



## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Merkes and Common Council

From: PRD Tungate <sup>BT</sup> and CDD Keil <sup>Cell</sup>

Date: August 29, 2011

RE: Gilbert Site Stewardship Grant

During recent conversations with DNR grant staff regarding our application, we were advised to suspend our application for this cycle. The grant was submitted under the presumption that the land donation for the shoreline park could occur after the grant application was submitted, but prior to the award of funds. It was only recently that WDNR grant staff informed us that we need to have ownership of the land.

Although this was unexpected, it is not of great consequence in as much as the demolition/site clearance on the portion of the site to be donated is incomplete. Additionally, the permits necessary for constructing the shoreline park have yet to be completed and submitted for agency review. In any event, it would be staff's recommendation not to accept the land donation until the site is in a cleared, buildable condition to avoid any costs to the city for demolition, site restoration, or environmental clean-up.

A good piece of news from the WDNR is that the project scores very well against their grant criteria, and that there will be multiple grant programs from which grant funds may be sourced. Over the next few months staff will be working with the property owners to ensure the completion of site clearance work, address permitting issues, and prepare documents to effectuate the land transfer. It is our expectation that these activities will be completed in time to advance our funding application by May 1, 2012 for the next grant cycle.

If all goes as planned, we anticipate that the shoreline restoration and trail project will begin in the fall of 2012.