park in Reno, NV.

The conceptual plan was developed from February 2018 to April 2018. REP presented two options to City staff on how the design could be approached: with the Fourth Street Dam and without the Fourth Street Dam. City staff decided at that time to move forward with a design with the Fourth Street Dam. The reasoning behind the decision is that it would need to be a non-staff decision to have a design without the dam. The conceptual plan stage culminated in a public presentation at the Stoughton Opera House in April 2018. 200 to 250 people attended the public presentation which was well received. Interest around the project continued to build. City staff was interviewed by Channel 3 news and the Wisconsin State Journal wrote an article that was on its front page. A steering committee for the project was formed over the course of the summer and started meeting in September 2018. The steering committee was tasked with providing support, guidance, and oversight of the process. This includes reviewing plans and technical data from professionals to make recommendations to the Parks & Rec committee and City Council.

Over the next few months the steering committee hosted experts to gain as much information as they could. These included a dam safety engineer from the WDNR, an engineer from Dane County Land & Water Resources Department, Executive Director of the Wisconsin River Alliance, City of Janesville's Public Works Director, and City of West Bend's Director of Planning. They shared information ranging from dam natural resource impacts, river restoration, dam safety issues, managing water levels on the Yahara Chain of Lakes, and the dam removal process. This information coupled with the near drowning of a paddler at the Fourth Street Dam in August 2018, made it clear to steering committee members that the best choice was to move forward with a design without the dam. The steering committee unanimously voted to recommend to the City's Parks & Recreation Committee to move forward with a dam removal design and the City's Parks & Recreation Committee also voted unanimously to move forward with a dam removal design.

As REP started with a dam removal design, the WDNR was unsure if a design for the project would be permitted as a dam removal due to the state's definition of a dam. They gave REP guidance on what would qualify as a dam removal. REP presented two design options at the July 15, 2019 Steering Committee Meeting. The first design option would likely qualify as a dam removal and subsequent WDNR's Municipal Dam Program grant funds (\$400,000). This design option included smaller riffles instead of drop structures and wouldn't create a head. The result would likely be a significant loss of upstream water surface elevations. The other design option was to create a south novice channel and an adjustable wave where the Fourth Street Dam currently is. This design would provide better recreational benefit and be less impactful to upstream water surface elevations, but it would be less likely to qualify for the WDNR's Municipal Dam Program grant. Again, the steering committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Parks & Recreation Committee to move forward with the design with the adjustable wave and south novice channel. The Parks & Recreation Committee also unanimously approved moving forward with the adjustable wave and south novice channel.

The preliminary design progressed and a public meeting was held in the Performing Arts Center at Stoughton High School. The design was presented along with the preliminary hydraulic analysis. Roughly 150 people attended and attendees were asked to write down their comments and questions. Letters were sent out to riparian property owners in the City leading up to the public meeting and they had the

option to attend two separate meetings with City staff to discuss the project. 16 riparian property owners attended the two meetings with two property owners opposing the project. The City then started to hear concerns of riparian property owners upstream in the Town of Pleasant Springs. The City met privately to discuss their concerns which included water surface elevations impacts at the reach of the river north of County Road B. Other concerns identified would be water quality and wildlife impacts. City staff agreed to present the project and take questions at a special Town of Pleasant Springs meeting on March 23, 2020.

The City made a concerted effort to address these concerns. The City refined the hydraulic modeling by surveying six cross sections of the river upstream of the Cooper's Causeway railroad bridge during three different flows. The surveyed cross-sections were located at river locations publicly accessible by land (not requiring watercraft or crossing private property). The Steering Committee also invited the WDNR's Area Wildlife Supervisor and Emily Stanley from the University of Wisconsin's Limnology Department to speak to wildlife impacts and water quality impacts. The Steering Committee also had guests from communities in Iowa to discuss fishing and safety at their parks. Additionally, the City posted responses to questions and concerns on the project's website.

During this time the City applied for the WDNR's Municipal Flood Control Grant Program. The City was successful in its grant application and was placed on the priority funding list for the grant program. However, WDNR staff was still unsure of the eligibility due to the design creating a head. After they reviewed the plans, they made a determination that the design at the time would be considered a dam and would be classified as a dam modification. A presentation at a Committee of the Whole meeting (entire City Council and open to the public) was given which detailed the progress to-date, the updated hydraulic analysis, and the determination that the design was not eligible for WDNR's Municipal Dam Program grant. City Council voted 11-1 on November 9, 2021 to move forward with the final design and to forego the grant funding.

While this has been going on there has been a concerted effort amongst some of the opponents of the project to spread mistruths. This included a petition that was posted online that had inaccurate costs, inaccurate information about flood protection, contamination, and misrepresented photos of what the river would look like.

The City has been preparing for permitting and refining the design over the past 10 months. During this time, the Town of Pleasant Springs hired Emmons & Olivier Resources (EOR) to look at our design and hydraulic modeling. The City shared the information they requested and paid for REP to meet with EOR. Steve Gaffield from EOR commented during the meeting that there should be coordination between the township and county about weed harvesting during low flows since the aquatic vegetation plays a large role in water surface elevations. Mason Lacy also shared that they have looked at other possible ways to control water surface elevations, but they haven't found a solution that is operable and cost effective. The City requested a copy of the EOR report and was sent the report the day of their meeting. The report confirms REP's modeling, but it shows a worst case scenario which would normally only happen in the winter months when recreational use of the river is low.

Recently the design has been refined to include a pneumatic gate upstream of the adjustable wave. The gate would direct water through the south novice channel providing navigability during all flow conditions. Another benefit is that it should help lessen the water surface elevation impacts during low flows. The hydraulic modeling for the gate is currently being worked on. The City did not want to do

extensive modeling efforts until we had a coordination meeting with the WDNR to determine if it would be allowed. Once the final design is completed, we will submit it to the WDNR where they will approve the plan and issue a new water operating order based on the project. This does not require a public hearing, but we will have one to provide facts and assist in transparency.

Water Surface Elevations

There have been concerns with changes to upstream water surface elevations. To address these concerns, the City of Stoughton surveyed six different locations upstream of the Cooper's Causeway railroad bridge during three separate water flows to refine the modeling. The surveyed cross-sections were located at river locations publicly accessible by land (not requiring watercraft or crossing private property). The City then held a Committee of the Whole meeting on August 24, 2021 to present the updated hydraulic modeling. The hydraulic modeling presented included the existing conditions, with proposed project, and with a full dam removal. Under median flows of 380 CFS and with summer conditions (in-river aquatic plant growth), the HEC-RAS modeling shows -0.3 feet at the widening north of County Road B. The change in water surface elevations is less than a full dam removal project which the City had the opportunity to move forward with including grant funding that was secured. The video of the Committee of the Whole meeting and the water surface elevation water table can be found on the project's website – www.stoughtonrec.com/riverpark.

The hydraulic modeling changes with each design refinement. The latest changes to the design include a pneumatic gate upstream of the adjustable wave feature. This will send water through the south channel and provide navigability at all flows. The gate will also minimize water surface elevation impacts during low flows (250 cfs and below). We are currently working through the design and permitting process of adding the gate, and final hydraulic analysis of the upstream impacts have not been completed. Once the data is available, it will be made publicly available on the City's website.

Riparian Owner Piers

Any exposed shoreline areas would be owned by the riparian owner. This question was brought to our attention by a riparian owner in January 2021 and we reached out to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) staff. We were told that riparian owners would have the option to extend their piers, but would need to conform to the WDNR's pier planner guidance that can be found here - [link](#).

Migratory Birds

The project's steering committee hosted Andy Paulios, Area Wildlife Supervisor, WDNR, on June 15, 2020. He was asked about the wildlife in the Yahara River and its upper reaches if the river changed to a more riverine environment. He told the steering committee that the area is not considered an Important Bird Area (IBA) due to the surrounding wetlands and lakes, and size of the Yahara River. He said if there was a change to a riverine environment, it would not be considered good or bad. He also commented that the WDNR looks for impacts to rare and endangered species and that there are none in the Yahara River.

Recreational Uses

Recreational use in the Yahara River within the City of Stoughton is low and is limited by the current dam. The current dam creates poor water quality and blocks navigability. The need for river improvements for recreational use are highlighted in the City's Comprehensive Plan, Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Railroad Corridor Redevelopment Plan, and other plans that go back over 20 years. Many of these plans have extensive public input that assist in developing goals and objectives. An example of this is Goal 1.2.7 of the City's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The goal is promote water recreation throughout the community. An objective within this goal are to utilize riverfront parks, Riverside Park and Mandt Park in this case, for potential water based recreational improvements.

The project also aligns with national plans. The pandemic created a surge in new outdoor recreation participation. The Outdoor Industry Association developed a report titled 2021 Outdoor Industry Association New Outdoor Participant COVID and Beyond. The report looked at how to improve retention of new participants. The number one suggestion is to create more outdoor recreation opportunities close to home. The report specifically states creating paddle parks like this project as a suggested way to do this.

The University of Wisconsin – Madison developed a case study in 2018 that examined potential economic impacts of the project. The study stated that there were over 100,000 people who canoe or kayak within a 30 minute drive of the project location and 280,000 within a 60 minute drive time. The study suggests that annual visitation of whitewater parks across the country average 15,000 visits per year and that with continual site improvements combined with targeted marketing and solid word-of-mouth reviews, use is anticipated to grow in a like fashion to other comparable whitewater parks to attract increasingly large visitor numbers from farther reaches of its market boundaries.

Additionally, the project's steering committee has a member who has been an active participant in the annual Syttende Mai canoe race. He believes the canoe race will be enhanced with the project. Many communities with similar projects have festivals that are centered on river recreation. This includes the FIBArk Festival in Salida, CO and Reno River Festival in Reno, NV. The site could also be potentially used for smaller events like the ButterCup paddling events that are held in Wisconsin and Illinois.

Angling opportunities will only be enhanced with the project. There is very little fishing activity taking place in the millpond, even with site improvements like an accessible fishing pier. This is due to the dam creating poor water quality. Much of the fishing activity within Stoughton is done downstream of the dam. The project will connect the two segments of the river and fish downstream of the dam will be able to reach spawning areas upstream. Dan Oele, WDNR Fisheries Biologist, stated the following in an email to the City:

"From the conceptual drawings and what I've seen so far, the dam removal, and added pools should improve fish habitat on the whole but may experience fish species composition changes. For example, panfish and warmer water fish currently present below the dam might be replaced by cooler water fish that prefer moving water and depths like darters, walleyes, smallmouth bass (but I expect panfish to remain in the backwaters too). The free flowing river w dam removal will allow fish to move more freely and find those desired habitats."

It should be noted that the WDNR did not know how the project would be classified at the time of his comments, but the design is the same for all intents and purposes. His comments reflect what has happened in Charles City, IA where a similar project was completed.

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2016/05/12/charles-city-fishing-better-than-ever/84196644/>

We believe that duck hunting will be unaffected by the project. Duck hunters will still have access to their hunting grounds and can use the river. Much of the equipment used today by hunters like jon boats and mud motors will be unaffected by the changes in the Fourth street dam.

Property Values

Based on our research, we believe property values near the Fourth Street dam will be enhanced due to the project, however no research has been conducted further upstream on property values and we can not ascertain if any changes in property values will occur due to the distance from the river-based amenities. The aforementioned University of Wisconsin – Madison case study stated that non-market economic benefits within this region could involve hedonic premiums placed on real estate values due to the presence of river-based amenities. These increased property values will provide capital appreciation for owners of land in Stoughton. Additionally, due to the similar outcome (creation of a free flowing river) between the River Park project and a full dam removal, we believe there will be a similar outcome to property values. The University of Wisconsin-Madison published a paper that used hedonic analysis to examine the impact of small dam removal on property values in South-central Wisconsin. Some of the dam removals used in the paper were in Dane County. The paper states:

“If these properties retain their frontage, then the results indicate that at least in the long run (after the waterway gains the appearance of a “free-flowing” stream) there is no frontage-specific significant change in property price, except for the increase associated with the expansion of the lot size.”

The property owners in our case will retain their frontage.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5617ffade4b0f733b489eab8/t/5dfa2e33ba6ef66e21f7db37/1576676918459/stpap501.pdf>

DNR Water Level Operating Order

The River Park will cause a change in the capability of the dam to control water levels upstream and will necessitate updates to the water level order for the dam. The WDNR will examine any potential impacts of a possible new water order as part of their review process. While not required by state law, the City intends to have a public informational hearing, using standard WDNR protocol, to present the final design for the park, the hydraulic modeling based on the final design, and take questions.

Public Input to Date

The River Park project has been a high profile project since the conceptual plan was presented to the public back in April 18, 2018. The City has provided factual information and solicited public input from project inception and is ongoing. A webpage dedicated to the project was developed and maintained (www.stoughtonrec.com/riverpark), and as of September 22, 2022, there have been over 140 instances where the project has been discussed in public meetings, newspaper articles, TV interviews, etc.

A steering committee was formed during the summer of 2018. The steering committee members consists of paddling enthusiasts, fishing enthusiast, biking enthusiasts, staff from Dane County Parks, staff from the Madison Sport Commission, Stoughton Redevelopment Area members, local business owners, and Stoughton City Council. The steering committee meetings are open to the public and a public comment period was added to their meetings in March 2020 to solicit concerns. To address their concerns, the steering committee has hosted experts from the WDNR, University of Wisconsin – Madison Limnology Department, Wisconsin River Alliance, and other experts from Wisconsin and around the country that have undergone a project similar to the Yahara River Park project.

In addition to the steering committee meetings, the City has presented and taken questions at public meetings with the Town of Pleasant Springs (3/23/2020) and Town of Dunkirk (3/9/2021). Downstream of the Stoughton Dam is a lake district and we have presented the project twice at their public meetings (8/15/2018 and 1/20/2021). We have also met privately with township and City riparian owners.

As the design progressed and milestones were reached, a major public meeting ensued. These milestone meetings included:

April 18, 2018 – Conceptual Plan Presentation at the Stoughton Opera House (200-250 people attended)

January 29, 2020 – Preliminary Design Public Presentation at Stoughton High School (150 people attended)

February 4, 2021 – City Committee of the Whole Meeting Progress Update (virtual meeting due to pandemic)

August 24, 2021 – City Committee of the Whole Meeting Hydraulic Analysis (virtual meeting due to pandemic)

Petition

The City does not feel that the petition mentioned in the public comments is valid. The public has been misled and been provided false information to get signatures. Below are some bullet points that outline the **TRUE** information about the project,

- The Stoughton Dam does not provide flood protection.
- The Stoughton Dam does not prevent contamination issues. In fact, dams trap sediment which is sometimes contaminated. The contaminated sediment is from many sources, with some of the contamination is coming from the industrial sites upstream of the Yahara River and Chain of Lakes starting in Madison, which has slowly accumulated since the dam was built. The project addresses contamination build-up caused by the dam.

- The cost for the River Park is much less than \$7.6 million dollars. The cost estimate for the River Park is \$2.2 million. The City was tentatively awarded \$979,999 which will be finalized when the project is permitted. The City responsibility is roughly \$1.2 million.
- The photos misrepresent the river with the project. They come from when the dam was repaired in 2009. A coffer dam was erected around the dam and water was diverted entirely through the powerhouse. The engineer of record told the City it's not representative of what the river will look like with the project.

What Could Change This Picture?

Love Our River, Save the Dam!

Citizens for Solutions

What is the purpose of having the Stoughton Dam?

- Provides flood control and maintains constant water level for the 62 mile Yahara River
- Prevents major contamination issues
- Sustains wildlife, water fowl and animal habitat

What Can You Do?

Go to Website:
Citizens for Solutions at: www.savethedam.net

Sign the Petition to "Voice Opposition"

Voice Your Concern:
Email all City of Stoughton Council members at: council@ci.stoughton.wi.us. If you live in the City of Stoughton, call 608-873-6677 to learn who your alder(s) is in your district for specific contact info.

Thank you!
Citizens for Solutions

This is what the Yahara River Could Look Like if the Stoughton Dam is Removed & Whitewater Park Built:

The City of Stoughton Government wants:

- the remediation and/or removal of Stoughton Dam
- a Whitewater Park to be built downtown on the Yahara River

- Project could cost over \$7.6 million dollars
 - **how much will you be paying?**
- In the 2021 City of Stoughton budget, nearly \$300,000 of our tax dollars are being used for project studies
- The City has failed to secure 3 grants to help pay for this project
- In 2009 for the cost of \$520,000 the Stoughton Dam was repaired & is in good working order per the DNR, projected to last for 50 years
- Cost to maintain the Stoughton Dam - \$8000-\$9000 annually
- Current water levels are below the minimums the City expert recommends for this project

Millpond Contamination & River Restoration

Interfluve submitted and the WDNR approved a sediment sampling plan in 2019. The sediment was then collected and sent to a lab for testing. The results of the sampling can be found here:

https://stoughtonrec.com/s/StoughtonDam_SedimentAssessmentReport_Dec2019_combined-ray6.pdf

There was contamination found that will need to be remediated due to it exceeding WDNR standards for soils. The purpose of the remediation is to make it safe for humans including children. Strand

Associates recently submitted the NR 718 Soil Management Plan to the WDNR for approval which includes armoring the bank and capping the contamination.

Stoughton Dam Repair & Function

The Stoughton Dam's original purpose was to generate hydroelectric power to nearby industries. It was repaired in 2009 under the premise that it would generate hydroelectric power and it has not generated power since it was repaired due to it not being cost effective. The Stoughton Dam does not provide any flood protection. Additionally, the WDNR awarded the City \$225,000 in a Municipal Flood Control Grant because the proposed Yahara River Park project creates additional flood storage.

Emmons & Olivier Resources Study

The Town of Pleasant Springs hired Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) to review information on the River Park. EOR reviewed the design and hydraulic analysis completed by Recreation Engineering and Planning (REP) and summarized their review in a memo dated July 7, 2022. Their review concurred with the findings of REP's hydraulic analysis on the upstream water surface impacts of the project. Their review describes the design considerations and the extent to which the design team has minimized the lowering of the upstream water surface. The amount of drop depends on the amount of flow in the river, with a greater decrease at low flows. It also depends on the season, due to the hydraulic roughness of aquatic vegetation. At the river widening upstream of County Road B during the growing season (summer), the modeled water surface decreases are 0.1ft at 650 cfs to 0.6 ft at 150 cfs. In Figure 3 of their report, EOR shows the worst-case scenario that was modeled (150 cfs during winter conditions), on a cross-section with bathymetry from the FIS model (collected in 2012). EOR states that additional bathymetry would need to be collected to accurately map potential shoreline changes, yet they included potential shoreline change in Figure 3 for the worst-case scenario.

EOR's report does not take into account the addition of an adjustable pneumatic gate at the crest of the River Park. The gate will raise water levels upstream of the project during low flows (250 cfs and below). We are currently working through the design and permitting process of adding the gate, and final hydraulic analysis of the upstream impacts have not been completed. Preliminary hydraulic modeling shows the gate raising the water level 1.4ft in the mill pond just upstream of the Stoughton Dam at a flow of 250 cfs. The City of Stoughton and the design team are committed to reducing the impact of the project on water surface elevations upstream to the greatest extent possible, while still achieving the goals of the project, meeting floodplain requirements, and the Wisconsin DNR and US Army Corps permitting requirements.

Dane County Dredging Project

We met with John Reimer from Dane County early in the design stages for the River Park project. He communicated what their dredging project would entail and to direct any questions to their office. Since that meeting, we have been doing that since it is their request. The Yahara River Park project is its own separate project and needs to be judged based on its own objectives.

Duration of Construction and Water Draw Down

We expect the construction duration of the River Park to be less than 6 months. During construction of in-river portions of the project, the work area will need to be dewatered in phases, and water levels upstream of the project may fluctuate with construction activities. Drawdowns will be temporary and will be kept to the minimum as possible to facilitate construction. Construction is proposed to occur during the fall and winter months when there is less river recreation occurring.

Loss of Wetlands

It states in Exploring Dam Removal: A Decision-Making Guide that:

“When a dam is removed, wetlands created by the dam’s impoundment may be transformed as the impoundment is drawn down. In many cases this loss of wetlands is countered by the re-creation of wetlands associated with a restored riparian corridor.”

The City believes that the creation of a free flowing river will produce naturally occurring wetlands and provide better habitat than what is currently provided by the Stoughton Fourth Street Dam, thus benefitting many native plant species, native fish species, migratory songbirds, waterfowl, and other bird species associated with rivers (e.g., herons, osprey, eagles, plovers, etc.).

Historical Significance of the Stoughton Dam

The Wisconsin Historical Society reviewed the Stoughton Fourth Street Dam and it is not eligible for listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. This is due to the numerous alterations done to the dam over the years (see attached letter).

Water Quality & Blue-Green Algae

Blue-green algae only grows where stagnant water is present. The Yahara River Park will lower the water surface elevations, eliminate the millpond, its stagnant water, and add structures in the water to create riffles and waves. In other words, it will create an environment that is not conducive to blue-green algae blooms. The beaches in Yahara Chain of Lakes in Madison are situated in areas of the lake where there is stagnant water.

To address these concerns the steering committee invited Emily Stanley from the University of Wisconsin – Madison Limnology Department. Dr. Stanley is a world renowned expert on water quality. Dr. Stanley stated at the meeting that changing the situation from an impoundment to a riverine environment reduces the likelihood of algae blooms.

An opponent of the project contacted the Division of Public Health of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in 2021. They then forwarded the email to the WDNR where their concerns were

addressed by Gina LaLiberte, Statewide Harmful Algal Bloom Coordinator & Applied Limnologist. This is what she said in her reply:

“Again, I would like to reiterate that your photos **did not** depict blue-green algae accumulations and instead showed filamentous green algae and/or duckweed, neither of which are considered hazardous.

I would also caution you against assuming that conditions in the river at Stoughton are equivalent to the conditions you see in the lakes upstream. Planktonic blooms that form high-risk floating scums are more likely to occur on Lake Kegonsa when winds are calm, or if gentle winds push floating blue-green algae toward the downwind shore. Calm, stagnant conditions in the lake which are conducive to bloom growth and scum formation are very different from conditions in the river, where turbulence and flow prevent the accumulation of blue-green algae in high concentrations such as floating scums.”



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Ms. Sharon Mason-Boersma
243 E. McKinley Street
Stoughton, WI 53589

April 15, 2021

Dear Ms. Mason-Boersma:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the **4th Street Dam (also known as the Stoughton Dam)** located at **40200 Riverside Drive, in Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin**. The evaluation committee of the Division of Historic Preservation has had the opportunity to carefully review your questionnaire to evaluate potential for listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Based on available information, due to the numerous alterations to the dam including reconstruction in concrete, as well as new tainter gates, and new spillover door, the current dam does not retain its historic materials or appearance and therefore is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Eligibility is dependent on the structure retaining its historic construction (both materials and design). We understand this is disappointing news given your interest in preserving the dam; please know that our determination is based on the strict requirements of the National Register program.

Again, we would like to thank you for your inquiry and interest in our program. Given the limited amount of time I am in my office, if you have questions regarding the State Register or the National Register in Wisconsin, it is best to reach me by e-mail at peggy.veregin@wisconsinhistory.org

Sincerely,

Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

cc: owner. City of Stoughton c/o Daniel Glynn, 207 S. Forrest Street, Stoughton, WI 53589

Public Information & Meetings List – Yahara River Park

10/17/2017 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
11/21/2017 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
12/13/2017 – RDA Meeting
12/19/2017 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
1/8/2018 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting
1/16/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
2/12/2018 – Stoughton Conservation Club Meeting
2/13/2018 – City Council Meeting
2/14/2018 – RDA Meeting
2/19/2018 – Lions Club Meeting
2/20/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
3/5/2018 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting
3/7/2018 – Madison Sports Commission Meeting
3/17/2018 - Stoughton Courier Hub Article
3/20/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
4/17/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
4/18/2018 – Whitewater Park Concept Plan Public Presentation
4/21/2018 – Sustainable Stoughton Earth Day Event
4/24/2018 – City Council Meeting
5/7/2018 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting
5/12/2018 - Stoughton Courier Hub Article
5/15/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
6/4/2018 – Wisconsin State Journal Article
6/5/2018 – Channel 3 News Interview
6/6/2018 – Channel3000.Com Article
6/2018 – Greater Madison InBusiness Magazine Article
6/19/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
7/9/2018 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting
7/17/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Public Information & Meetings List – Yahara River Park

8/15/2018 – Dunkirk Dam Lake District Meeting
8/21/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
9/10/2018 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting
9/17/2018 – Steering Committee Meeting
9/18/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
10/1/2018 – Wisconsin State Journal Article
10/7/2018 – Lions Club Meeting
10/15/2018 – Steering Committee Meeting
10/16/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
10/31/2018 – Rotary Club Meeting
11/5/2018 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting
11/19/2018 – Steering Committee Meeting
11/20/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
12/18/2018 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
1/7/2019 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting
1/15/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
1/28/2019 – Steering Committee Meeting
2/18/2019 – Steering Committee Meeting
2/19/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
3/4/2019 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting
3/19/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
4/15/2019 – Steering Committee Meeting
4/16/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
4/23/2019 – City Council Meeting
5/6/2019 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting
5/20/2019 – Steering Committee Meeting
5/21/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
6/11/2019 – City Council Meeting
6/17/2019 – Steering Committee Meeting

Public Information & Meetings List – Yahara River Park

6/18/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

7/8/2019 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting

7/15/2019 – Steering Committee Meeting

7/16/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

8/7/2019 – RDA Meeting

8/7/2019 – Rotary Club Meeting

8/19/2019 – Steering Committee Meeting

8/20/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

8/22/2019 – CIP Meeting

9/5/2019 – CIP Meeting

9/9/2019 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting

9/16/2019 – Steering Committee Meeting

9/17/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

9/20/2019 – Chris Schmitz, Stoughton Hospital

10/10/2019 - Stoughton Courier Hub Article

10/15/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

10/21/2019 – Steering Committee Meeting

11/4/2019 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting

11/18/2019 – Steering Committee Meeting

11/19/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

11/28/2019 - Stoughton Courier Hub Article

12/16/2019 – Steering Committee Meeting

12/17/2019 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

1/6/2020 – River & Trails Taskforce Meeting

1/14/2020 – City Council Meeting

1/16/2020 – Gary Hebl & Mark Miller Meeting

1/21/2020 – Steering Committee Meeting

1/21/2020 – Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

1/23/2020 – Riparian Owner Meeting #1 (City Residents)

Public Information & Meetings List – Yahara River Park

1/24/2020 – Riparian Owner Meeting Home Visit (City Resident)

1/25/2020 – Riparian Owner Meeting #2 (City Residents)

1/26/2020 - Stoughton Courier Hub Article

1/29/2020 – Preliminary Design Public Meeting

2/4/2020 - Stoughton Courier Hub Article

2/11/2020 – Riparian Meeting (Pleasant Springs Residents)

2/18/2020 – Riparian Owner Meeting Home Visit (Pleasant Springs Resident)

2/18/2020 – Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

2/24/2020 – Wisconsin State Journal Article

2/24/2020 - Stoughton Courier Hub Article

2/25/2020 – Special Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

2/25/2020 – City Council Meeting

3/2/2020 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting

3/4/2020 – City Resident Meeting (Nancy S.)

3/4/2020 – Stoughton Courier Hub Article

3/7/2020 - Stoughton Courier Hub Article

3/10/2020 – City Council Meeting

3/23/2020 – Town of Pleasant Springs Meeting

5/18/2020 – Steering Committee Meeting

5/19/2020 – Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

5/27/2020 – Rock River Coalition Annual Meeting

6/15/2020 – Steering Committee Meeting

6/16/2020 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

7/6/2020 – River & Trails Taskforce Meeting

7/20/2020 – Steering Committee Meeting

7/21/2020 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

8/27/2020 – CIP Committee Meeting

9/24/2020 – CIP Committee Meeting

10/19/2020 – Steering Committee Meeting

Public Information & Meetings List – Yahara River Park

10/21/2020 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

11/10/2020 – City Council Meeting

1/20/2021 – Dunkirk Dam Lake District Meeting

1/25/2021 – Steering Committee Meeting

2/4/2021 – Committee of the Whole Meeting (Progress Update)

3/9/2021 – Town of Dunkirk Meeting

4/20/2021 - Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

4/27/2021 – City Council Meeting

5/3/2021 - River & Trails Taskforce Meeting

6/11/2021 – Riparian Owner Meeting (Town of Dunkirk Resident)

7/12/2021 – River & Trail Taskforce Meeting

7/14/2021 – Tower Times Article

8/16/2021 – Steering Committee Meeting

8/17/2021 – Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

8/24/2021 – Committee of the Whole Meeting (Hydraulic Analysis)

9/9/2021 – CIP Committee Meeting

9/20/2021 – Steering Committee Meeting

9/23/2021 – CIP Committee Meeting

11/9/2021 – City Council

1/24/2022 – Steering Committee Meeting

2/21/2022 – Steering Committee Meeting

3/8/2022 – City Council

3/21/2022 – Steering Committee Meeting

4/7/2022 – Pleasant Springs Meeting (EOR Coordination)

4/18/2022 – Steering Committee Meeting

4/26/2022 – City Council Meeting

5/16/2022 – Steering Committee Meeting

6/14/2022 – City Council Meeting

9/13/2022 – City Council Meeting

Public Information & Meetings List – Yahara River Park

9/22/2022 – CIP Committee Meeting