

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

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

**98-308**

**SYNOPSIS —**

**AGENDA:**

JULY 27, 1998

City Council is requested to authorize the Mayor to sign a Lease Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for public park and recreation purposes along the Des Moines River Greenbelt south of Euclid Avenue and west of Sixth Avenue.

**SUBJECT:**

LAND LEASE  
AGREEMENT  
WITH THE U.S.  
ARMY CORPS OF  
ENGINEERS FOR  
PUBLIC PARK AND  
RECREATION  
ALONG THE DES  
MOINES RIVER

**FISCAL IMPACT –**

There is no direct cost to execute the Lease Agreement. However, the City will be liable for all maintenance costs associated with the more than 262 acres of land within the Des Moines River floodplain.

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE**

**RECOMMENDATION –**

**Approve the Lease Agreement.**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

DONALD TRIPP  
PARK AND  
RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

**BACKGROUND –**

On May 3, 1982, by Roll Call No. 1844, the City Council approved the Cost-Sharing Contract between the City and the United States of America for recreation development in the Saylorville Floodway Corridor. While the purpose of the contract included recreation improvements of Prospect Park and development of the East Des Moines River Trail, contractual obligations include a requirement that the City lease more than 240 acres of property along the Des Moines River corridor. The lease was to be executed within 30 days after construction of the recreation facilities, and the intent of the lease was for the City to manage and administer these lands in the Saylorville Floodway Corridor according to an adopted Recreation Master Plan.

Unfortunately, the City never fulfilled its contractual obligations during the past 15 years and we should not further delay the Lease Agreement. The delinquent Lease Agreement surfaced because we need to construct Phase II of the Inter Urban Trail which includes a bridge crossing over the Des Moines River south of Euclid Avenue. Part of the property needed to complete Phase II of the Inter Urban Trail is owned by the U.S. Army Corps. Therefore, once the Lease Agreement has been completed, the City will have the authority to continue with the trail project which is on the Corps' property.