



# WILDWOOD

September 28, 2022

## MEMORANDUM

To: Watershed Erosion Task Force Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

**Re: Submittal of the Revised Draft Letter to Property Owners Who Previously Provided Input on Problem Areas (Wards – All)**

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
Steve Cross, City Administrator  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works  
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Dan Rahn, Assistant City Engineer  
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner

**BACKGROUND >>>** At the July meeting of the task force, the Department presented a letter to the members seeking its review and comments upon it. Ultimately, this letter will be sent to the approximately eighty (80) property owners that participated in the task force's first public outreach effort, which was very successful. Since that time, notwithstanding telephone calls from some of property owners, no formal contact has been made by the City with them. In the draft letter, the wording of it noted a decision was made by the task force to reestablish contact with the property owners and update them about its efforts.

The letter's content also included the decision of the task force to offer to visit each property and assess current conditions relative to the original information that had been provided. Co-Chair Holthouse and others expressed some reservations about this approach, given the time commitment to visit the potential eighty (80) locations in the City. This time commitment is compounded by City staffing, at times, and current obligations. To this end, Co-Chair Holthouse revised the attached letter to address this consideration, while still engaging the property owners who participated in the task force's initial outreach. The letter is attached.

**REVISED LETTER >>>** The Department is presenting this letter for consideration by the Task Force Members and direction on the same. If agreeable to this approach, the task force would be asked to

endorse such, so the mailing can proceed. Certainly, if any changes are desired to the current content of the letter, those ideas can be addressed at tonight's meeting as well.

**OTHER AND CONTACT INFORMATION >>>** If any of the Task Force Members should have any questions or comments regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. A presentation is planned on these items at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your review of this information and input on the same.

**Subject:** Letter to Homeowners  
**Date:** Saturday, July 30, 2022 at 3:41:24 PM Central Daylight Time  
**From:** Carol Holthouse  
**To:** Joe Vujnich, Joe Farmer  
**Attachments:** Draft Letter to Residents on MSD List rev 1 - 7.26.22.docx

Mr. Vujnich,

Based on our phone call Friday I offer my draft of the letter to homeowners.

My recollection was that the task force felt it was important to circle back with homeowners that had reported problems. I believe mailing out letters will be an appropriate response to the committee's request to give homeowners with erosion problems an update. I don't think it is a good use of city staff resources to encourage what could easily add up to 60+ hours for site visits. Although we didn't have a quorum for any official action there was no objection or discussion when I shared that opinion on July 20.

As always your feedback on the draft will be appreciated. Note the ?? placeholder for email contact information. Also don't know if highlighting the option for public comments at committee meetings in the last paragraph is necessary.

Once it looks good to all three of us I guess sending on to committee with a request for comments by a certain date would be the next step.

Carol  
314-791-7857

Dear Property Owner:

The City and the Watershed Erosion Task Force appreciate the information you provided about erosion/stormwater problems when we conducted our initial survey of Wildwood watersheds. Input from resident reports, volunteer data collection, and consultant surveys resulted in a list of approximately 80 critical locations.

Locations were prioritized using a scoring matrix that evaluated health & safety, urgency, and impact. Consultants were engaged to develop preliminary designs and cost estimates for the top six locations. The permitting process with the US Corp of Engineers has started. Our goal is to be "shovel ready" for the highest priority projects when funding becomes available. Currently five grant requests for \$6.1 million of federal American Rescue Plan Act Funds are being evaluated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

The list of all Wildwood's critical locations was also reviewed with the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) and incorporated into their project list. However, their funding for storm water management is limited so MSD repairs are currently limited to erosion that threatens sanitary sewer pipes or manholes.

The city has also formed a partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) that will provide an accurate picture of baseline condition and a model that can help evaluate the downstream impact of creek bank repairs and improved storm water detention.

Our watershed problems developed over decades, and it will take both time and significant funds to address the issues. However, the task force members wanted to make you aware of the actions that have been taken and let you know we are still working to restore the creeks and their tributaries.

Please contact the Department of Planning again at (636) 405-2030 / ?? if:

- Erosion is threatening sanitary sewers and repairs might be a priority for MSD.
- There have been significant changes impacting your property since your original report. Watersheds are dynamic systems. We may need to revisit current conditions and re-evaluate our priorities.
- You are considering action to reduce or repair damage on your property. Unfortunately storm water can undercut some "solutions" and make the problems even worse.

Our watershed problems developed over decades, and it will take both time and significant funds to address them. However, the task force members want to thank you for your input, make you aware of the actions that have been taken, and let you know we are still working to restore the creeks and their tributaries. To follow our progress go to <https://www.cityofwildwood.com/1932/Watershed-Erosion-Task-Force>.

Of course, Wildwood residents are always welcome to ask questions or make public comments at Watershed Erosion Task Force meetings. Meetings times, agendas and minutes are also available on the city website.