



SYNOPSIS

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

City Council Resolution: 22-0108R

Investigative Hearing - Druid Lake and Ashburton Water Tanks

Sponsor: Councilmember Torrence, et al

Introduced: May 16, 2022

Purpose:

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Recreation and Parks (“BCRP”) and the Department of Public Works to provide information on the Druid Lake and Ashburton water tanks projects, including a general overview highlighting the importance of the projects, an updated time line for the completion of the projects, a summary of the environmental implications of the projects and any corrective actions taken on environmental issues reported to the Maryland Department of the Environment, an assessment of the scope of the projects and whether they are on track to stay within the allotted budget, a detailed description of the proposed park amenities and restoration, a discussion of BCRP’s plan to maintain Druid Lake Park during the ongoing construction work, and an assessment of how these projects align with equitable neighborhood development for the surrounding communities.

Effective: Upon enactment

AGENCY REPORTS

Department of Public Works	
Department of Recreation and Parks	
City Solicitor	Favorable

ANALYSIS

The resolution asks the agencies to report on the Druid Lake and Ashburton water tanks projects, and specifically include:

1. A general overview highlighting the importance of the projects,
2. An updated timeline for the completion of the projects,
3. A summary of the environmental implications of the projects and any corrective actions taken on environmental issues reported to the Maryland Department of the Environment,
4. An assessment of the scope of the projects and whether they are on track to stay within the allotted budget,
5. A detailed description of the proposed park amenities and restoration,
6. A discussion of BCRP's plan to maintain Druid Lake Park during the ongoing construction work, and
7. An assessment of how these projects align with equitable neighborhood development for the surrounding communities.

Druid Lake, located on the southern edge of Druid Hill Park, is a reservoir for treated drinking water that is ready for distribution to consumers through the City's water system. In response to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations to protect drinking water supplies, since 2017 the Department of Public Works (DPW) has been constructing two new underground storage tanks on the western end of the lake. Together the tanks will hold more than 50 million gallons of drinking water. The project involves draining part of the lake, constructing the tanks in the drained area, and covering the tanks with new park land. The project will permanently convert 14 acres of the lake to new park space. DPW will maintain the remaining portion of the lake but will no longer use it to store drinking water.

DPW originally expected to complete the project in March of 2022, with a final cost of \$140 million. As of Fall 2022, 93 percent of the work for the Druid Lake Tank Project is complete. The remaining scope of work includes laying approximately 1,000 feet of large diameter steel pipe, site restoration, and park development. The estimated timeline for completion is currently early 2024.

Lake Ashburton, located in Hanlon Park, is also a reservoir for treated drinking water. DPW is in the process of building two new underground storage tanks in Hanlon Park, adjacent to the existing lake, to satisfy the EPA drinking water regulations. When the project is complete, the lake will remain but will no longer be used to store drinking water. The work in Hanlon Park began in June of 2018. DPW expected the project to take at least four years to complete (from Summer 2018) at a cost of \$137 million.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s):

- Department of Public Works, Druid Lake Tanks:
<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/druidlake>
- Department of Public Works, Ashburton Tanks Project:
<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/ashburton-tank-project>
- Reporting Agencies
- Resolution 22-0108R



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