



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 06/20/05
Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Communication No.: 05-345
Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

SUBJECT—

AmeriCorps Grant Agreement

SYNOPSIS—

Approve the receipt of the AmeriCorps Service Project grant from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and authorize Park and Recreation Director Donald M. Tripp to sign the grant Agreement. Said Agreement authorizes the City of Des Moines' participation in the AmeriCorps program from May 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006.

FISCAL IMPACT—

The City will receive a maximum of \$3,200 over the course of the aforementioned year.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

The mission of the City of Des Moines' AmeriCorps Service Project is to "engage members, community residents, local collaborators, business education and government partners in resident-driven and community-based services in a common effort to strengthen and build capacity in the community and to enhance our community through safer, cleaner and more beautiful parklands and other public properties."

Operating under a series of one-year contracts, the AmeriCorps Service Project has been a program of the City of Des Moines since 1999. As a branch of the Park and Recreation Department, AmeriCorps through its members has played a key role in maximizing the number of volunteer hours contributed to the City. AmeriCorps members play critical roles in the operation of initiatives like Partners-in-Parks, the Evelyn Davis Summer Day Camp, and the Neighborhood Environmental Corps.

In 2004, the supervisor of the AmeriCorps program and its members recruited and worked with 2,070 volunteers who contributed 32,908 hours of volunteer service at 31 parks, four aquatic centers, two golf courses and three cemeteries; operated the Evelyn Davis Summer Program which served more than 80 Enterprise Community youth during a nine-week period; assisted in the gathering, sorting and distributing of food for more than 950 Holiday Food Baskets; and, worked with youthful offenders, Polk County Community Service and the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program on a wide variety of community clean-ups and projects.