

Meeting Agendas/Info

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:

ITEM _____

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

01-172

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

APRIL 16, 2001

To approve submittal of AmeriCorps grant application to the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services for the management and coordination of 12 members at 1,700 hours per member. Authorization for the Park and Recreation Director to sign grant acceptance and future grant applications.

SUBJECT:

AMERICORPS
GRANT
APPLICATION

FISCAL IMPACT -

\$10,000 grant application to Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services.

TYPE:

RECOMMENDATION -

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

Approval to submit AmeriCorps grant application to the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services. Authorization for the Park and Recreation Director to sign grant acceptance and future grant applications.

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND -

Over the past two years the City of Des Moines has applied for and received grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 annually from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services to support training and development of AmeriCorps members.

The AmeriCorps program is comparable to an Urban Peace Corps. Members are recruited to provide service projects worth 1,700 hours over a 12-month period. In exchange, members receive development training and can earn an educational award, provided by the State of Iowa, to be placed toward future education expenses or payment toward student loan debts.

The primary objectives for the AmeriCorps grant are:

- To recruit and coordinate volunteer efforts in bringing members of the community into the City of Des Moines' park and open space system to enhance the quality of life and leisure experiences of the residents of Des Moines.

- To develop members in identification of environmental and beautification strategies within the City of Des Moines' park and open space system to address and correct problems inherent within the system that have not/can not be addressed by City employees.

- To expand partnerships with local neighborhoods in cooperation with Des Moines Independent School District for educating and assisting with neighborhood community gardens.

- To conserve, restore, and sustain parks, recreation facilities, and services provided to the community.

Accomplishments of the 2000 AmeriCorps Service Project include:

- 10,785 service hours from members.

- Recruitment of 1,265 volunteers who provided over 18,500 hours of service.

- Served 205 youth at the Evelyn K. Davis summer program, a collaborative effort between neighborhood associations, churches, Des Moines Police Department, and Moulton Extended Learning Center.

- Recruited 38 partner groups for the Partner In Parks Program. This program has already increased to 50 this year.

- Coordinated Adult Volunteer Program at Blank Park Zoo resulting in 90 volunteers providing over 1,600 hours of service.

- Provided 140 educational outreach programs serving 4,800 people.

The estimated value of the volunteer support provided to the City through the Botanical Center operations and the AmeriCorps program is over \$695,000.
