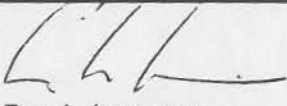


**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA**

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-087
FEBRUARY 26, 1996 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	PREPARED BY:	SUBMITTED BY:
REAP GRANT AGREEMENT FOR LAND ADJACENT TO BEAVERDALE PARK	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	DON TRIPP PARK & RECREATION DIRECTOR	 ERIC A. ANDERSON CITY MANAGER

SYNOPSIS —

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has awarded the City of Des Moines a \$45,000 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant for acquisition of seven acres of open space land adjacent to Beaverdale Park. Council action authorizing the Mayor to sign the grant agreement is required. The land in question is undeveloped open space in its natural state. No immediate development funds are needed or anticipated. The area will become part of Beaverdale Park, and can be safely accessed by the general public from that existing park.

FISCAL IMPACT —

The REAP Grant is 100 percent state-funded. No additional City funds are required in conjunction with the land acquisition.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approve the roll call authorizing the Mayor to sign the REAP Grant Agreement on behalf of the City of Des Moines.

BACKGROUND —

In June 1988, the City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board and the Save The Woods Foundation, a local nonprofit foundation. That agreement authorized private fund-raising efforts by the foundation to assist in expansion of Beaverdale Park through the purchase of approximately seven acres of prime open space land known as *Beaverdale Woods* adjacent to the park. Since that time, the Foundation has been successful in raising approximately one-third of the \$60,000 needed to purchase the property. The current owner has been very supportive of this effort, but now wishes to complete the sale, or the land could be subject to private development.

To complete the purchase and protect the land from possible encroachment, private funds were borrowed by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation on behalf of the Save The Woods Foundation to complete the land payments. This was done with the understanding the land would be deeded as a gift to the City of Des Moines for expansion of Beaverdale Park. The City, in turn, agreed to submit a

grant application to the IDNR for Resource Enhancement and Protection funds to repay the Natural Heritage Foundation the cost of the private loan, and transfer full title to the City of Des Moines.

This was done and the grant application was approved by IDNR in the amount of \$45,000. Council approved the submission of the grant application by Roll Call No. 95-2884, dated July 24, 1995.