

Park Advisory Commission Recommendation for the Sister Lakes in Dolph Park

WHEREAS, the Sister Lakes in Dolph Park are the only natural lakes in the city, making them both unique and ecologically significant;

WHEREAS the Sister Lakes have been observed undergoing eutrophication and other natural and anthropogenic changes;

WHEREAS, several studies have been conducted on the water quality and ecological health of the lakes including:

- The First and Second Sister Lakes Diagnostic/Feasibility Study of 1997;
- Dolph Park Master Plan – Environmental Analysis, of 1976;
- Black & Vetch Stormwater Master Plan – '97;
- USGS Ground and Surface Water Relations along Honey Creek – '03;
- Huron River Impoundment and Management Plan – '09;
- SL Sampling data from Dolph Park Master Plan – '76
- SL Sampling data from Feasibility Study – '97
- SL Sampling data from MiCorps – '13
- First Sister Lake surface areas beginning in 1904
- Aerial Photos From: '47, '93, '97,'02,'06,'12

WHEREAS, a number of valuable initiatives have been undertaken to protect the Sister Lakes including:

- Phosphorus ban in the City of Ann Arbor, which passed in 2006 and took effect in 2007;
- City-wide composting and street-leaf pick-up ban, which took effect 2010;
- The Waste Watcher publication that includes cartoons about how stormwater works;
- Dissemination of a watershed guide describing homeowner best management practices;
- Partnership with Ann Arbor Public Schools for urban stormwater curriculum;
- Clean-up events;
- Interpretive signs at key features;
- Labeling of storm drains (e.g. Huron River Watershed Council Adopt-a-Drain program);
- Reduced use of salt on streets and dissemination of guidance to homeowners about how to properly use salt;
- Implementation of an effective and compliant construction runoff control program in the watershed; and
- Support to Huron River Watershed Council programs;

WHEREAS, the Parks Advisory Commission (PAC) have learned that there are a number of measures that could help retain or enhance the water quality and ecological health of the Sister Lakes, including:

- Eliminating road salt usage in the area;
- Additional street sweeping in direct drainage areas;
- Additional interpretive educational program for visitors and area schools;
- Retrofit of the privately-owned stormwater detention basin that drains to Second Sister Lake;
- Redirection of tributary drain into First Sister Lake;
- Additional monitoring of both lakes
- Additional property owner education programs

WHEREAS, PAC has determined that additional resources are needed to retain or enhance the water

quality and ecological health of the Sister Lakes;

WHEREAS, drainage from the Sister Lakes affects the Huron River and City of Ann Arbor drinking water source;

WHEREAS, the City of Ann Arbor promotes the concept of integrated stormwater management;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that PAC recommends that the City coordinate efforts citywide to protect the Sister Lakes and work with outside organizations including, but not limited to other governmental entities to devise strategies for protecting and preserving the Sister Lakes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PAC recommends that the City secure funding for feasibility and design efforts to retrofit the Lakewood Road outfall that discharges into First Sister Lake to enhance water quality through increased sediment trapping and nutrient uptake;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that PAC recommends that the City continues to promote the use of green infrastructure to reduce the amount of runoff reaching the Sister Lakes and other water bodies in the city;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that PAC recommends that the City encourage a targeted residential rain garden program in the Sister Lakes drainage area to reduce the amount of runoff reaching the Sister Lakes.