

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
DES MOINES, IOWA

ITEM 126

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 97-168  
APRIL 7, 1997 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
GRAY'S LAKE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SERVICES	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	DONALD M. TRIPP PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

**SYNOPSIS —**

Request City Council authorization to proceed with a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant to conduct a market feasibility study to determine public recreation and private development opportunities for the Gray's Lake planning area, study bicycle and pedestrian opportunities within the planning area, and develop a master plan for Gray's Lake.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

Staff anticipates that the Gray's Lake RFP will require two uniquely different consultants under one contract. One consultant will specialize in a market feasibility study, while the second consultant will specialize park planning and design. The consultant work is estimated at \$35,000, and funds are available in the 1997-98 Capital Improvement Program to fund this expense.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

Approval of Gray's Lake Request for Proposals services.

**BACKGROUND —**

Gray's Lake Park is recognized in the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, *Parklands*, is one of the most important natural resources in the Des Moines Park and Recreation System. A community survey has identified Gray's Lake as one of the most attractive opportunities in the Park and Recreation System. However, the park is underutilized because of a concern for public safety, due in part to gradual blight from the abandoned Holiday Inn and lack of resources to make improvements to the area. *Parklands* identifies the enhanced development and operation of this 165-acre park as one of the highest short-term priorities of the City of Des Moines in order to restore recreation and conservation opportunities of the area.

The Park and Recreation Board supports the planning and development of Gray's Lake Park as one of the top priorities in the CIP. City Council has also supported the project by authorizing funds in the FY1998 CIP budget. The budget specifically identified funds in the 1997-98 Program for planning and master plan design of the site. Staff is requesting to begin the selection process so a consultant can be under contract at the beginning of the next fiscal year in July. Gray's Lake is a key component within the Des Moines Park System as it presents many recreational opportunities on a regional basis, as well as its appearance and visibility to visitors to the City of Des Moines area because of its location between the Airport and downtown area. A planning team will be assembled which includes representatives from the City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, Park and Recreation Board, Des Moines Water Works, local businesses, the adjacent Neighborhood Association, and staff to work directly with the successful consultant to identify opportunities that exist for the future development of Gray's Lake. The planning team will be asked to assist with guiding the consultant to determine the best land uses for public recreation, private development and partnerships, and pedestrian connections within the park as well as connecting the Saylorville Trail with Water Works Park and the Bill Riley Trail.