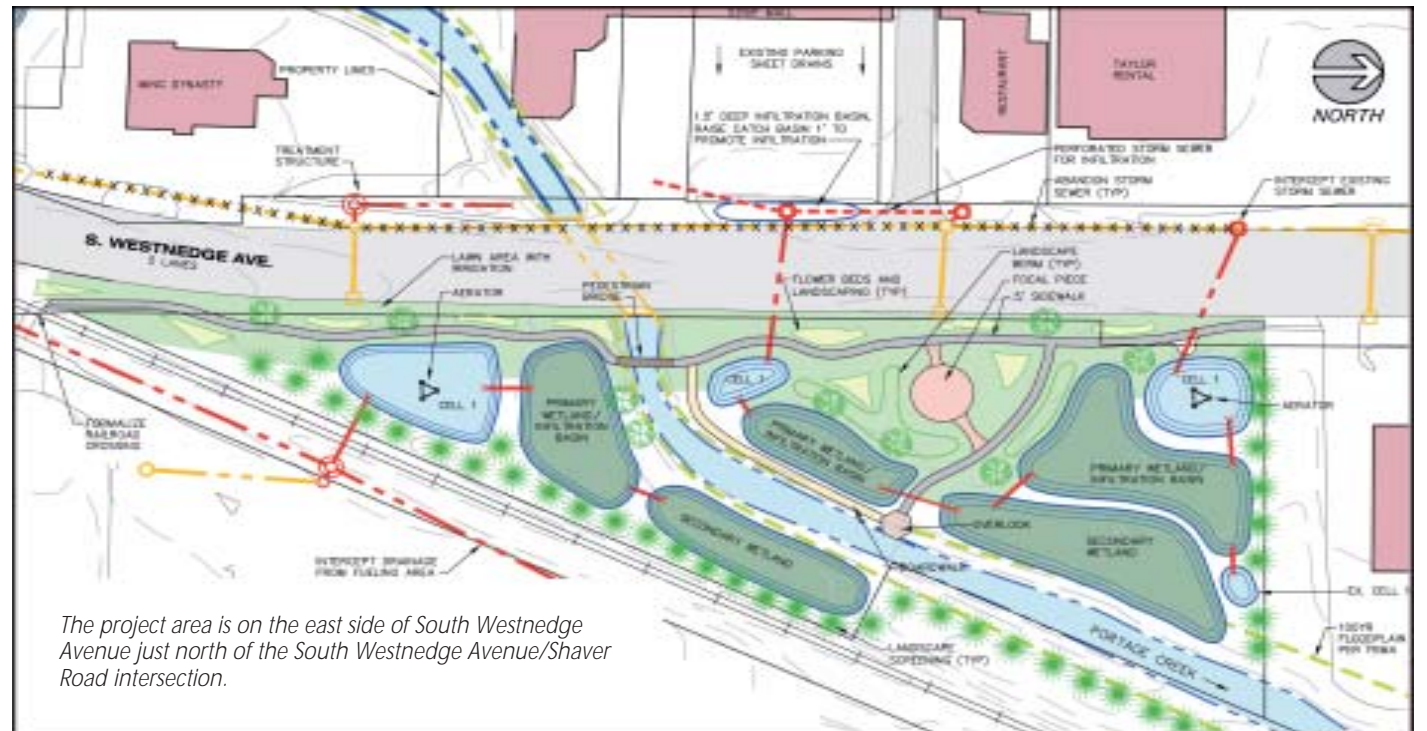


City of Portage Announces South Westnedge Avenue Stormwater Treatment/Enhancement Project

The South Westnedge Avenue Stormwater Treatment/Enhancement Project as depicted on the map (right) is an important water quality enhancement and protection initiative by the City of Portage. Four direct stormwater discharge points to Portage Creek will be eliminated through this project and an environmentally contaminated site will be eliminated. Elimination of these illicit stormwater discharges into Portage Creek is a component of the city's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Watershed Management Plan.

Specific properties are to be acquired to permit the establishment of stormwater treatment systems designed to reduce the pollution that enters Portage Creek from the surrounding 29 acre watershed. Properties outlined for acquisition as part of the project include 7647 S. Westnedge (Smith & DeBree), 7635 S. Westnedge (Pizza Yen), 7619 S. Westnedge (Admiral Lock & Key), 7609 S. Westnedge (Tailor Shop) and the southern portion of 7545 S. Westnedge (vacant). The property at 7407 S. Westnedge (Tri-County Fence) is also included as a potential business relocation site.

Two properties have already been acquired to initiate the South Westnedge Avenue Stormwater Treatment/Enhancement (7407 and



The project area is on the east side of South Westnedge Avenue just north of the South Westnedge Avenue/Shaver Road intersection.

7609 S. Westnedge). Initial contact by the city property agent indicated interest in selling on the part of all but one of the other property owners included in the project area. The city is hopeful that agreements will be quickly reached with all parties to allow this important project to proceed within a short time frame.

This project represents an excellent opportunity to promote environmental and economic development activities within Portage and is designed to encourage redevelopment of this portion of the community.

Meeting Federal Clean Water Requirements

The United States Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972. This Act is the primary federal legislation to protect surface water such as lakes, streams and rivers. The Act focuses on establishing limitations on sources of pollution which discharge into lakes, streams and rivers. The Clean Water Act also introduced the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

The NPDES program serves as the regulatory mechanism of the Clean Water Act. The NPDES program requires anyone discharging a pollutant from a point source into a water of the state to obtain a NPDES permit. In 1987, the NPDES program was expanded to include the regulation of urban communities with populations greater than 10,000. A requirement of the NPDES permit is investigation and elimination of all illicit storm water discharges into Portage Creek.

Special Election Scheduled

Monday, April 21, 2003



The Office of the City Clerk is currently preparing for a Special Election to be held on Monday, April 21, 2003. This election is the result of a Referendum Petition filed in response to the December 17, 2002 action by City Council to change the zoning of approximately 32.4 acres of land west of Shaver Road and south of Centre Avenue from the current zoning of I-1, light industrial, and RM-1, multiple family residential, to CPD, commercial planned development. The petition asks for the repeal of the ordinance passed by the City Council.

Voters should take care to ensure their vote actually reflects their intention in this matter; the language of this issue could be confusing for some:

- To maintain the ordinance passed by City Council, the voter must vote "NO" on the ballot.
- To repeal the ordinance passed by City Council, the voter must vote "YES" on the ballot.

Absent voter ballots can be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at 329-4512, or by visiting the office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 19, 2003.



City of Portage Employment Policy Showing Support for Military Reservists



The City of Portage established a policy during September of 2001 in an effort to financially protect city-employed military reservists who would possibly be called upon in the future to serve our nation.

Because neither the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act nor the employees' labor agreements provided for pay differential and continuation of benefits for this type of military leave, serious disruption can occur in reserve service personnel pay and benefits when these personnel are called-up to serve. City Manager Michael L. Stampfler took action to address this deficiency and to reduce the significant financial hardships created for those called-up to active duty. In September 2001, at the direction of the City Manager, city employed reservists were notified of the city intent to provide pay differential as well as benefits should they be called to active military duty.

Three City of Portage employees have recently been called to active duty (a Fire Captain, a Police Officer and a Streets Laborer). These reservists—employees of the City of Portage—are valuable assets to our city as well as our nation. These individuals and their families deserve and are receiving the support of the City of Portage for their sacrifices and commitment to our nation.