

Wood Creek Neighborhood Notes

August, 2006

Experience and knowledge set firms apart

Neighborhood Notes is a newsletter addressing areas of interest to specific groups or neighborhoods in the City of Plymouth.

In this issue:

- Engineer team to address erosion along Wood Creek selected
- Yard waste disposal
- City Contacts

City contacts

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Engineering and landscape design firms combine to lead Wood Creek project.

At its August 8 meeting the Plymouth City Council named Wenck Associates and Kestrel Design Group to be the consulting engineers for the Wood Creek erosion control project.

The City had set high standards for this appointment in order to ensure a functional, safe and cost effective improvement to the creek. Selection was based on the firms' experience record of success with similar projects, a demonstrated understanding of the Wood Creek project, familiarity with Plymouth's policies, procedures and standards and on the proposed engineering fees to complete the project.

The Wenck Associates/Kestrel Design Group team made a strong showing with their combined expertise. Wenck Associates has performed other drainage studies in Plymouth and Kestrel Design Group is considered a local expert in drainage issues of urban meandering creeks. Kestrel's representative, L. Peter MacDonagh teaches the subject as an adjunct professor of landscape design at the University of Minnesota.

These firms are combining best management practices with bioengineering techniques to provide an aesthetically appealing design for traditional engineering solutions.

Chris Meehan of Wenck Associates will serve as the Project Engineer. Meehan has worked on several other stream restoration projects, including

the Pike Creek channel restoration project on the Plymouth/Maple Grove border. He is a local resident who enjoys the recreational opportunities of Medicine Lake.

"We recommended this team to the City Council for their track record of projects that meet both engineering and aesthetic goals to correct creek bank erosion problems," said Dave Taylor, Plymouth Engineering Technician.

Recapping the problem.

As cities develop and population increases, roads, buildings and parking lots replace open fields and forests. The result is a decrease in the absorption (infiltration) of rainwater and melting snow. Run-off continues to follow historical pathways, but with increased velocity. This becomes a problem when heavy rainfalls create sudden bursts of run-off, which scour these creeks and overwhelm the plants whose roots normally stabilize the creek banks.

Wood Creek experiences high water velocity, which threatens the integrity of the creek banks and poses specific challenges in engineering a solution.

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Before



After

Wenck Associates and Kestrel Design Group worked together to correct erosion problems along Pike Creek near the Plymouth/Maple Grove border.

Pike Creek Channel Project

Plants to play a role in protecting the banks of Wood Creek.

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Bioengineering makes use of plants with deep roots to stabilize a creek bank.

Approach to the solution

A successful project requires cooperation between citizens, the contractor and the City. You are encouraged to participate in future neighborhood meetings and to contact City staff members involved in this project to address your questions, ideas or concerns.

A project of this sort typically unfolds in the following way:

- The Project Engineer prepares a preliminary sketch to reflect this information;
- The sketch is presented to the neighborhood and

the homeowners' association. Your City Council will also be advised of these meetings;

- Legal agreements will be completed for areas within the project that do not have easements;
- The project will need to be presented for City Council approval;
- Residents will be notified of upcoming meetings and of the start date for construction before construction begins.

Out of sight, out of mind – not out of the way

Keep yard waste out of Wood Creek



The edge of a creek may *seem* like a natural site for dumping brush, leaves and grass clippings. But, aside from being illegal, this type of dumping degrades water quality and interferes with drainage and flood control.

Plymouth Yard Waste Site schedule

Closed M & T	Aug.	Sept.-Oct.	Nov. 1-14	Nov. 15-30
Wed.-Friday	3-8 pm	3-6 pm	3-5 pm	Closed
Week-ends	9 am-8 pm	9 am-6 pm	9 am-4 pm	9 am - 4 pm

Look inside for an update on plans to correct erosion along Wood Creek, including:

- City hires consulting engineers**
- Approach to a solution**
- City contacts**

Neighborhood Notes

