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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Michael D'Amato
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Milwaukee's Beautiful River Corridor Needs To Be Preserved, Alderman Says

Zoning Plan Would Place Limits Along Milwaukee River to Preserve Natural Habitat

Green space and the scenic banks and bluffs of the Milwaukee River that stretch northward from North Ave. to the city limits are a public treasure and need to be preserved, Ald. Michael S. D'Amato said.

In fact, Ald. D'Amato has requested a city study of a unique conservation overlay district to protect the Milwaukee River environmental corridor that twists and turns for miles from North Ave. to Edgewood Ave. – the border between Milwaukee and Shorewood.

“A temporary change in the zoning along the corridor would help prevent any buildings from being developed that violate the corridor until a plan can be created to specifically address a no-build zone as well as setback and height requirements to create a natural view corridor from North Avenue north to the city limits,” Ald. D'Amato said.

The Milwaukee River Work Group – an organization pushing for what it calls “an appropriate balance between preservation and profitability” – is working closely with the alderman on the issue and has been attending meetings with neighborhood and business groups in the area.

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River Corridor Zoning/ADD ONE

Currently, city zoning is a “patchwork” that does not set specific height or setback requirements for developments along the Milwaukee River north of North Ave., the alderman said. The area south of North Ave. along the river is already well developed with a mix of condominium and commercial buildings.

Ald. D’Amato said the rezoning would help foster developments that are sensitive to sightlines and the special natural character of the river corridor. “Anyone who has walked along the shores of the river in this area knows that it truly provides a pristine and natural experience, making one almost forget that they’re still in the midst of a bustling urban area,” said Ald. D’Amato, chair of the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee.

“We would like to promote development that is sensitive to the natural river corridor while also providing the public with access to this beautiful public treasure,” he said.

The measure is scheduled for a public hearing before the City Plan Commission on May 14.