

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MSD Gearing Up to Construct the Lick Run Greenway

CINCINNATI – The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) is gearing up to construct the nationally recognized and long-awaited Lick Run Greenway in South Fairmount. The Greenway includes a mile-long bioengineered creek in a park-like setting through the valley corridor.

The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners approved funding for the estimated >\$100 million construction project on March 1.

MSD plans to begin [soliciting construction bids](#) starting today, March 3, with a bid award later this spring and an anticipated construction start this summer. The Greenway will take more than two years to build.

The Lick Run Greenway project is located in the South Fairmount valley from old Queen City Avenue to the Mill Creek between Queen City and Westwood avenues. *Please see attached project map.*

Over the next four months, there will be a lot of activity to make room for the Greenway and prepare the site.

Pre-construction activities will include:

- **Tree clearing.** About 500 trees will be removed from the project area by April 1 before Indiana bats return to roost in them. About 650 new trees, more than 2,000 shrubs and hundreds of thousands of plants will be planted as part of the Greenway.
- **Utility relocations.** Local utilities such as Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW), Duke Energy, Cincinnati Bell, Time Warner and the City of Cincinnati will be relocating utilities.

- **Building demolition.** More than 35 buildings remaining in the project area will be demolished. This includes buildings identified as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. MSD prepared a mitigation plan in accordance with federal law to address the removal of these buildings.

A number of buildings will stay in place, as they are not needed for the project, including Cincinnati Fire Station #21 on State Avenue and about six other commercial and residential buildings along the south side of Queen City Avenue.

MSD is currently negotiating to purchase the Family Dollar building.

- **Potential impacts to the recreation area.** For safety reasons, the spray park and playground in the 1600 block of Queen City Avenue cannot stay open for the duration of construction. However, MSD will work with the selected construction contractor to try to keep both open during summer 2017 and longer if possible, depending on the sequencing of construction.

In addition, temporary basketball courts may be installed during construction. The existing basketball courts were removed earlier this year.

A new playground and basketball courts will be constructed as part of the project. The existing spray park will remain in place.

All pre-construction activities will be conducted primarily during normal daylight hours; however, some evening or weekend work could occur.

Contractors will work to minimize disturbances. Temporary traffic impacts will also occur along Queen City and Westwood avenues and side streets, especially related to utility relocations and building demolitions.

Lick Run Greenway Project Map

For a closer view and more details, please visit the Lick Run Project website at www.projectgroundwork.org/lickrun

Lick Run Greenway

The central element of MSD's Lick Run Project is the Lick Run Greenway that will convey stormwater and natural drainage from the watershed to the Mill Creek.

The Greenway will be located in the Cincinnati neighborhood of South Fairmount from old Queen City Avenue to the Mill Creek between Queen City and Westwood avenues.

The Greenway includes a wetland forebay and bioinfiltration basins at old Queen City Avenue, a mile-long urban waterway (constructed channel that mimics a natural stream) from the headwaters area near White Street to the pond area east of Harrison Avenue, and a 1.5-mile underground stormwater conveyance system from old Queen City Avenue to the outfall at Mill Creek, among other elements.



1 Western Gateway Zone

Includes a wetland forebay and bioinfiltration basins at old Queen City Avenue and a headwaters area east of White Street where the urban waterway begins and flows east.



2 Narrow Channel Zone



Includes a narrow urban waterway from Quebec Avenue to Grand Avenue.

3 Civic Recreation Space

Includes a wider, meandering urban waterway from Grand Avenue to Harrison Avenue and improved civic recreation space.



4 Eastern Gateway Area



Includes a pond east of Harrison Ave. The pond overflows to an underground stormwater conveyance box that flows into the Mill Creek. The pond discharges to the Mill Creek through an outfall pipe.