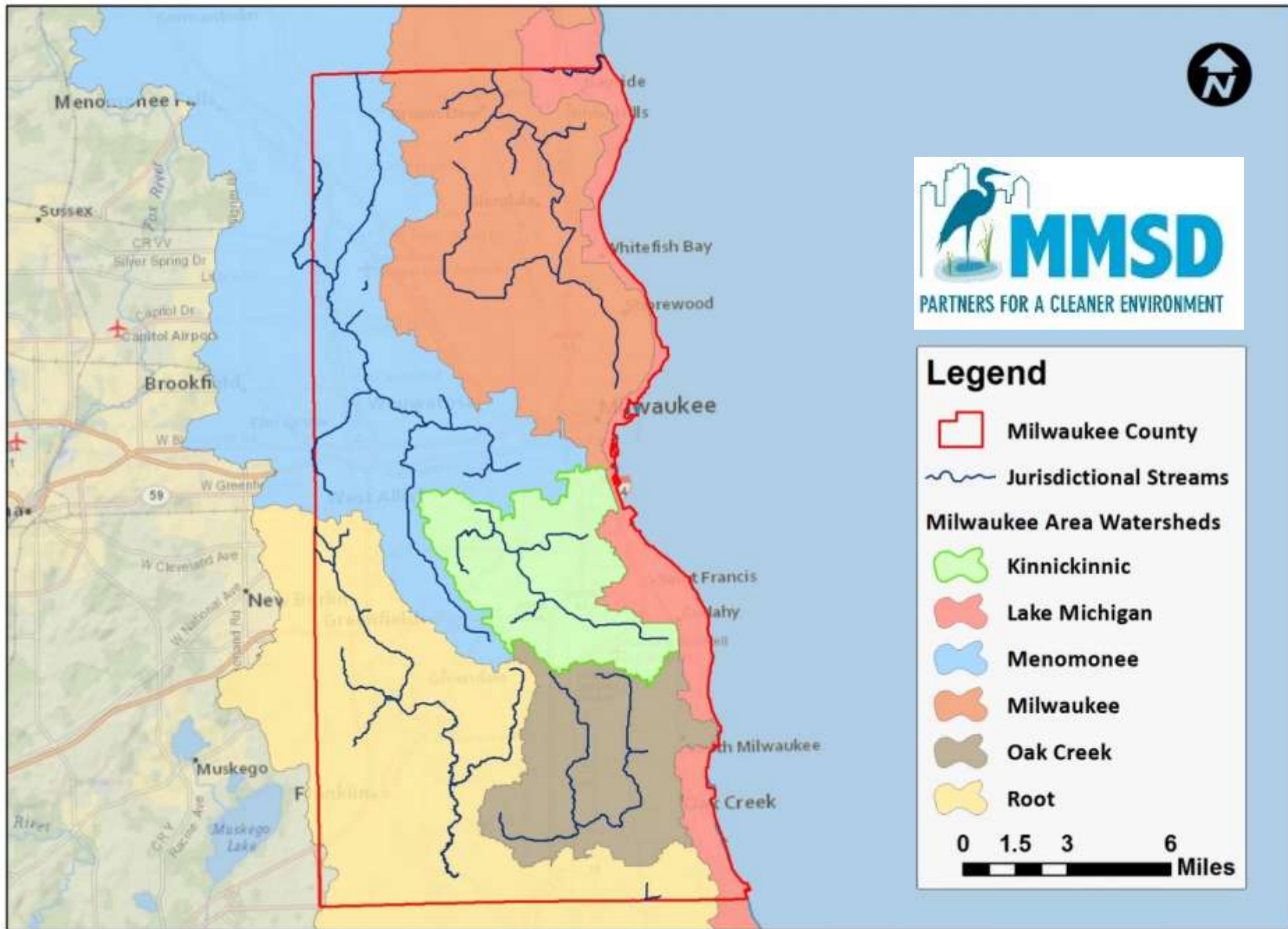


# Kinnickinnic River Watershed: Watershed Plan Update for Increasing Flood Risk



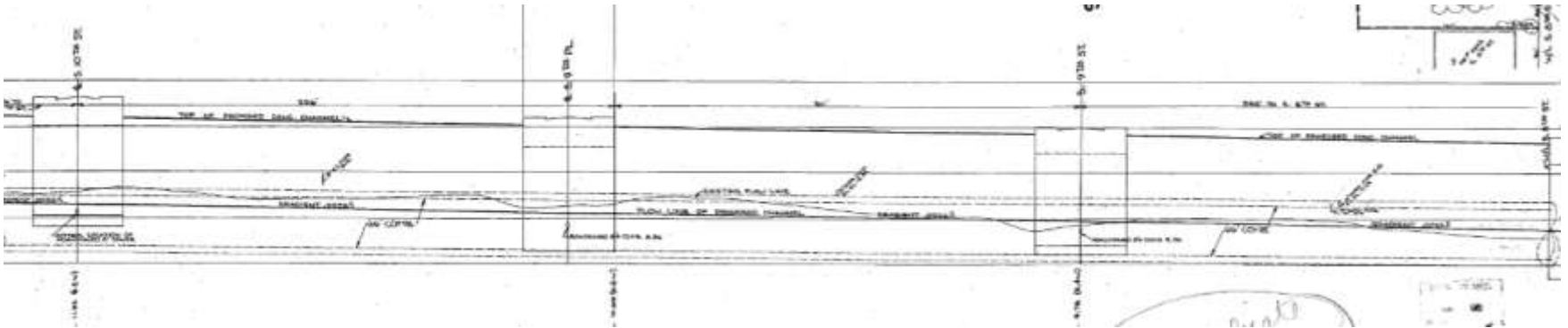
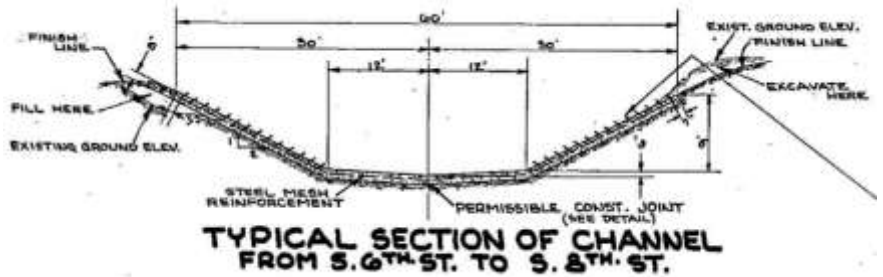
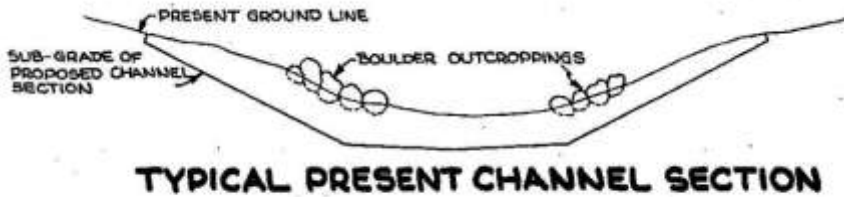


# KK River Watershed



**General Mitchell  
International Airport**

Remove anything that looks natural.



## 1960's Concrete Channel Lining – Kinnickinnic River



They did create recreational opportunities...



...but also Public Safety Concerns



## Current Conditions



# MMSD Watercourse Program

## Objectives:

- Reduce flood risk for structures in 1% annual probability floodplain
- Incorporate natural functions into designs
  - Improve riparian & aquatic habitat
  - Improve public safety



# What Has Been Done?

- The Kinnickinnic River Watershed Plan Update planning and engineering builds on existing plans and dovetails with ongoing efforts



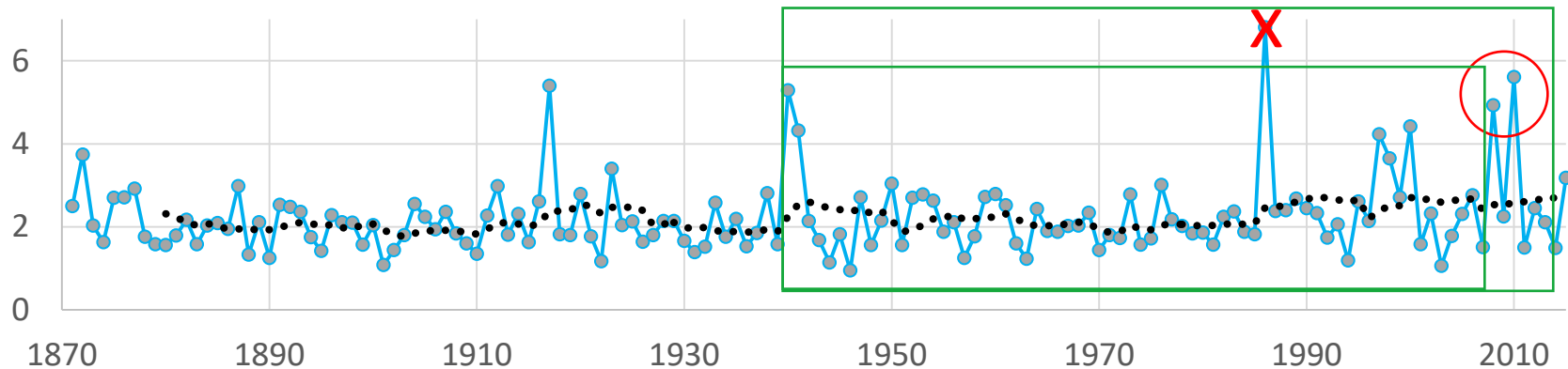
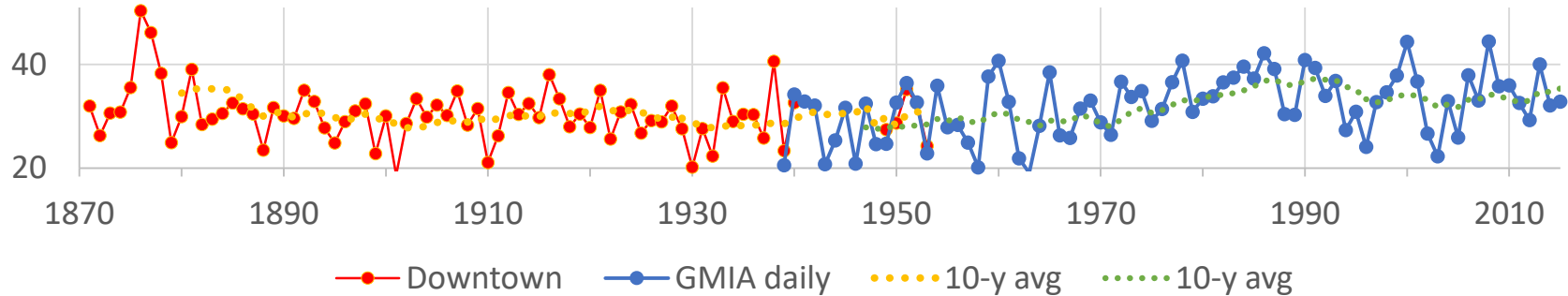
# History of Watershed Planning for the KK

1980's	FEMA Floodplain
1999	Phase 1 Watercourse Management Plan
2005	Phase 2 Watercourse Management Plan
2007-'13	Various Engineering Studies/Designs Floodplain Mapping Update Underway
2014	Computed Flood Flows Increase 20-50%
2017	Updated Watershed Plan Completed



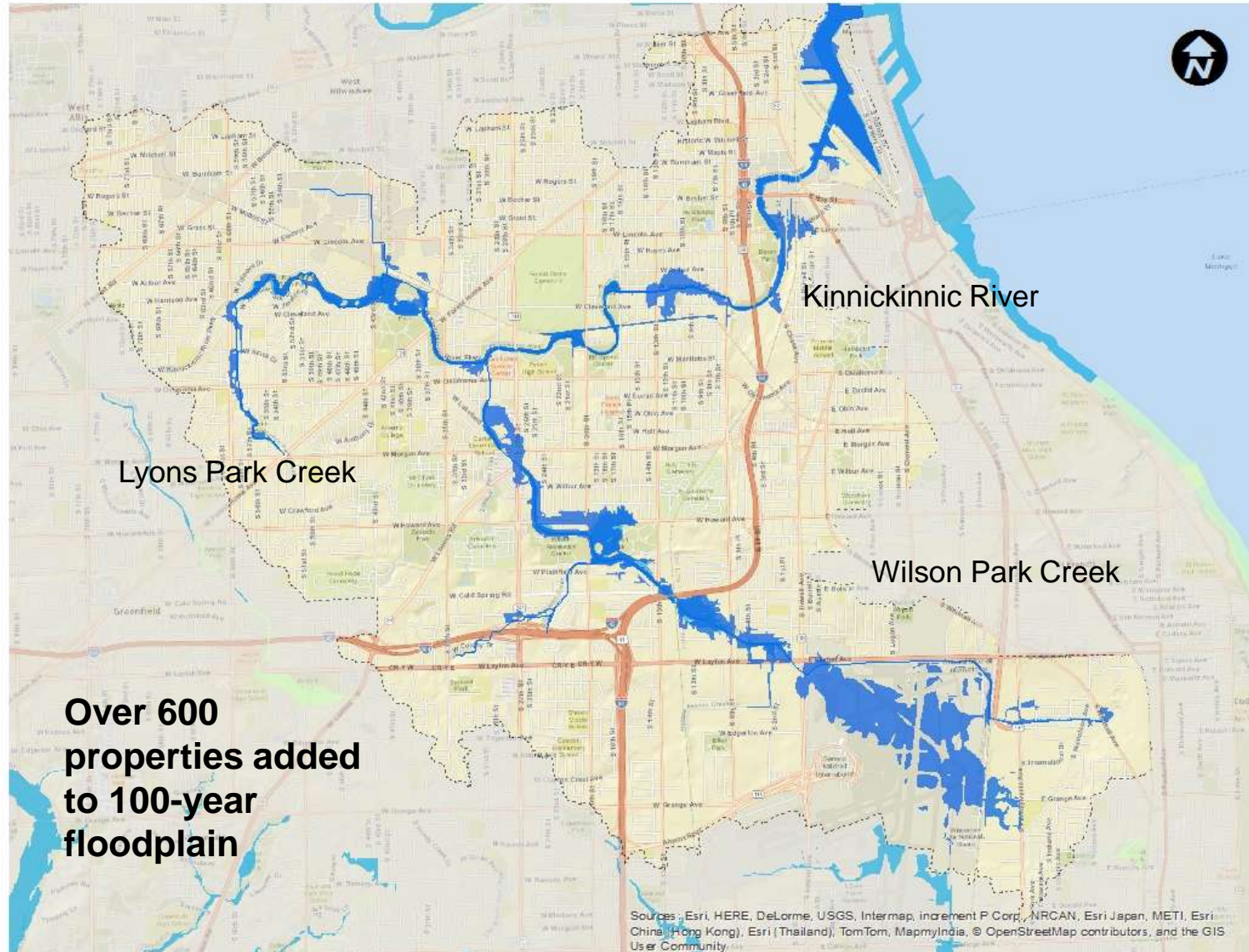
 Engineering design project areas

# Milwaukee annual & maximum daily precipitation (inches)



New statistical analysis increased 1% Probability Flows 20% or more

# Updated Flood Risk



# KK River Watershed Plan Update Objectives

- Reduce Flood Risk to all structures subject to flooding in the 1% probability event (under the updated flood risk scenario)
- Improve Public Safety
- Improve Riparian & Aquatic Habitat
- Improve Natural Aesthetics of channel
- Leverage Additional Community Objectives



Photo by Eddee Daniel

# “Baseline” Conditions

Previous Recommendations

+

Remove All Concrete Channel

+

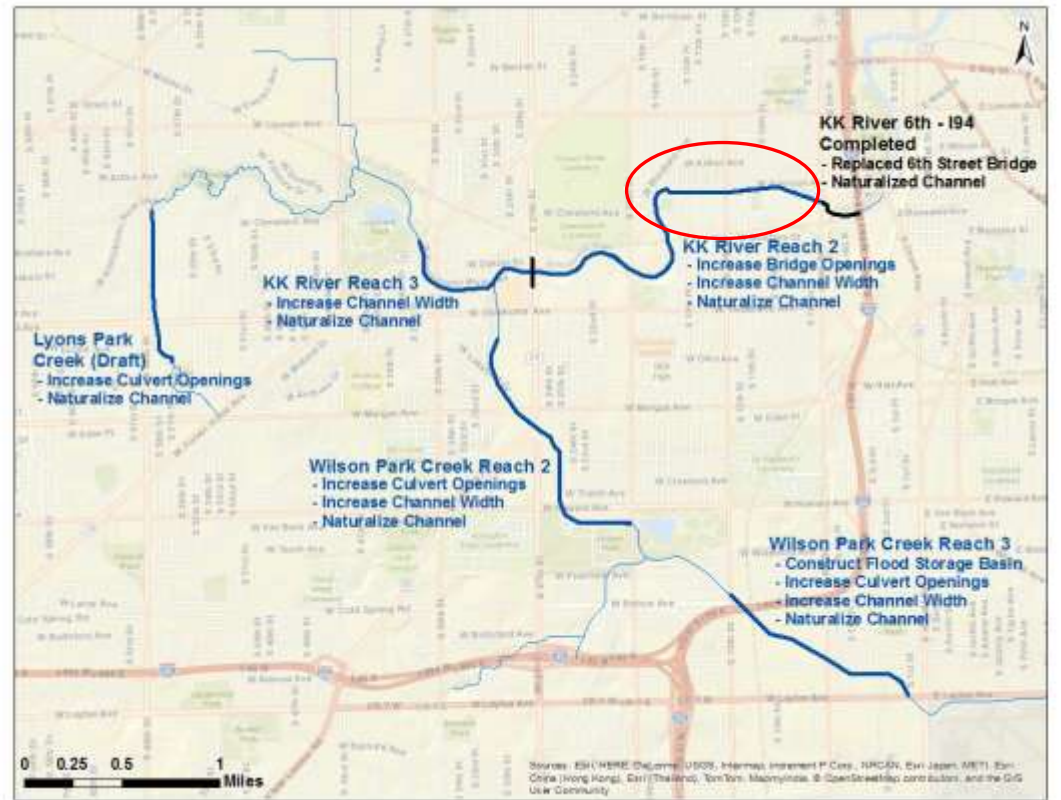
Increased Flood Flows

=

**Baseline**

**\$130-\$160M**

**200+ structures still in floodplain**



## KK River: 6<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>



# KK River: 6<sup>th</sup> St. – 16<sup>th</sup> St. Preliminary Engineering and Community Outreach



A photograph of a river or stream flowing through a landscape. On the left, a steep bank is covered with dense green and reddish-brown vegetation, with a stone retaining wall at its base. The river flows from the left towards the right, with a rocky shoreline in the foreground. On the right, another stone retaining wall is visible, with more vegetation behind it. In the background, there are some buildings and utility poles under a cloudy sky. The text "Watershed Engineering Toolkit" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Watershed Engineering Toolkit

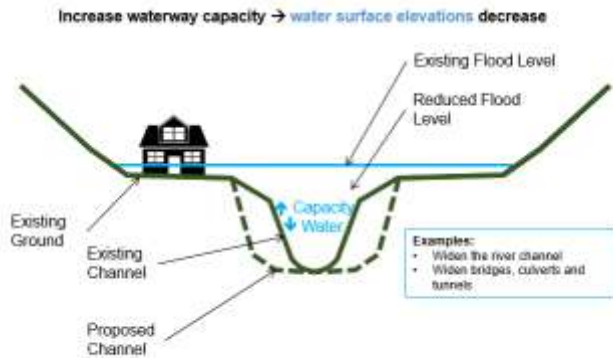
# Push it or Slow it

## Block it

## Buy it or Lift it

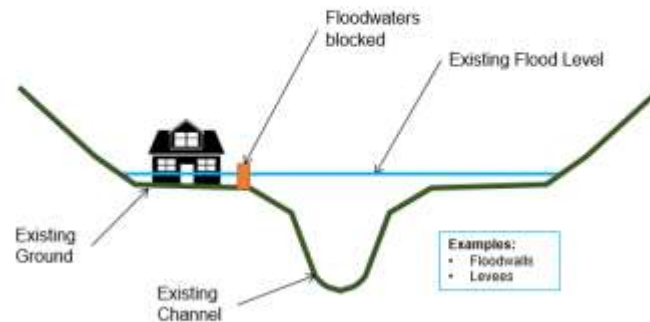
## Store it

**PUSH IT or SLOW IT:** slow it down  
& make more space for the water



**BLOCK IT:** physical barriers

Block floodwaters from areas with buildings and structures



**STORE IT:** floodable areas store it by "retaining" or  
"detaining" on public (& sometimes private property)  
*Includes green infrastructure strategies*

Reduce Flows → Water Surface Elevations decrease



**BUY IT or LIFT IT:** acquisition & flood proofing  
private property

Floodproof or acquire damaged properties



# Storage

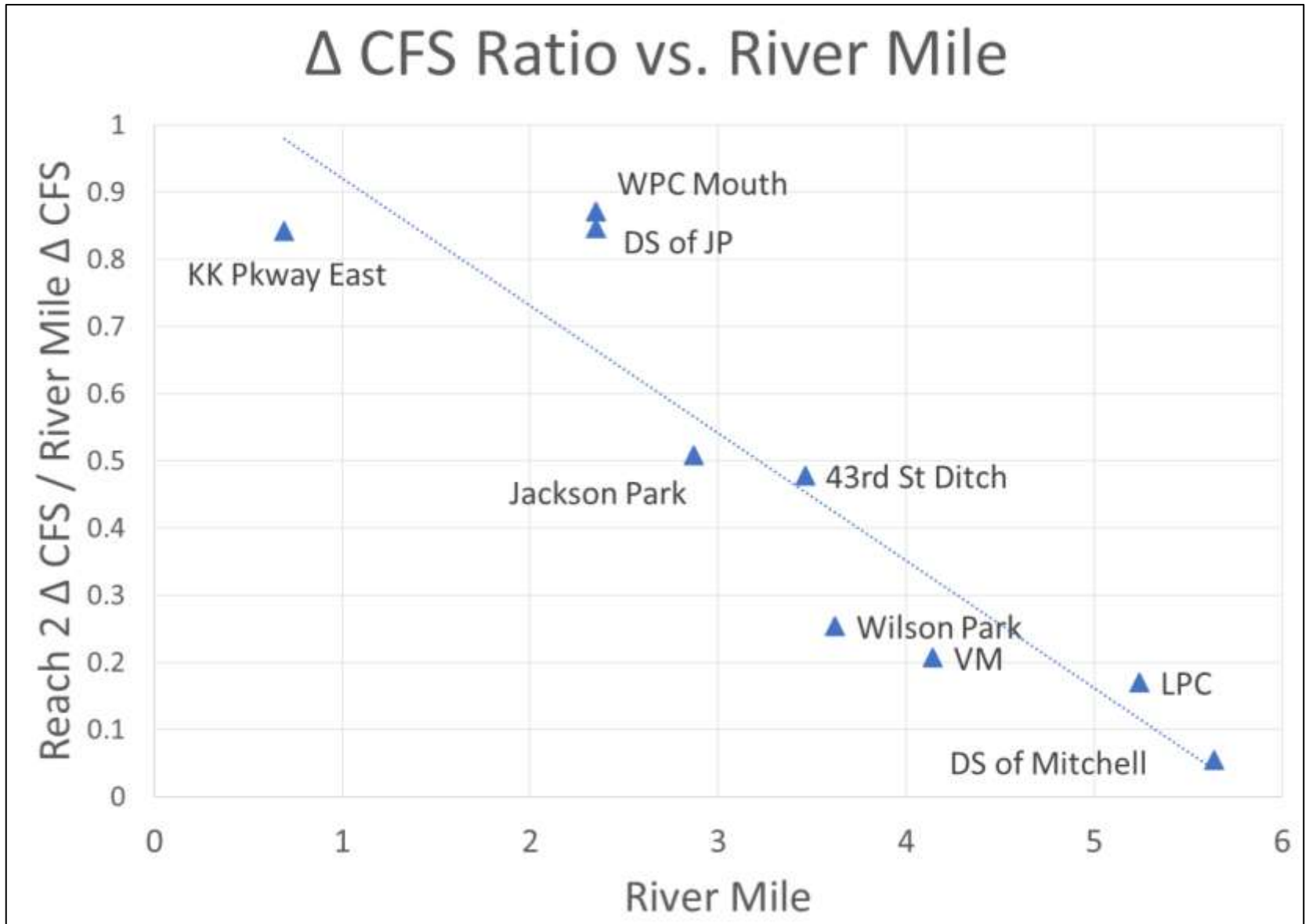
Storage options were a high priority in order to minimize acquisitions.



Photo by: Mark Was



# Reservoir Performance for Reach 2 Benefits



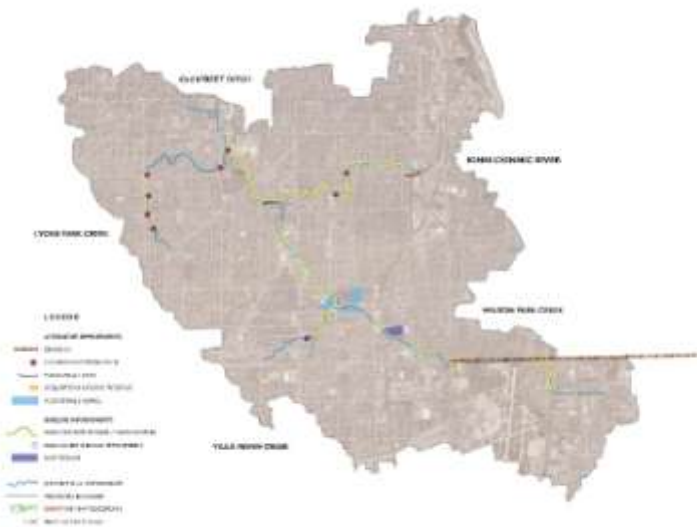
# Alternative Development Process



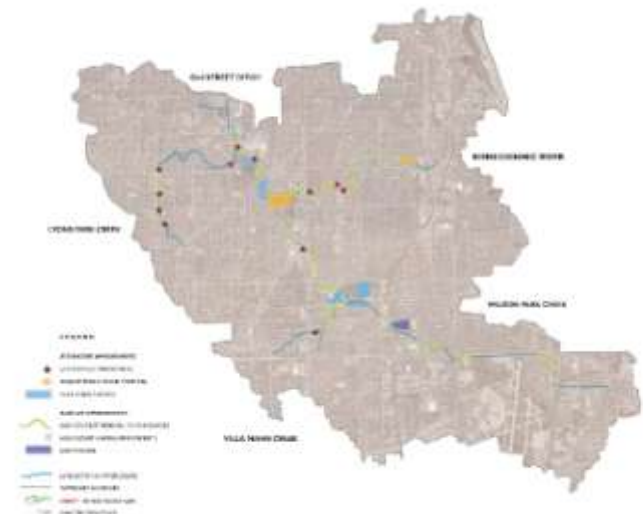
## Storage Alternative



## Conveyance Alternative

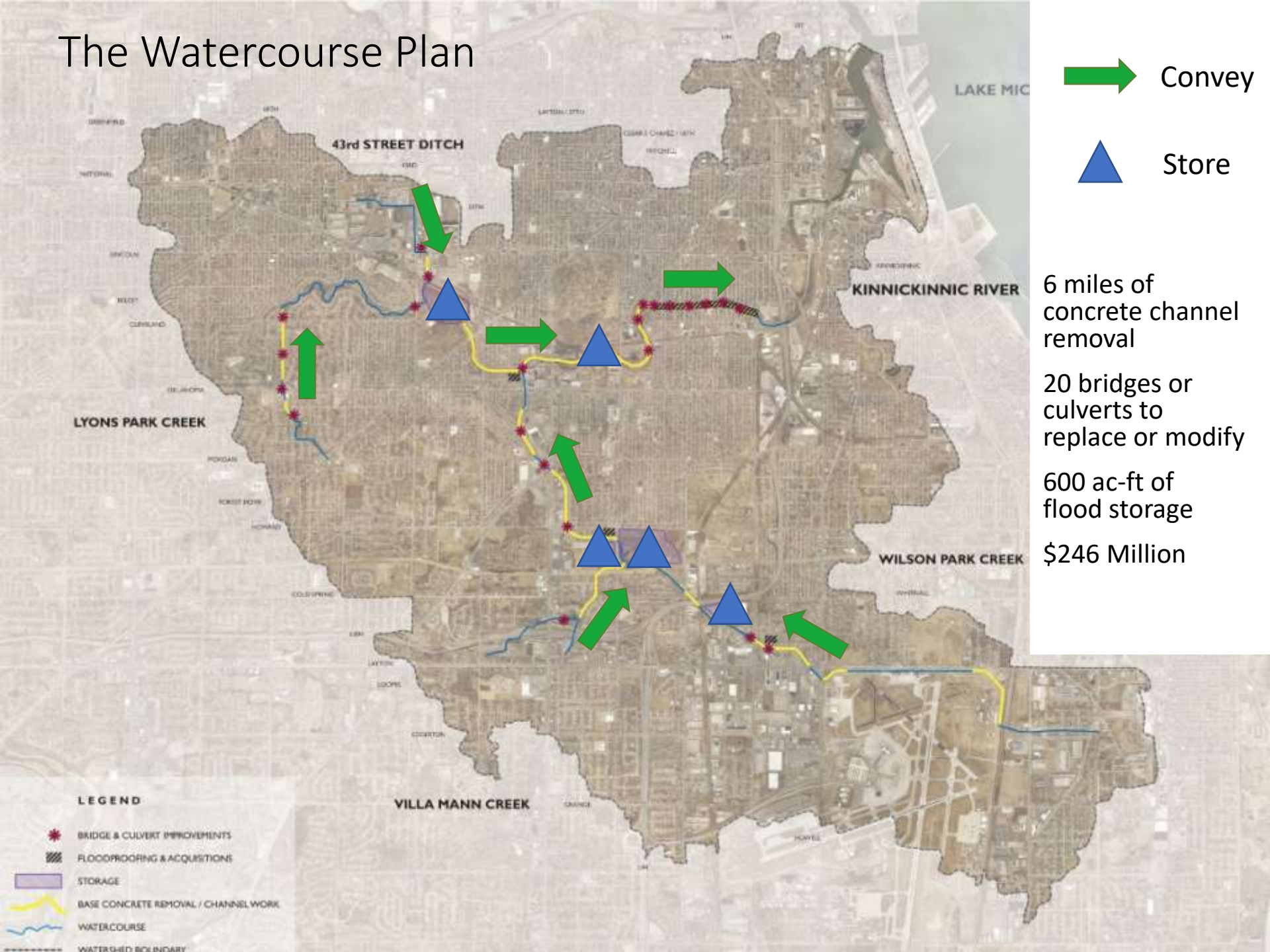


## Diversion Alternative



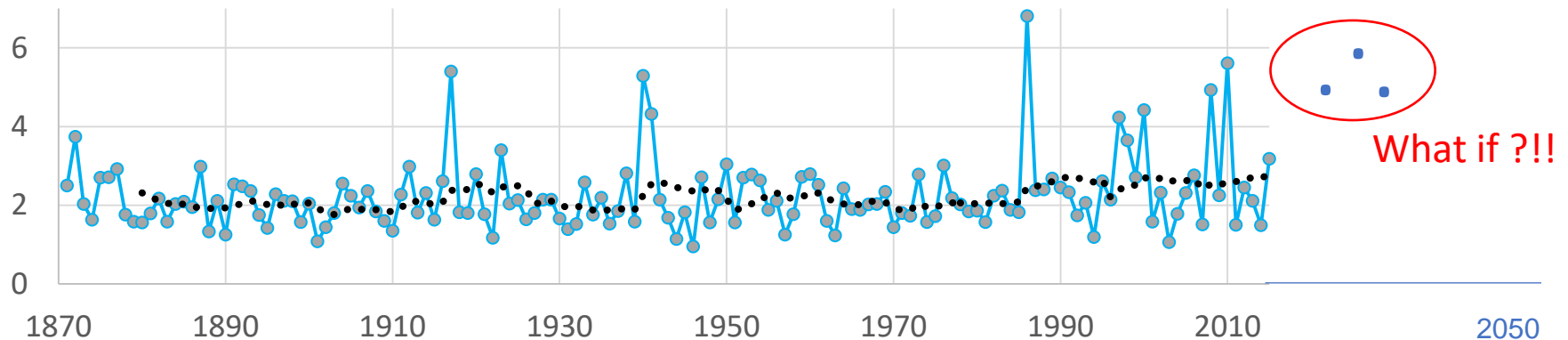
## Blended Alternative

# The Watercourse Plan



# Resiliency Planning

- What if flood risk continues to increase?
- Predicted 10% to 30% increases 100-year, 3-hour rainfall by 2050
- Proposed improvements were tested under these two scenarios
- Recommended improvements were adjusted to accommodate the low end future scenario



# Multidisciplinary Collaboration





# Agency Stakeholder Feedback

# Collaboration between MMSD and Milwaukee County Parks was Essential to the Project

Combine MMSD & MCP agency efforts with stakeholder & community desires to reach the community goals:

Reduce flood risk

+

Make the river a community asset

+

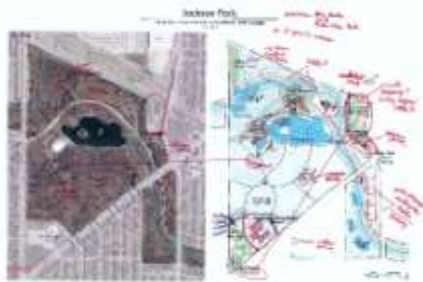
Enhance area parks

=

Neighborhood renaissance

# Kinnickinnic River Watershed Park System Vision Planning Process 2014-2017





## Kinnickinnic River Watershed Park System Vision Planning Process 2014-2017



# Kinnickinnic River Watershed Park System Vision

Pulaski Park



Kinnickinnic River Parkway East,  
Al Simmons Field & KK Sports Center



Jackson Park



Kinnickinnic River Parkway West



Wilson Park

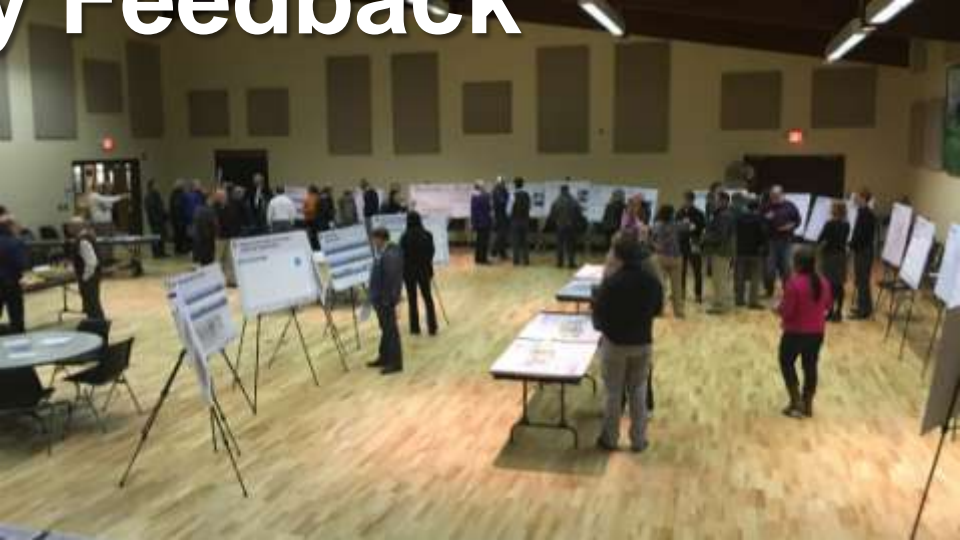


# Final Design Process in 2017 & Construction beginning in 2018





# Community Feedback







**Make the KK River a Community Asset**



**De-channelize / Daylight / Re-naturalize**

A photograph of a large, leafless tree in a green field. The tree has a thick, gnarled trunk and a wide, spreading canopy of bare branches. It is situated in the center of a lush green field. To the left, there is another smaller, leafless tree. To the right, a large portion of another tree's trunk and branches is visible, framing the scene. The background shows a line of trees with some autumn-colored foliage and a clear blue sky. Long shadows are cast across the grass from the trees.

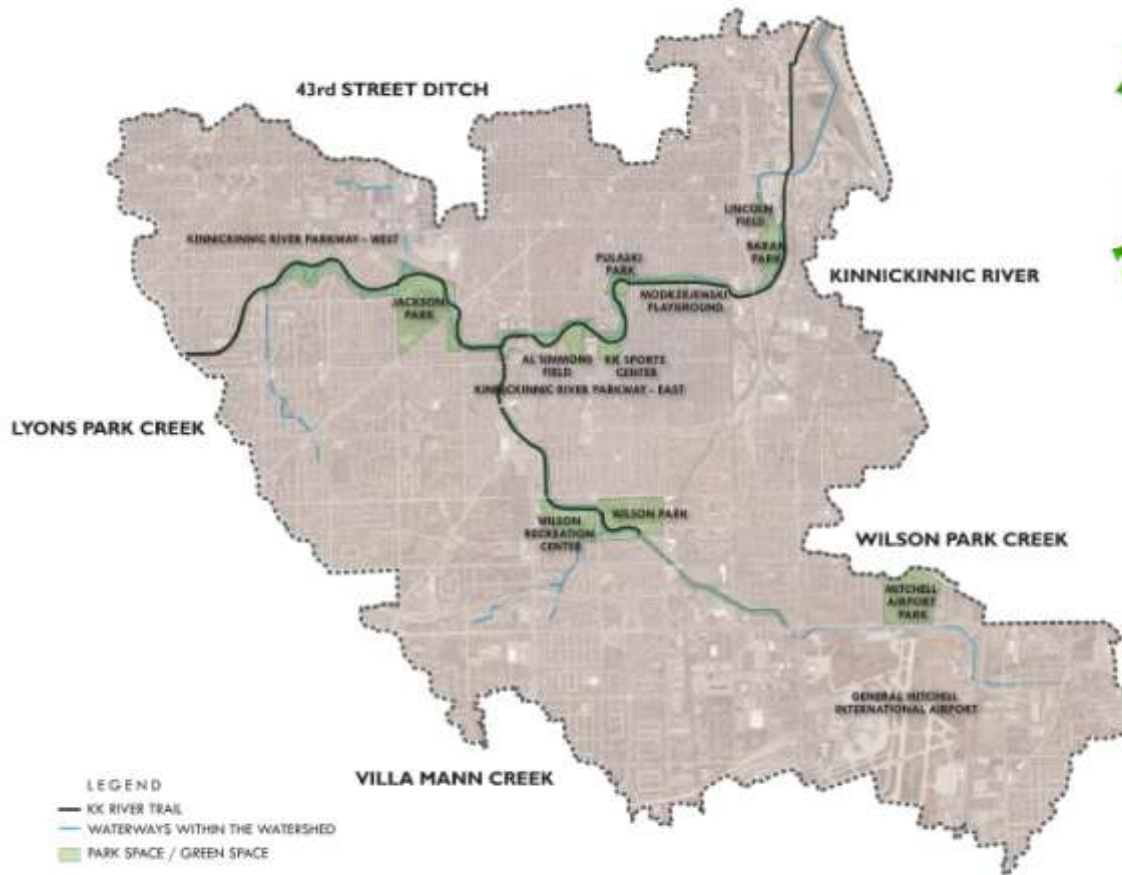
**Save Older Growth Trees**



**Increased River Access and Safety**

A wooden boardwalk with railings curves through a wetland area with tall grasses and a river in the background. The boardwalk is made of light-colored wood and has a dark metal railing. It curves from the foreground towards the background, following the edge of a body of water. The water is dark and still, reflecting the sky. The surrounding area is filled with tall, dry grasses and some green vegetation. In the background, there are several large, leafy trees under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

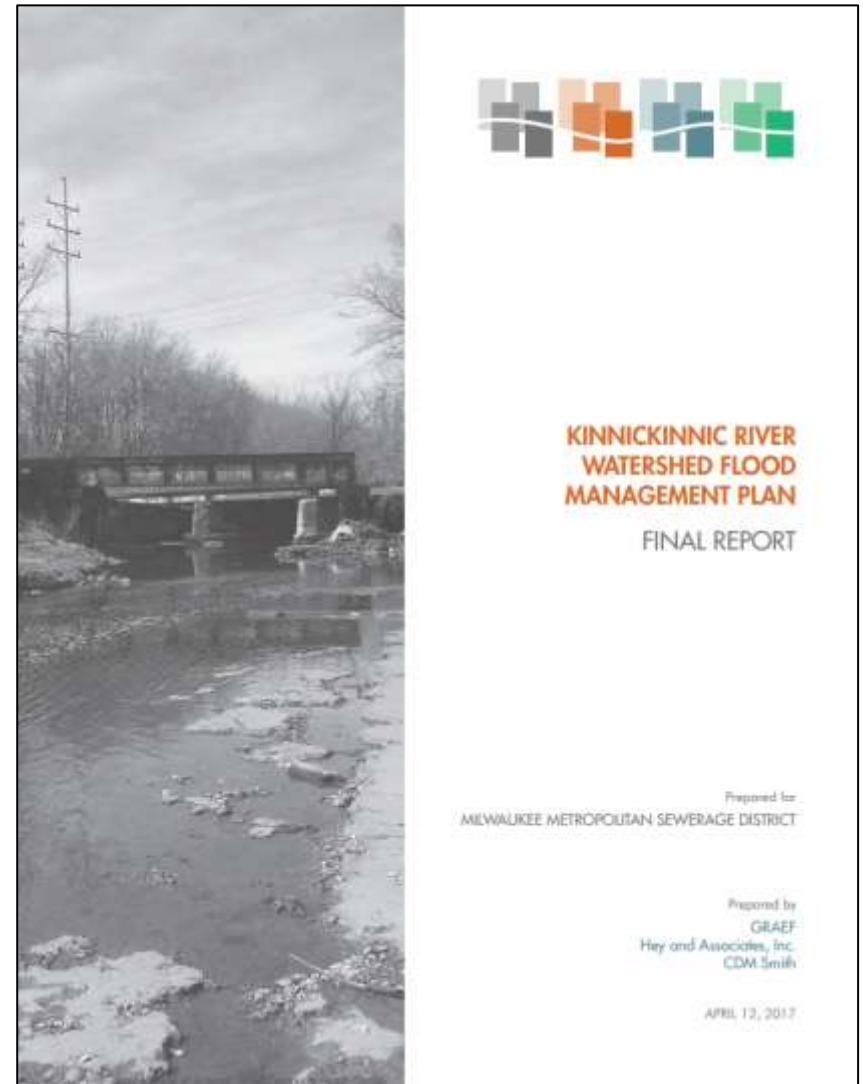
# KK River Trail Extension



Kinnickinnic River Watershed  
**PROPOSED KK RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION FROM S. 6TH STREET & CHASE AVENUE**  
 Milwaukee, WI



# Engineering, Planning and Community Involvement = Successful Plan for the Future of the Kinnickinnic River!



Thank you!

*Hey and Associates, Inc.*

Jeff Wickenkamp, PE, CFM



Matt Bednarski, PE, ENV SP



Patrick Elliott, PE, CFM