

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

00-155

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

APRIL 17, 2000

Approval to submit grant applications to the Prairie Meadows Operation Summer Time Grant program to support the Evelyn K. Davis Summer Playground and Youth In Parks programs.

SUBJECT:

PRAIRIE MEADOWS
OPERATION
SUMMER TIME
GRANT

FISCAL IMPACT -

Grant request of \$8,300 for Evelyn K. Davis Summer Playground Program. Grant request of \$18,837 for Youth In Parks Program.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND -

Since 1993, the City's Park and Recreation Department has been offering a summer playground program at Evelyn K. Davis Park. Private gifts, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and Weed and Seed Program funded the program. Also, staff has secured numerous in-kind services (i.e., MTA trolley, local church and civic organizations). The program provides meals and services to youth Monday through Friday during daytime hours. Activities include arts, crafts, field trips, education and cultural events. AmeriCorps members have created strong relationships with area churches, Neighborhood Associations, YMCA, and local civic groups to build the program, the program serves over 125 youth in the area daily.

The Youth In Parks Program is a series of two-week camps throughout the summer for middle school teenagers. The teenagers assist the Parks Department by completing

community beautification projects in the morning and participating in a recreational activity in the afternoon, such as swimming or visiting the Zoo. Youth participating in this program learn the importance of community service. The various recreational opportunities reward the individuals for their efforts. The requested grant funds are needed to support the salary of the summer staff, transportation, and equipment needs. A fee of \$15 per one-week session is charged to participants. Since the program's inception, over 9,000 hours of community service have been performed.