



MEMO

Engineering Department

To: Plan Commission
From: John Neumeier
Date: 11/07/2024
Re: Kaukauna Utilities Request to use Hydro Park for Geothermal Wells

Background information:

Kaukauna Utilities(KU) is exploring opportunities for geothermal heating and cooling at their facilities on Island Street. KU would like to investigate installing the well field in portions of Hydro Park that are under their in their former power canal and is currently a native prairie area. See attached drawing. The blue polygon illustrates the area where the bore locations would be located. All wells would be contained within the prairie area and would be restored to a similar landscape when completed. During the drilling process, we would anticipate a ramp being constructed on the north side to get equipment in and out of the spillway area. KU would close off the bridge to restrict public access during construction. Preliminary plans are for 36 wells, but the test bore will ultimately determine the actual number needed.

Strategic Plan: This project aligns three pillars of our Strategic Plan Foundation

Innovation - Find new and better ways of doing things; develop new services, improve existing processes, and find new ways to enhance the quality of life, all to keep a competitive tax rate.

Sustainability - Meet the needs of the present community without compromising future generations, considering environmental, economic, and social concerns.

Financial Responsibility - Manage the resources available in a responsible way to provide services and amenities that enrich our community; being a steward of resources is essential for the city to operate the most efficiently.

Budget: N/A. All associated expenses to KU.

Staff Recommended Action:

Grant KU temporary access to Hydro Park for a test bore and recommend that Common Council and staff work with KU to develop an agreement for park use if the proposed plan moves forward.

