

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

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

**99-250**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

MAY 24, 1999

**SUBJECT:**

DING DARLING  
GREENWAY

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

DONALD M. TRIPP  
PARK AND  
RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

Request from Ding Darling Foundation to adopt a resolution to designate a 7.6 mile portion of the Des Moines River Greenbelt between Grand Avenue and NW 66th Avenue the "Ding Darling Greenway" in his honor and to install a bronze plaque and sign in Prospect Park recognizing this greenbelt. There are also signs proposed to be placed in Birdland and Crivaro Parks.

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

None, signage installation and maintenance to be responsibility of Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approve resolution to designate a 7.6 mile portion of the Des Moines River Greenbelt as the "Ding Darling Greenway."**

**BACKGROUND -**

Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling was a famous syndicated political cartoonist (including the Des Moines Register) which won him two Pulitzer Prizes. These cartoons often dealt with waterfowl, wetlands, and the conservation of those and other natural resources. Although he was born in Michigan, traveled the world, lived and worked in New York City, and saw his work published on front pages throughout the nation, he considered Iowa his home. In 1939 "Ding" Darling and his wife personally contributed the land along the Des Moines River, now known as Prospect Park. Mr. Darling played a key part in founding the U.S. Fish, Wildlife Service; the National Wildlife Federation; and Ducks Unlimited. He also helped construct the Iowa 25-year Conservation Plan. Ding's accomplishments have been

recognized nationally and there are a number of outdoor recreation areas throughout the country, but this would be the first in Iowa.

Resolutions approving the designation have already been adopted by the Polk County Conservation Board and the State Natural Resource Commission. The Army Corps of Engineers concur with the concept and agree to generally refer to the area now known as the "Saylorville Downstream Corridor" as the "Ding" Darling Greenway in its planning documents, leases, maps, publications, and signage.

By Resolution No. 99-150, on May 11, 1999, the Park and Recreation Board approved this request.

A formal dedication is planned for June 23, 1999 in Prospect Park.