

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

99-328

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JULY 26, 1999

SUBJECT:

AUTHORIZATION
OF A RESOURCE
ENHANCEMENT
AND PROTECTION
GRANT

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

To approve submittal of an application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for a Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) grant. The project that best matches the grant criteria is a section of the American Discovery Trail (ADT) north of the Raccoon River along the flood levy near Gray's Lake and connecting to the John Pat Dorrian Trail near the Des Moines Police Station.

FISCAL IMPACT -

The proposed ADT section, which is two miles in length, is estimated at \$1.2 million. The City has received a \$200,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), and has also budgeted \$375,000 of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds for this project. The REAP application is requesting an additional \$300,000 for construction of this trail.

RECOMMENDATION -

Authorize the Mayor to sign a REAP grant application to IDNR for a two-mile section of the ADT in the Riverpoint Business District.

BACKGROUND -

On November 2, 1998, by Roll Call No. 98-3437, City Council authorized the Mayor to sign a grant application to IDOT for a Federal Recreation Trails Grant. On March 9, 1999, the Iowa Transportation Commission approved funding in the amount of \$201,589 for the ADT - Gray's Lake Segment.

The project was assigned to the Engineering Department to begin the design and engineering of the trail. The preliminary

cost estimate exceeds \$1.2 million, which includes renovation of a city-owned railroad bridge over the Des Moines River, two miles of concrete trail 10' wide with two feet of granular shoulder surface on the Raccoon River levy, grading, earthwork, retaining walls, 20 percent contingency, engineering costs, and miscellaneous construction expenses. The project will also require an easement from the railroad company for a portion of the project, and a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct on the levy.

It is hopeful to acquire the easement and permit within the next 12 months, and complete design and engineering within the same period. Construction of this trail project could begin as soon as next summer, which would make a safe and accessible trail connection from the downtown Des Moines area to Gray's Lake. Other trail grant opportunities will be explored and considered within the next six months to provide full funding to complete this project. Meanwhile, Engineering will further refine development costs to determine a final cost estimate for this project.