

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

99-267

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JUNE 7, 1999

To approve Partner In Parks Agreement forms and authorize the Park and Recreation Director to sign on behalf of the City of Des Moines.

SUBJECT:

PARTNERS IN
PARKS ADOPT-A-
PARK PROGRAM

FISCAL IMPACT -

A total of 25,000 volunteer hours is anticipated.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND -

On Tuesday, May 25, 1999, by Resolution Number 99-159, the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board recommended the City Council to approve the Partners In Parks Agreement forms.

On May 11, 1999, the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board received and filed information on the Partners In Parks Adopt-A-Park program. The information was referred to the Park and Recreation Boards' Volunteer sub-committee for review and comment. On May 12, 1999, the Volunteer sub-committee reviewed the forms and raised several issues regarding the hold harmless and task agreement. These matters have been resolved.

A meeting was held on Tuesday, May 18, 1999, with representatives from the Volunteer sub committee, Park and Recreation Department, AmeriCorps, City Legal and the Risk Manager. The discussion included how Chapter 670 of the Iowa Code applied towards the Partners In Parks program. Basically this section of the chapter provides that the City will

protect a volunteer in a similar manner that they would an employee, as long as the volunteer was working under the scope of agreed upon services. The Task and Responsibilities Agreement and Individual Waiver and Release Form were modified to read easier and explain the risk potential for the City and the volunteer. The Volunteer sub-committee and the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board recommended the City Council approve the forms.

Recruitment of volunteers will occur through the Park and Recreation Board, Park and Recreation Department staff, and AmeriCorps members. Projects will vary from one day clean-ups to ongoing regular maintenance at a level higher than City staff can achieve. Services performed will include litter pick-up, painting of picnic tables, shelters, raking sand in playground areas, weeding flower beds, edging sidewalks, and similar related custodial duties within the City's park and open space system.