



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

March 24, 2008

Agenda Item No. 64

Roll Call No. 08-

Communication No. 08-156

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

## AGENDA HEADING:

Waveland Trail Phase I recommended trail route.

## SYNOPSIS:

Approval of Waveland Trail Phase I recommended trail route as proposed following public input and receipt of report from Genus Landscape Architecture on meetings, trail alternatives considered, and cost estimates. Proposed start of construction is Spring 2009, with planned opening by late Fall 2009.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$345,000

If approved, the total project cost is estimated at \$450,000 with \$105,000 available from grants awarded to the City from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (DMAMPO).

Funding Source: 2007/2008 CIP, CP040, PKS990000, PKS045, Recreational Trails, page 22.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Waveland Trail is slated to be one of the next trails constructed in the City of Des Moines. This multi-phased trail will connect many of Des Moines' west-side neighborhoods to the Central Iowa Trail System. When the concept of the Waveland Trail was added to the City's Multi-Use Trails Master Plan Map, an approximate trail route was outlined until funding became available for the trail and design detail could proceed. With funding in place, the City hired Genus Landscape Architecture to conduct a public input process with the surrounding neighborhood to select a preferred route for Phase 1 of the Waveland Trail. This process consisted of three public input meetings:

- Introduction of Trail Concept – October 3, 2007  
This meeting was attended by approximately 15 citizens and introduced the concept of a trail to those in attendance.
- Presentation of Trail Route Alternatives – October 23, 2007  
This meeting was attended by approximately 40 citizens and City staff members and introduced the proposed alternatives for the trail route. Some of the concerns expressed with the routes included costs for construction and maintenance, loss of privacy near private property, bicycle and pedestrian traffic on the new trail, the potential for increased parking along city streets adjacent to the proposed trail, and potential destruction of trees and habitat in the greenway.
- Presentation of Recommended Trail Route – November 29, 2007

This meeting was attended by approximately 70 citizens and City staff members and introduced the recommended route for the trail.

Genus Landscape Architecture compiled information and produced a report of the process and results upon completion of the public input process. The report details each of the meetings as well as each alternative trail route considered, a general cost estimate for the proposed trail route, three appendices - one for each public meeting - and lists all public comments and concerns received from each meeting. A copy of the report is available upon request in the City Clerk's Office.

The Waveland Trail Phase I recommended route presented by Genus Landscape Architecture (see attached map) starts just south of the small bridge on the Walnut Creek Trail. It follows a northeasterly route along the east side of what is commonly known as Golf/Cummins Creek along the publicly-owned greenway to Pleasant Street, where it passes under the bridge, which is slated for replacement by the City in 2009. The bridge will be designed with the trail in mind and allow adequate room for the trail to pass beneath.

On the east side of the bridge, the route enters onto private property owned by Mike and Nadine Kastner, continuing easterly on a route parallel to Interstate 235 (I-235) along the north edge of the Kastner property to 56<sup>th</sup> Street at the point where it intersects with I-235. The City will need to purchase an easement or a portion of the Kastners' property and request disposition of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) property located on the west side of 56<sup>th</sup> Street south of I-235 for the trail.

This recommended trail route minimizes the amount of private property needed for the trail. In addition, remaining on the east side of the creek eliminates the need to construct a bridge across the creek and allows for minimal additional disturbance to the environment; the greenway between Pleasant Street and the end of Ronwood Drive is maintained as manicured grass.

It is expected that Phase 1 of the Waveland Trail will start construction in the Spring of 2009 and open by the late Fall of 2009.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: February 26, 2008

Action: Approval of Recommended Route and Public Input Report

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: January 22, 2008

Action: Receive and File Recommended Route and Public Input Report

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

City Council authorization to acquire real estate and Council approval to let bids for trail construction.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the second floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).