



Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: November 18, 2025

Agenda Item: Whitewater Creek debris

Staff Contact (name, email, phone): Brad Marquardt, bmarguardt@whitewater-wi.gov, 262-473-0139

BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

Staff received calls from two concerned residents along Whitewater Creek, who reside on George Street just north of the bridge. Their concern was with a blockage causing debris, mainly dead cattails, backing up in the creek adjacent to their and other's property. According to the DNR, the DNR nor the City is responsible for removing anything from the waterway. Affected residents can remove material if they desire as long as the riverbed is not disturbed, otherwise a dredging permit would be required. The blockage, and backup, are more than the residents can handle and even more than the City can take on. The City Manager is in agreement with hiring a contractor to help with the removal of the blockage and backup. However, since this was not a budgeted expense, he asked that this item be brought to the Public Works Committee for discussion.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

The Public Works Committee met on November 11, 2025 and voted 2-1 in favor of proceeding with this project. They asked that it be brought to the full council for discussion and awareness.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

An estimate from a local contractor thought they could do the work in the \$20,000 to \$25,000 range. If the City helped with trucking the material to the compost site, the cost would less. There is money available in the Stormwater Utility from the 2025 Dredging Project. \$300,000 was budgeted, but the project came in at around \$160,000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The blockage is from a large tree that had previously fell into the water. The backup consists of dead cattails that are being washed downstream from the lakes and from dried up duckweed. The backup material is estimated to be one to three feet thick. The water depth is approximately 5 feet. Staff's recommendation is to move forward with this project. The project is proposed to be completed over the winter.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

1. Pictures