



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

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

**98-271**

**SYNOPSIS –**

**AGENDA:**

JUNE 22, 1998

**SUBJECT:**

FOUR MILE CREEK  
TRAIL GRANT  
SUBMITTAL

Resolution which authorizes staff to submit a grant application to the State of Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), State Recreational Trails Fund for the Four Mile Creek Trail project. The project is an extension of the existing Four Mile Creek Trail located at the intersection of Four Mile Creek and Easton Boulevard, north approximately two miles to the city limits at Aurora Avenue.

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE**

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

DONALD TRIPP  
PARK AND  
RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

Preliminary cost estimates for two miles of trail along the Four Mile Creek ranges from \$900,000 to \$1.4 million. The cost estimates include land acquisition/easements, design, engineering, construction, site restoration, contract management, and a number of contractual obligations for environmental assessment data for historical, archeological, and other miscellaneous fact finding analysis. The cost estimates also consider all the factors noted above for developing the trail. The City is requesting a grant from the State Recreation Trails program for \$500,000. Remaining funds will come from the State of Iowa, Department of Natural Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund (\$250,000) and City General Obligation Bonds, FY99/00 Capital Improvement Program (\$350,000).

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Adopt and proceed with submitting a grant application to the IDOT.**

**BACKGROUND —**

By Roll Call No. 97-121, City Council adopted a Resolution to

enter into an agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to begin development of part of the Four Mile Creek Trail between Easton Boulevard and Hubbell Avenue. The agreement included a financial grant from DNR for \$250,000 to construct 3/4 mile of trail.

Earlier this year, a memorandum was distributed to Mayor Preston Daniels and Members of the City Council which apprised Council of the Four Mile Creek Trail status. In the February 9, 1998, memorandum, staff informed Council that several residents, during a public information meeting, stated their homes may be affected negatively by a trail alignment which follows the sanitary sewer easement along Four Mile Creek. Since the City does not possess a surface easement along this route, it would be necessary to negotiate an agreement with several homeowners. Furthermore, several homeowners stated they would not willingly sell these surface easement rights to the city. Therefore, Staff stated they would research a variety of trail alignment alternatives and schedule another public information meeting to try and determine the best possible alignment for the trail.

We have not yet achieved a consensus for a specific alignment. However, the alignment alternative which creates the highest consideration for safety, and the lowest impact on the number of citizens, is also the most expensive trail alignment alternative to construct. Many factors are being considered which increase the cost of constructing the trail.

\*trail user safety

\*the number of citizens affected by each trail alignment alternative

\*concerns for personal safety, liability, and maintenance of homeowners along the trail's boundaries

\*the impact of each alternative on floodway and floodplain issues

\*environmental sensitivity to plant materials and wildlife habitats

\*the cost for each trail alignment alternative and the cost associated with acquiring rights-of-way from personal property

owners

\*maintenance and operating costs

\*compatibility with the DNR grant to allow for multiple recreational users including walkers, joggers, rollerbladers, bicyclists, unicyclists, etc.

These factors have been the guiding principles to decide which of the alternatives should be recommended. Benefits of some factors conflict with the benefits of other factors. While these issues continue to be evaluated with the neighborhood ideas, we are continuing to recognize some alternatives are greater than the available budgeted funds. It is imperative to attempt to leverage City funds with other potential sources. Therefore, we are seeking Council' s support to submit an application to the IDOT for this funding source to assist in the cost of this project.