



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

July 24, 2006

Agenda Item No. 43

Roll Call No. 06-

Communication No. 06-479

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

AGENDA HEADING:

Closing a segment of Water Street to vehicular traffic.

SYNOPSIS:

Approve the temporary closing of SW Water Street from Line Drive to the Water Street Bridge (Meredith Trail Bridge) to regular vehicular travel.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Amount:

Funding Source:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

On December 20, 2004, by Roll Call No. 04-2789, the City Council approved the closing of the First Street Bridge to regular vehicular travel in order to allow a secondary loop of the Meredith Multi-Use Recreational Trail to cross over the Raccoon River. Through an oversight, a segment of Water Street, from the north end of the Water Street Bridge to the intersection of Water Street and Line Drive, was not included with the Council's action to close the bridge to vehicular traffic.

Since the trail's opening in 2005, use of the trail has shown that the closing of this additional segment of SW Water Street to vehicular travel would improve traffic efficiency and trail safety. Currently, traffic driving into this area of Water Street encounter a dead end and are forced to make a very tight turnaround or back up their vehicles to Line Drive. Throughout the year, only a few vehicles need access to this area: 1) a waste disposal truck for periodic trash collection from Principal Park; 2) emergency vehicles for various reasons, including access for rescues on the Des Moines or Raccoon Rivers; 3) city or private utility vehicles for various repairs, snow removal, and etc. on the Meredith Trail or at Principal Park; 4) personal vehicles of maintenance staff employed at Principal Park; and 5) vehicles used for construction projects at or in the immediate area of Principal Park.

City Staff recommends that Water Street be closed to vehicular travel between the Water Street Bridge (Meredith Trail Bridge) and the intersection of Water Street and Line Drive for two reasons. First, vehicles, other than those noted above, have no need to enter this segment of Water Street. Secondly, this action would improve the safety of trail users, construction employees, and Principal Park maintenance staff.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 20, 2004

Roll Call Number: 04-2789

Action: Resolution approving the closing of the Water Street Bridge to regular vehicular travel.
Sponsor: Brooks. ([Council Communication No. 04-641](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Date: December 14, 2004

Roll Call Number: 04-085

Action: Park Board received and filed the Meredith Trail proposal including the closing of the Water Street Bridge to vehicular travel.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE