

Recommendation for the Reconstruction of the Argo Headrace & Embankment

Background

- 2004 - MDNRE required repair of toe drains
- 2005 - Bids to repair toe drains
- 2006 - Purple Turtlehead identified during permitting process
- 2007 – MDNRE Dam Safety Unit and Endangered Species Unit consensus on repairs
- 2008 - HRIMP study and City requests for extension
- August 2009 – MDNRE issued Dam Safety Order

Dam Safety Order

- Nov 1, 2009 – Shut off the flow and dewater headrace
- April 30, 2010 – Complete evaluation of options to address headrace embankment deficiencies
- Dec 31, 2010 - Correct headrace deficiencies if the dam stays
- Dec 31, 2012 – Remove the dam if dam removal is the decision
- Aug 15 annually – Submit progress reports

Consent Agreement

- October 2009 City contested the Dam Safety Order
- City & State worked together to develop an agreement that replaces the contested 2009 Dam Safety Order
- Consent Agreement is binding and enforceable
- Consent Agreement details :
 - Vegetation management
 - Repair toe drains or reconstruct headrace by November 15, 2011
 - Shut off flow to headrace by October 15, 2010
 - Flow to headrace is not restored until toe drains are repaired or headrace is constructed
 - Inspections, monitoring and reporting

Consent Agreement

Embankment Deficiencies

- City must select and execute one of two options:
 - Repair of toe-drains
 - Bid Advertisement
 - Reconstruction of the embankment
 - RFP/Bids

Parallel evaluation of both options

Opportunity for EC, PAC Review, Recommendation

Council Review, Decision

Status since Consent Agreement

- Dead trees removed
- Flow to headrace shut off on October 15
- Received bids for toe drain repairs
- Received proposals for Headrace Reconstruction
- Completed evaluation of both options
- Selection committee recommendation
- PAC recommendation

Option 1 – Do Nothing - Impacts

- Closure of the headrace
- Dramatically alter Canoe Livery operations, eliminating popular River Trips
- Decreased revenue for livery operations
- Decreased public benefit
- Argo Pond level unaffected

Option 2 – Repair Toe Drains - Impacts

- Addresses the Consent Agreement
- Headrace reopens as is
- No accessibility improvements gained for either boaters or trail users
- Continued maintenance and monitoring of toe drains and headrace embankment
- Current Argo Pond activities unaffected

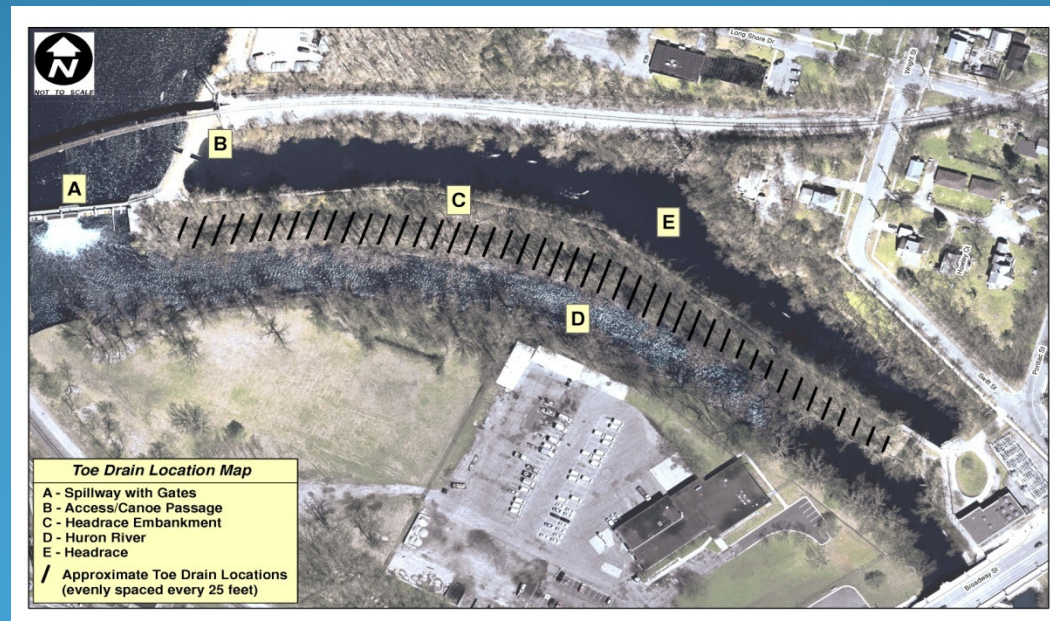
Option 3 – Reconstruct Headrace & Embankment - Impacts

- Addresses the Consent Agreement
- Removal of canoe portage
- ADA Accessibility improvements gained for both boaters and trail users
- Increased Livery revenue
- Decreased maintenance and monitoring of toe drains and embankment
- Current Argo Pond activities unaffected

Toe Drain Repair

- Scope of Work to include:
 - Repair of Toe Drains
 - Vegetation management

Canoe Portage, pathway will remain largely unchanged



Embankment Reconstruction

- RFP Issued August 2, 2010
- Scope of work to include:
 - Connect headrace to river, remove portage
 - Slope must be usable for novice paddlers
 - Border-to-Border trail connection improved
 - Vegetation management
 - Opportunities for enhanced recreation amenities
 - Repair any remaining toe drains

Portage – Getting Out



Portage – Getting Out



Portage - Carrying



Portage – Getting Back In



Portage – Getting Back In



Current Trail Conditions



Current Trail Conditions



Current Trail Conditions



Current Trail Conditions



Toe Drain – Bids Received

- 3 bids received
- Lowest responsible bid of \$707,300
- Bids ranged from \$707,300 to \$829,150
- Repairs toe drains and addresses vegetation management per the Consent Agreement
- What about original estimates of \$300,000 to repair the toe drains?

Reconstruction– Proposals Received

- 2 proposals received
- Only 1 met the requirements set forth in the RFP
- Bid of \$988,170
- Additional white water features, \$180,000

Reconstruction Proposal



Funding Sources

- Park Rehabilitation and Development Millage
 - \$683,000 from returned EAB funds
 - \$195,000 from existing river parks project
- Water Fund
 - \$300,000 from previously allocated funds for toe drain repairs
- Total of \$1,178,000 in available funding
- Potential for funding assistance from Washtenaw County Parks Commission

Selection Committee Recommendation

- Unanimous decision to reconstruct the headrace
- Relatively small cost differential
- Addresses Consent Agreement
- Improves Recreational Accessibility
- Improves Livery Operations and Revenue Opportunities
- Decreases maintenance and monitoring
- Retains current use of Argo Pond
- Recommendation is in the context of compliance with the Consent Agreement – does not preclude further community conversation regarding the disposition of Argo Dam
- If Dam is eventually removed, B2B trail, novice bypass passage for paddlers, and pedestrian bridge can be retained

PAC Recommendation

- Reconstruct the Headrace and the optional whitewater drop feature
- Award a Contract to TSP Environmental
- Total project budget of \$1,168,170
- Funding for the project :
 - Park Rehabilitation and development Millage
 - Water Fund
- If Dam is eventually removed, B2B trail, novice bypass passage for paddlers, pedestrian bridge, and whitewater investments can be retained

Cost/Impact of not making a decision

- Dramatically alter Canoe Livery operations, eliminating popular River Trips
- Decreased revenue for livery operations
 - Coming season ~ \$75,000
 - Future seasons ~ increase loss by 10% for each subsequent season
- Decreased public river access benefit

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Questions?