



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date May 4, 2009

Agenda Item No. 34  
Roll Call No. 09-  
Communication No. 09-269  
Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp  
Park and Recreation Director

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Agreement for Park and Recreation Aquatic Education Programming with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

## SYNOPSIS:

Approval of the Agreement between the City of Des Moines and IDNR for the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department to provide and hire a fishing and aquatic education instructor to develop and execute a fishing and aquatic resource outreach program in Des Moines parks.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$5,000

The IDNR shall pay the City for actual cost in an amount of ten dollars (\$10) per each hour the educator works to provide services described in the Agreement not to exceed \$5,000. Payments shall be received through submitted monthly invoices from the City to IDNR.

Funding Source: Funding shall be deposited in and dispersed from the Park and Recreation Department, GE001, PKS108300 Urban Conservation and Education, page 188.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The 2009 Aquatic Education Programming effort with financial support from the IDNR will be in its second year. During 2008, the fishing and aquatics resource outreach program reached 1,357 Des Moines area youth. While children ranged in age from 5 to 14, a majority of the participants (73%) were between the ages of 5 and 10. 36% were African American, 32% were Caucasian, 19% were Hispanic and 13% were other races, with 57% of the participants' boys and 43% girls. As part of this program, various activities were used to increase children's exposure to fishing including: fishing field trips to park ponds, casting, hook baiting, fish identification and aquatic habitat classes, basic fishing clinics, aquatic arts and crafts, and proper catch and release of fish techniques. These programs were held within the City's park system, in conjunction with the summer playground program and at the City's Community Centers.

Upon approval of this Agreement by the City Council, the Park and Recreation Department will recruit and hire a fishing and aquatic education instructor to develop a fishing and aquatic resource program in Des Moines parks, wading pools, Gray's Lake and other natural water sources. The program shall, at a minimum include:

1. Instructional activities for the participants to engage in, including fishing, pond studies, and other activities that are age/situation appropriate to teach aquatic resources and recreation.
2. Information related to aquatic organisms, aquatic habitats, aquatic ecology, and human impact.

The instructor will also coordinate with the IDNR, a free fishing equipment rental program at Archie Brooks Community Center and at Gray's Lake Park and work closely with the wading pool summer program as well as area organizations including: the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Girl Scouts, Campfire USA and other groups to help reach a high demographic of youth throughout the City of Des Moines.

This position will aid the Park and Recreation Department in our continuing effort to promote and develop environmental education programs based on water quality, conservation and protection of the environment.

The staff person hired by the City to coordinate this effort will develop the curriculum and offer the services throughout the summer months at the City's wading pool locations, ponds and parks. In addition, the staff person will arrange and lead on-site discussions, tutorials and skills training sessions at various local organizations to promote interest in fishing among area youth.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: April 7, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-586

Action: Agreement with Iowa Department of Natural Resources for reimbursement of cost for an educator as part of the Des Moines Park and Recreation Aquatic Education Programming. (Council Communication No. 08-183) Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1.

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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