



Lick Run Project

Historic/Cultural Mitigation

Lick Run Project: A National Model

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) is implementing a solution to significantly reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into the Mill Creek by 2018.

The \$193 million Lick Run Project on Cincinnati's west side is an integral part of this solution and is being viewed by the U.S. EPA as a national model for integrated watershed planning. The project will reduce CSOs, as well as improve water quality, create new jobs and provide opportunities for community revitalization.

The central element of the project is the Lick Run Greenway in the Cincinnati neighborhood of South Fairmount. The Greenway will convey (carry) stormwater runoff directly to the Mill Creek and includes a mile-long urban waterway (constructed channel that mimics a natural stream) and an underground stormwater conveyance box for flood control, among other features. Construction is anticipated from Fall 2016 through December 2018 (substantially complete).

Historic and Cultural Resources

Major infrastructure projects often require an evaluation of how historic or potentially historic properties will be impacted and if possible, mitigation of those impacts.

As part of the Lick Run Project, MSD has conducted the following research and mitigation work:

- Community study to identify any properties on the National Register of Historic Places or potentially eligible for the NRHP
- Mitigation plan to address impacts to the properties
- Archaeological investigation

The Ohio EPA is conducting a Section 106 Review of MSD's work.

Community Study

MSD conducted a community study in 2012 that identified five properties in the path of the Lick Run Greenway that are potentially eligible for the NRHP. They include:

- 1786 Westwood Avenue
- 1806 Westwood Avenue
- 1824 Westwood Avenue (former Vitt & Stermer Funeral Home)
- 1783 Queen City Avenue
- 1789 Queen City Avenue (Nun's House)



1786 Westwood Avenue
(Queen Anne style)



1806 Westwood Avenue
(American Foursquare style)



1824 Westwood Avenue (former Vitt & Stermer Funeral Home -
Mission style)



1789 Queen City Avenue
Nun's House



1783 Queen City Avenue
(Queen Anne style)

To create space for the Lick Run Greenway, these properties will need to be relocated or demolished/deconstructed.

Historic Mitigation Plan

MSD prepared a mitigation plan in early 2014 to address impacts to the five properties and other cultural resources.

Mitigation progress to date includes:

- Two local artists developed a video history of buildings in South Fairmount called "[Lick Run Revival](#)."
- MSD is designing a Cultural Trail and a Heritage Trail on the history of South Fairmount. Both trails will link to a website with additional information.
- A plant nursery in Hamilton has cloned numerous second generation "moon trees" that will be planted along the Lick Run Greenway.



Second generation moon tree in South Fairmount (left) and cloned moon tree at the Lagergren Nursery in Hamilton.

Archaeological Investigation

MSD conducted an archaeological investigation in the Lick Run corridor in late 2014 to identify any subsurface features of interest. Ground-penetrating radar was used in six select areas. Four of the six areas were further investigated and showed evidence of building demolition from previous decades.

Other Related Work: Deconstruction of Buildings

As part of the Lick Run Project, MSD is purchasing and demolishing residential and commercial buildings in South Fairmount. About 91 buildings, including garages and large sheds, will be demolished in total.

MSD has been soft stripping and deconstructing viable buildings to salvage reusable materials, recyclable materials and historical details. MSD is partnering with Building Value, LLC, a Northside-based nonprofit that specializes in deconstruction. Building Value is offering the salvaged materials, many of them antiques, for resale to the public at a 20% discount.

¹A second generation moon tree is located in the Lick Run Greenway area. A first generation moon tree is a tree grown from seeds that astronaut Stuart Roosa took to the moon during the Apollo 14 mission in 1971. A second generation moon tree is a tree grown from a cutting or seed from a first generation moon tree.

Need More Information?

Visit the Lick Run Project website at www.projectgroundwork.org/lickrun

Contact MSD Engineering Customer Service at (513) 557-3594 or MSD.Communications@cincinnati-oh.gov



"Lick Run Revival:" a video history of South Fairmount