

Watertown City Council

Date: January 10, 2023

Agenda Item: Update on the Mullen Restoration and Streambank Projects**Request for Action: General Feedback-No Action Required****Department: Engineering****Background:**

In 2018, Watertown council had a high-level discussion related to stabilizing the banks along the Crow River that included potential project locations and broad ranging costs estimates. Ultimately it was determined that the city would need outside funding partners to see many of the areas come to fruition. The city began identifying the potential funding sources and planning for projects in the Capital Improvement Plan. The areas of concern were further reviewed and advanced by the Carver County Watershed Management Organization when they completed a Watertown Streambank Feasibility Study in Oct 2021.

In 2021 the city applied for and was awarded a MnDNR-Conservation Partners Legacy Grant to acquire seven parcels (32 acres known as the Mullen Property) and restore it to its native condition of forest, prairie, or wetland. This met the DNRs goals of creating habitat for wildlife and the city goals of preserving the flood plain and creating a conservation park as identified in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

In 2022 the city applied for and was award two Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grants for two locations along the Crow River in Watertown. One grant is for stabilizing the rip rap below the existing boardwalk and one grant is to add additional streambank stabilization measures along the Mullen Properties.

In addition, the city has had interest in constructing more stone fishing piers along the river, like what was constructed in Rick Johnson Park upstream of the dam. The above grants are not eligible towards funding of the fishing piers but can help improve bank stabilization around them. Based on the similar nature of all the projects they are all currently planned to be designed and bid as one plan set for construction to occur in the summer/fall of 2023. This will allow for all coordination go be through one contractor.

To date staff have completed a boundary survey, property appraisals, topographic survey, and wetland delineation. The city has also completed the acquisition of the Mullen Property in December of 2022. Staff is actively working on completing a vegetation management plan and final plans and specifications for bidding.

Looking ahead it is anticipated that in March of 2023 that the city will have plans reviewed and approved by the grant agencies and be ready to bid. Award of the project would occur in early summer 2023 and vegetation management in the Mullen Property would occur in the summer with most construction occurring in the late summer/fall when river levels are typically at their lowest elevations. All construction work should be completed in 2023 to ensure eligibility for all the grants.

Budget Impact:

1. Mullen: Land Acquisition and Upland Restoration:	
a. DNR Grant	= \$400,000
b. <u>City Min. Contribution (10% of DNR)</u>	= \$40,000
c. Total Land & Upland Rest.	= \$440,000
2. Mullen: Stream Restoration	
a. WBIF Grant	= \$90,000
b. <u>City Min. Contribution (10% of WBIF)</u>	= \$10,000
c. Total Stream Rest.	= \$100,000
3. Boardwalk Stabilization:	
a. WBIF Grant	= \$160,000
b. <u>City Contribution (50% of WBIF)</u>	= \$160,000
c. Total Stream Rest.	= \$320,000
4. Rick Johnson Park Fishing Pier:	
a. City Contribution (100%)	= \$35,000
Total Outside Funding (DNR + WBIF)	= \$650,000
<u>Total Projected City Contribution</u>	= \$245,000
Total Project Budgets	= \$895,000

The city is responsible to cash flow the projects and then request reimbursement from the DNR or BWIF for the grant fund. Any project costs above the budget amounts are required to be paid for by the city. One additional outside funding source the city could yet pursue is from the Carver County Watershed Management Organization. Currently the construction estimates are being refined and include a 10% contingency. As currently projected the city may need to contribute an additional \$35,000 to fund the projects but will be better known after the projects are bid.

Total Estimated Construction Costs:

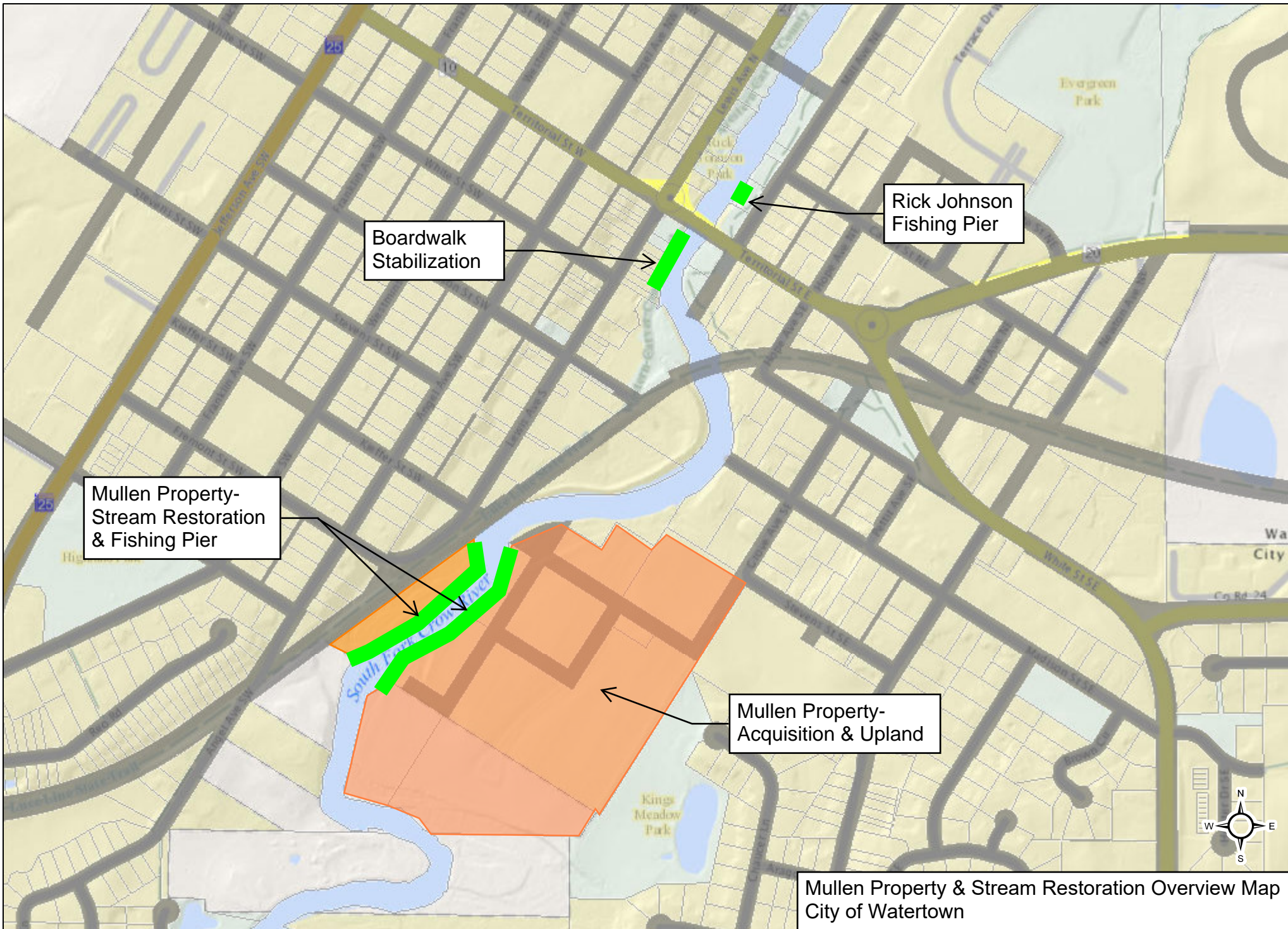
Mullen: Land Acquisition	= \$264,800
Mullen: Upland Restoration & Fishing Block	= \$134,000
Mullen: Stream Restoration	= \$71,000
Boardwalk Stabilization	= \$412,000
<u>Rick Johnson Park</u>	= \$48,000
Total Construction Cost	= \$929,800

Recommendation:

No Action is required at this time.

Attachments:

1. Overview Map



Mullen Property & Stream Restoration Overview Map
City of Watertown

This map was created using Carver County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS), it is a compilation of information and data from various City, County, State, and Federal offices. This map is not a surveyed or legally recorded map and is intended to be used as a reference. Carver County is not responsible for any inaccuracies contained herein.