



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

December 22, 2008

Agenda Item No. 29

Roll Call No. 08-

Communication No. 08-756

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

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approving acceptance of Iowa Department of Natural Resources Playground Safe Surfacing Initiative grant and grant agreement.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend acceptance of a grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Playground Safe Surfacing Initiative Program to purchase recycled rubber playground surfacing tiles for approximately 1500 square feet of the soon-to-be renovated playground at Evergreen Park (2000 Evergreen Avenue). The 3"-4" thick rubber tiles are made from Iowa scrap tires and replace about 12" of sand presently used as a safe surface in the playground. The tiles meet or exceed the current Americans with Disability Act (ADA) guidelines for accessibility and Consumer Products Safety Council (CPSC) standards for playground fall heights. This project will replace an old playground that is in very poor condition at Evergreen Park.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$85,000

The total project cost for the new playground, including a safe playground surface, is estimated at \$100,000. The value of the grant is approximately \$15,000, so the net expense of the overall playground project is \$85,000. The grant provides funds for the rubber surface. The City will fund the other improvements.

Funding Source: 2008-2009 Capital Improvements Program, Neighborhood Park Improvements, Park Improvements Page-15, PKS137, CP040 PKS990000; and \$15,000 from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Playground Safe Surfacing Initiative Program.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In early October 2008, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources offered matching grant funding to Iowa cities and counties for a demonstration project that involves the purchase of recycled rubber playground surfacing tiles manufactured from Iowa scrap tires. Among other things the project would demonstrate: (1) heightened awareness of the benefits of recycled scrap tires; (2) support for crumb rubber in manufacturing processes; (3) improved playground access for all persons; (4) reduced playground injuries due to falls; and (5) reduced on-going costs for playground surfacing maintenance. Grant awards were to be in the form of recycled rubber tiles covering up to 1,500 square feet of play area. Estimated value for 1,500 square feet of tiles is approximately \$15,000.

On November 5, 2008, the City of Des Moines was notified that it had been selected to receive one of the safe playground surface grants.

Because Des Moines' Evergreen Park playground was scheduled in FY09 for a major renovation, including the Parks Department's first full size rubber tile playground surface, the IDNR program offered the City the opportunity to reduce the cost of the overall playground renovation and explore the qualities of a rubber tile playground surface and its potential for use in other parks. A local match was required, including site preparation, a concrete sub-base, and installation. These requirements were more than adequately met within the planned overall playground renovation. In addition, all playground safety tiles must be purchased from the state contract with Welch Products, Inc. to be eligible for cost reimbursement.

If approved the playground renovation with rubber tile surfacing is planned to be completed by early summer of 2009.

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

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):** NONE

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Receive final grant approval, complete final design, and complete construction. An agreement with Welch Products, Inc./National Safe Surfaces Initiative (NSSI) to provide as many as 25-30 additional playgrounds with rubber tiles is expected to be finalized and presented to the City Council for approval by late winter. The grading, concrete foundations, tiles, and sidewalk approaches built to ADA standards will all be provided at *no charge* to the City of Des Moines. The value of this gift is estimated at between \$1.5 - \$2.5 million. Funding for the projects will be made available through a private fundraising effort by NSSI.

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).