

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**03-388**

**AGENDA:**

AUGUST 11, 2003

**SUBJECT:**

UNIFORM TRAIL  
SIGNAGE

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

DONALD M. TRIPP  
PARK AND  
RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**SYNOPSIS —**

Approval of a Recreation Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in the amount of \$28,000 to provide funding for the planning and design of a uniform trail signage system in the Greater Des Moines area.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

Total project cost for planning and design only is estimated at \$40,000. The REAP Grant would provide 70 percent, or \$28,000, and 30 percent, or \$12,000, would be provided proportionately by population from each participating City in the Greater Des Moines area. If the grant is awarded, the cost share for the City of Des Moines is not expected to exceed \$8,000, and is budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program (CP040/PKS990000/PKS045).

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND —**

Comprehensive trail signage within the City of Des Moines and its surrounding cities and counties is conspicuously absent. Across the Greater Des Moines area, the trail signage that does exist is a hodge-podge of varying design. This signage is inadequate for providing trail identification, location, way-finding, and information. A "uniform" signage system – one that standardizes each type of sign throughout the Metro area as to color, size, shape, lettering, symbols, materials, logos, etc. is highly desirable. A good uniform signage system is not only aesthetically pleasing, but assists visitors to the metropolitan trail systems to find their way (directional signage), direct proper behavior (rules and regulations), and inform trail users of other opportunities (facilities and programs).

Trail representatives from several cities in the Des Moines Metro area, including West Des Moines, Ankeny, Johnston, Altoona, Pleasant Hill, Windsor Heights, Waukee, and Polk County, have discussed the issue of uniform signage and agree that such a system would be beneficial for all trail users, be they local residents or visitors/tourists to the various cities. Inquiry into the cost of planning and designing such a system has resulted in an estimate of approximately \$40,000 (which does not include final working documents or assistance with production). Much of this funding could be provided through

	<p>trail granting sources, such as the IDNR. It was unanimously decided at a recent meeting of several of these metro trail coordinators to request the City of Des Moines to be the lead agency in requesting a REAP grant from the IDNR to help fund this initial effort. Although 100 percent of the project could be funded by REAP, by agreeing to proportionately share 30 percent of the total cost, the potential to receive an award is increased and each city becomes a bona fide partner in the venture.</p>
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