



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

00-551

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

NOVEMBER 20, 2000

At the August 28, 2000 City Council meeting, by Roll Call No. 00-3623, Council received a request from the Citizens for Community Improvement (CCI) Environmental Task Force regarding cleanup of the Dean's Lake area. After the August 28, 2000 meeting, a map showing ownership of the properties adjacent to the Dean's Lake area (copy attached) was used to commence cleanup activities. At the September 11, 2000 City Council meeting, by Roll Call No. 00-3725, Council received and filed a report regarding the Public Works Department's cleanup efforts at Dean's Lake.

SUBJECT:

REPORT ON CITY'S
PROGRESS AND
CONTINUING
ACTIVITIES AT
DEAN'S LAKE

This Council Communication describes the City's progress and continuing efforts in the Dean's Lake area. The City has assembled a multi-department task force to address the environmental concerns of CCI. Significant progress in clearing the area of brush and debris has been made. Continuing efforts include monitoring the water quality, clearing trees and brush debris, restricting access to the area to prevent illegal dumping, and developing plans for a nature trail around the lake. City staff will continue to work with CCI to improve the area.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

FISCAL IMPACT -

ERIC A. ANDERSON
CITY MANAGER

Funding for the continuing cleanup effort and other projects at Dean's Lake is currently available in existing operating budgets.

RECOMMENDATION -

Receive and file.

BACKGROUND -

City staff has continued to work with members of CCI to identify and resolve their concerns. During the course of several meetings held in

September and October, City staff reported on the following work that has now been completed by the Public Works Department:

- Over 80,000 pounds of trash has been removed from the area, including tires, appliances, and scrap material.
- Trees have been removed to facilitate illumination from streetlights.
- Operations have commenced to remove brush and trees from City-owned lots.
- The chain link fence along Maury Street has been removed and vegetation has been cut to allow an improved view of the area.
- "No Dumping" signs have been placed at multiple locations to ward off illegal dumping.
- Notices have been issued to private property owners requiring cleanup of their properties.

In addition to the work already completed, the Public Works Department is continuing with the following activities:

- Monitoring the water quality in Dean's Lake.
- Continued removal of trees and brush on City-owned property to facilitate monitoring of the area.
- The removal of selected roads to reduce access to the area.

In addition to the activities of the Public Works Department, representatives from the Park and Recreation Department have also been working to address the concerns of CCI and the overall improvement of the area.

The Park Development Division will be working on the main lake of the Dean's Lake area (between Scott Street and Maury Street) to further remove trash and debris, both in the lake and around its perimeter. A walking path around the entire lake will also be constructed. This will be a wood chip trail approximately 6-8 feet wide. The Park Development Division staff will assist the Americorps staff and CCI in gathering representatives from the Chesterfield Neighborhood Association, local businesses and industry, the Boy Scouts, and others to assist with this project. Tentatively, a Boy Scout Eagle project will help develop the trail design and construct a portion of the trail. Signage may also result

from this effort. While the project was scheduled to originally begin in late November, CCI and the Chesterfield Neighborhood Association have asked to wait for warmer spring weather. Because the Scout project must be completed before spring in order for the Eagle Scout to receive his award, some of this work will probably begin in November and December, while the remainder will be completed in the spring with additional volunteers. The Park Horticulture Division will be planting grasses and wildflowers on City lots, which will help minimize the maintenance requirements for these areas.

The Park Development Division, with the help of the prison inmate crew program, has also cleaned a few lots on streets adjacent to the lake. This Division also filled in the lake's dam area and smoothed over the area previously cleared of old fencing, trees, and shrubs by the Forestry Division. It is now a very aesthetic area with recently planted grass on both sides of a sidewalk.

City staff will continue to work with CCI to improve the area. The next scheduled meeting with representatives from CCI is scheduled for February 2, 2001, at their organization headquarters at 2005 Forest Avenue.

Attachment