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**Title:** Arden Park Construction Update

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**Purpose:** At the April 9, 2020 Board of Managers meeting, staff will provide an update on construction progress for the Arden Park Restoration Project in Edina and the work planned for this spring as the District and City endeavor to complete the project.

**Background:** Construction of improvements for the Arden Park Restoration Project began in January 2019 and continued through November 2019. Project elements include a remeander of Minnehaha Creek through Arden Park; removal of a low-head dam allowing for unobstructed paddling and fish passage; restoration of the creek's geomorphology, floodplain wetlands, and adjacent upland areas; construction of a two-stage stormwater treatment system; and development of new paths and trails connecting areas of the 15-acre park to the surrounding neighborhoods. The City of Edina also installed a new playground; refurbished an existing hockey rink and pleasure skate area; and built a new park shelter building.

**Summary:** Project construction progressed well through 2019, however record precipitation levels and high creek flows extended the construction phase into late fall and a number of items remain to be completed in spring 2020. With on-site work paused during the winter, the City of Edina welcomed residents to use the new playground, trails, and rinks during the colder months. The park is currently open, but the playground area is not accessible. The contractor plans to re-mobilize within the next two weeks to complete finish grading, formal landscape planting around the new shelter building, and planting of the streambank areas that were inaccessible due to high creek flows throughout 2019.

The project team has been closely monitoring the function of the stormwater system which comprises an underground pre-treatment structure and a series of six vegetated basins. The system will treat regional stormwater from an 80-acre drainage area once it is fully on-line. A slower than expected drawdown of stormwater in the filtration swales was observed in fall 2019. The contractor and the project team are currently working to investigate and alleviate these issues.

The need to investigate the function of the stormwater system combined with an extended construction period due to record precipitation and high creek levels has required the use of construction contingency dollars. Construction of the project by Rachel Contracting has utilized approximately 30% of the approved contract contingency to date. The construction administration budget and contingency is likely to be fully utilized by Inter-Fluve to complete construction oversight.

At the April 9, 2020 meeting, staff will provide the Board a detailed project briefing covering construction status and stormwater assessment, budget, and timeline for project completion.

Questions regarding the status of the Arden Park Restoration Project in advance of the Board meeting can be directed to Laura Domyancich at [ldomyancich@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:ldomyancich@minnehahacreek.org) or 952.641.4582.