

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

99-366

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

AGENDA:

AUGUST 16, 1999

SUBJECT:

NATIONAL
RECREATIONAL
TRAILS GRANT
AGREEMENT FOR A
PORTION OF THE
AMERICAN
DISCOVERY TRAIL

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

SYNOPSIS -

Authorize the Mayor to sign a National Recreational Trails Agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for a two-mile section of the American Discovery Trail (ADT). In November 1998, the City applied for the grant and was awarded funding totaling \$201,589.

FISCAL IMPACT -

The proposed ADT section, which is two miles of trail and pedestrian bridge, is estimated at \$1.2 million. The City has budgeted \$375,000 of Capital Improvement Project funds for this project, and recently submitted an application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for a \$300,000 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant. The contract with IDOT secures another \$201,589 toward the project.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

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-Grays Lake Segment.

The project was assigned to the Engineering Department to begin the design and engineering of the trail. The preliminary cost estimate is approximately \$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 for construction on the levy.

The City anticipates acquiring 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 Grays 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.

All trails projects require a carefully planned budgeting process. Building the funding for these projects requires being awarded grants from various state agencies and the federal government. Grants have limited funding resources and competition for these funds throughout the state is challenging. There are three different grant sources being pursued for the Riverpointe Trail. The City was successful with the Federal Recreation Trails Fund through IDOT. A REAP grant has been submitted to IDNR requesting \$300,000 and is being considered. Staff will also pursue a State Recreation Trails grant with IDOT in January to fully fund the Riverpointe Trail. If the City is unsuccessful with any of the grant applications, the budget for the Riverpointe Trail will not allow the project to proceed. It is possible that the City could default in the IDOT contract, which would require the City to give back the funds from the National Recreation Trails Agreement.