

The cost of the Cleveland Metroparks **Zoo's** tropical RainForest project will rise again, this time by an estimated \$671,000 for **flood** protection that wasn't accounted for in original plans.

Last January, The Plain Dealer reported the \$29 million project was being built in one of the lowest spots in the **flood** plain of **Big Creek**, which runs through the **zoo**. After the information was disclosed in articles about the RainForest project's troubles, the Metroparks hired CT Consultants Inc. of Willoughby to determine options to prevent flooding of the structure. The Army Corps of Engineers said 7 to 10 feet of water was the maximum height that **flood** water would reach at the site.

A Cuyahoga grand jury has been investigating possible contract fraud related to the building of the RainForest. Project architect Thomas T.K. Zung, who was hired to conduct a feasibility study on building the project in its present location, said he knew it was in the **flood** plain, but said park officials told him not to worry about flooding.

Yesterday, park commissioners heard the consultant's report offering five recommendations for handling excessive water from **Big Creek**, which flows along the north side of the building.

The top recommendation was to build embankments around the east, west and south sides of the building, a wall on the north side between the RainForest and the **creek**, and a floodgate at the main entrance. The price tag would be \$261,700 if the wall is built of timbers, and \$310,900 if built of concrete.

J. David Wiles, who presented the study to the Metroparks trustees, said in order to make those changes, it would be necessary to relocate the **zoo's** main lower-level entrance road and the road leading to the **zoo's** rear entrance and parking lots. He said it also would be necessary to build walkways on top of the embankments, to make some adjustments in the parking areas and to add trees and other plantings.

Those projects will cost an estimated additional \$360,000, according to the consultant.

Wiles also warned that a 24-hour security staff would have to be available to ensure that the **flood** gates are closed before large storms begin, adding to the cost of the **flood** protection. Continuous routine maintenance also will be required on the storm water pump station.

The park district will advertise for bids on the work, which is expected to begin in the fall of 1991.

In other business, the board rejected a request from Bridge-Trissel Enterprise Inc. for a one-year extension of its concession contract through March 31, 1992, at the Emerald Necklace Marina in the Rocky River Reservation.

Instead, the commissioners authorized Executive Director Vern J. Hartenburg and Planning Director Richard J. Kerber to begin planning installation of a water main, sanitary sewers, a pump station and restrooms at the marina. Asking that the projects be completed by next April 1, the board indicated they would then consider granting a two-year contract to the best bidder.

There will be a special meeting next week to award contracts for construction of a new clubhouse at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course at a cost of about \$840,000. The action was delayed yesterday so further information can be obtained on Metro Mall Systems of Avon Lake, which submitted a \$599,305 bid as general contractor. Demolition of the old clubhouse, which was being delayed until construction firms were under contract, was authorized to begin immediately.

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PAULINE THOMA; STAFF WRITER, 'Flood plan boosts cost of RainForest', *Plain Dealer, The* (online), 28 Sep 1990 <<https://infoweb-newsbank-com.ezproxy2.cpl.org/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/173EA9490CB84578>>

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