

# MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** November 9, 2001

**TO:** Thomas M. Markus, City Manager

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis A. Dembiec, Director of  
Engineering and Public Service

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas M.  
Markus, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Quarton Lake Restoration and Park Enhancement Project

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With the passage of the Park bond issue, the City is now in a position to begin the planning process to make the improvements to the Quarton Lake Park area.

As you are aware we are about to receive the offer for a grant in the amount of \$834,500 representing 50% of the \$1,669,000 cost estimated to dredge Quarton Lake and make repairs to the shore to provide erosion protection to the Lake and the river upstream from Quarton Lake. Wayne County will offer the grant to the City based on its March 30, 2001 application. This project competed with several others that were present to the Main 1-2 Subwatershed Advisory Group (SWAG) for consideration and endorsement. The SWAG is a group of staff representatives of 17 units of government that comprises the Main 1-2 Sub-watershed. The official county award of this grant is forthcoming.

The City of Birmingham now has a Recreation Master Plan that provides a local plan for making park improvements. This plan allows the city to compete for grants provided by the State of Michigan to enhance parkland. Quarton Lake has been included in recommending improvements in this report. In addition, the Quarton Lake Neighborhood association has been interested in not only cleaning up The Lake, but to enhance the park environs and recreational aspects of the area. We qualify to make application to the State for funding assistance and will be seeking out and applying for these funding opportunities in the coming months.

This is a good time to merge the two efforts in a sequential plan to dredge the Lake, control erosion and perform restoration with the new enhancement and recreational plan over the next two years. City staff has met with representatives from Hubbell, Roth, and Clark and Wade Trim to coordinate such a plan and determine a schedule. We have conceptually suggested a public information nucleus of city representatives to help staff formulate a direction. The bond issue has suggested approximately \$2.5 Million for Quarton Lake improvements with the chance of reducing this figure through grants. So far we seem to have a \$834,500 head start as described above. Both HRC and Wade Trim will continue to

look for funding for this project. HRC will attempt to find additional matching funds for the environmental work and Wade Trim will attempt to obtain MDNR, MDEQ and/or Greenway Initiative grant funds to further reduce the costs.

It is suggested that a "Quarton Lake Ad Hoc Committee" be formed to help guide staff and the project development. It is suggested that the following citizen representatives comprise this committee:

1. One Member of the City Commission
2. One Member of the Park and Recreation Board
3. One Member from the Quarton Lake Association
4. One member from the Mill Pond Neighborhood Association
5. Two members "at large" from other parts of Birmingham

The Commission and Park Board would appoint their representatives as well as two neighborhood associations would decide who would represent their neighborhood. The two "at large" members, from other neighborhoods would be included if there are only two volunteers, or interviewed by the City Commission if more than two representatives stepped forward after advertising to the public.

In support, staff representatives and consultants would be:

1. Dennis Dembiec, Director of Engineering and Public Service
2. Bob Fox, Assistant Director of Public Service
3. Margie Synk, Hubbell, Roth, and Clark (HRC)
4. Leah Hutko, Wade Trim (WT)

It is intended that this committee would meet three to five times from January 2002 to June 2002 to formulate the plan. These meetings would be likely held in the evening and announced to the public. The Committee likely would be very receptive to the conceptual ideas of the public at large meeting early on, and then work to develop these concepts in succeeding meetings. We would ask that the representatives from the City Commission, Plan Board, and Park and Recreation Board keep their fellow members abreast of the progress.

The plans for the environmental work are anticipated to be completed in July with bids taken in September 2002. Dredging work would likely take place in the winter months, within the period from mid-October through mid-March, 2003. Plans for the recreational work are expected to begin in spring, 2003 and be completed in the fall.

This is an ambitious schedule and all need to work within this time frame in order to keep on a desirable time schedule both for grant purposes and to keep the disruption of the park and neighborhood to a maximum of one year. We will need to disseminate information to the neighborhoods as well as citywide to let them know of the substantial disruption this will cause for the entire year. Riparian owners along the Lake will need to work with the city to grant us easements and if they wish to participate to make improvements along their property coincidental with our work. They will be notified of our meetings and invited to participate.

Attached is the scope of services from Wade Trim. I have also attached the application information, which contains anticipated costs for HRC. This will provide a guide as to the professional service costs for this project. It is recommended that the City Commission direct staff to proceed along these general anticipated guidelines to reach the goal of providing an enhanced Quarton Lake.

After preparation of conceptual plans, a presentation will be made first to the Park Board then to the City Commission to finalize the design of the park.

### **SUGGESTED ACTION**

**To direct staff to proceed with the process of involving the public in the design and preparation of plans for the Quarton Lake Restoration and Park Enhancement Project and authorize staff to engage consultants pursuant to the attached scope of services consistent with existing agreements with both firms, Wade Trim and Hubbell, Roth, and Clark.**

**The City Commission appoints \_\_\_\_\_ to be the commission member of the “Quarton Lake Ad Hoc Committee”.**