



City of South Haven

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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After a year of planning and design work, the City of South Haven is set to begin implementing the first phase of the Water Street Master Plan addressing needs of one of the more visible areas in the community.

The existing hillside along the south side of Water Street is a combination of dumped soil and debris. There are scattered broken concrete retaining walls in some areas under the vines and weeds. "The hillside area is a very visible area connecting our downtown to our lakefront and this plan will both improve both the stability of the hillside as well as its aesthetics for residents and the many visitors to our community" stated William Hunter, South Haven's Director of Public Works

The hillsides have become a 'no man's land', with visitors to the waterfront passing by the unkempt hillsides and residents above the embankment concerned about compromised views. Turf mowing is impossible on most of the hillsides due to the slope steepness. Furthermore, "goat trails" have begun to develop from people traversing between the residential areas above the hill and the waterfront area further undermining the stability of the hillside. The proposed stairway will reduce the use of these trails aiding in the long term stability of the slope

Phase I is the development of a stairway to connect the Water Street and riverfront area to the neighborhood immediately to the south at Eagle Street. Currently, there are three distinct trails along the face of the slope that have developed between these two areas that have resulted in the loss of vegetation that serves to stabilize the hillside. If this situation is left as-is, additional vegetation would be lost further compromising the stability of the hillside. The stairway will address this by developing a solid surface route between these two areas keeping individuals off the hillside itself.

Phase II will include removing some of the debris and poor quality plants and trees along the hillside and replacing them with higher quality plants that will not only improve the aesthetics of Water Street but improve the overall stability of the hillside itself.

Work on Phase I of the project is slated to begin the week of June 12th with most of the concrete work completed prior to the 4th of July with the balance of the project's work to be completed around July 21st.

Most of the work will be done from the adjacent parking area to the project site, but there may be times where access will be slowed up do to construction during the first two weeks of construction.

A drawing is included with this press release.

Questions regarding the project can be directed to the City of South Haven's Public Works Department at (269) 637-0737.

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Phase I Project Plan

