

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**98-220**

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

**AGENDA:**  
JUNE 1, 1998

**SYNOPSIS –**

**SUBJECT:**  
FLEUR DRIVERE-  
LANDSCAPING

In conjunction with the Iowa Summit for Volunteerism to be held in Des Moines on June 10 and 11, 1998, and in commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the Great Flood, volunteers will re-landscape and clean the Fleur Drive median islands between the Des Moines International Airport and the Raccoon River Bridge. This project combines efforts of the Park and Recreation Board and Park and Recreation Department, with assistance from the Public Works Department, the Traffic and Transportation Division, the Police and Finance Departments, 150 local volunteers, and 150 AmeriCorps volunteers attending the Summit. The Park and Recreation Department will maintain the median islands subsequent to this event.

**TYPE:**  
RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
*RECEIVE/FILE*

**SUBMITTED BY:**  
DONALD TRIPP  
PARK AND  
RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

**FISCAL IMPACT –**

The Park and Recreation Department estimates the June 10 re-landscaping project, in addition to on-going maintenance required to maintain the median islands, will cost \$120,000. Included in this amount is \$37,662 for two seven-month laborers. Funding for the entire effort will come from several City funds, including \$30,000 from Flood Donations and Insured Park Losses (Trust and Agency Accounts) and \$90,000 from salary savings within the Park and Recreation Department budgets.

**RECOMMENDATION –**

**This communication serves to inform the City Council of this project and the Volunteer Summit. No Council action for this project is required at this time.**

**To inform citizens of the benefits of volunteerism and to seek volunteers from the community, the Governor of Iowa**

**has declared 1998 the year of volunteerism. Staff requests the same declaration for the City of Des Moines.**

## **BACKGROUND –**

The Iowa Summit for Volunteerism, to be held in Des Moines on June 10 and June 11, will attract several thousand Iowans to the Des Moines area. Summit participants will donate several hours to volunteer service projects throughout the City. To capitalize on these volunteer efforts, the Park and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Park and Recreation Board (represented by Lisette Sell), AmeriCorps (represented by Jody Heuberger), and Summit Volunteers (represented by Jack Porter of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service), created the Fleur Drive re-landscaping project to transform the Fleur Drive median island from the Des Moines International Airport to the Raccoon River Bridge virtually overnight (the event will occur from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. or beyond). Volunteers are also being sought from area neighborhood associations.

City staff will oversee the project, which includes the planting of crabapple trees, annuals, chrysanthemums, and flowering bulbs in landscape timber planters. Donations will provide for food and music, and the City will provide T-shirts and work equipment to all volunteers. The Park and Recreation Department will inventory the one-time purchase of work equipment for future efforts.

The Traffic and Transportation Division has determined that the inside north and south lanes of Fleur Drive will be closed during the work days to assist City workers in preparing for this event. These lanes will be closed between now and June 10 at 7:00 p.m. during scheduled work hours. On June 10, Fleur Drive will be closed from Locust Street to Valley Drive. Between Valley Drive and Thomas Beck Road, a single southbound lane will be left open. Between Thomas Beck Road and Park Avenue, the inside lane north and southbound will be closed. These closures will begin at approximately 6:30 p.m. and end at approximately 1:00 a.m.

To maintain the median islands after the June 10 event, the Park and Recreation Department proposes the addition of two seven-month laborers at an annual cost of \$37,662.

## **The Re-landscaping Project**

The June 10 project will include the length that is achievable that night. The Park and Recreation Department anticipates the work will be completed to Thomas Beck Road from the Bridge. The project will include the following activities on Fleur Drive:

- Remove all crabapple trees from the Fleur Drive bridge to Valley Drive. Many of these trees are dead or dying due to flood and element damage.
- Move healthy trees to medians south of Valley Drive to fill voids along Fleur Drive to the Des Moines International Airport.
- Plant new trees from Bridge to Valley Drive with less trees planted but raised in 4' x 8' landscape timber beds.
- Planter beds will contain annual and perennial plantings.
- Excavate grass medians 12" inside existing concrete curb from the Bridge to the Des Moines International Airport. Replace dirt with tamped, crushed brick, edged with concrete bricks.
- Spray and remove weeds in the concrete medians. The concrete medians will also be swept. Public Works will clean the streets the following day.

In addition to the above activities to beautify this gateway through southside neighborhoods and into downtown, the Iowa Summit for Volunteerism will provide several hundred volunteers on the afternoon of June 10 for beautification and clean-up projects throughout the Des Moines park and recreation system.