



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date July 27, 2009

Agenda Item No. 33
Roll Call No. 09-
Communication No. 09-506
Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp,
Park and Recreation Director
William G. Stowe,
Public Works Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of Agreements for a \$9,000 Soil and Water Conservation grant and a \$10,000 Watershed Connections grant from Polk Soil and Water Conservation District and Growing Green Communities, respectively, for stream buffer restoration along Four Mile Creek.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend Council approval of Agreements with the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), 1513 North Ankeny Blvd. Suite 3 Ankeny, IA 50023-4167, and Growing Green Communities (GGC), sponsored by Metro Waste Authority (MWA), Thomas B. Hadden, III, Executive Director, 300 East Locust Street, Suite 100, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1864, for a \$9,000 Soil and Water Conservation grant and a \$10,000 Watershed Connections grant cost share agreements, respectively, for stream buffer restoration along Four Mile Creek (see attached maps). Work will include hand clearing and disposal of invasive plants, native seeding and educational signage.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Total project cost is estimated at \$24,000, with up to \$9,000 reimbursed from the SWCD, up to \$10,000 from a Watershed Connections grant from GGC, sponsored by MWA, and \$5,000 from the City of Des Moines.

Funding Source: Two grants, as noted above, with \$5,000 from the City of Des Moines available in the 2009-2010 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Park Improvements, page 29, Urban Conservation Projects CP040, PKS990000, PKS167.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The majority of the project's \$24,000 cost share money will be provided by two grants: one for up to \$9,000 from the SWCD, and one for up to \$10,000 from the GGC program, sponsored by MWA. The City's share will be \$5,000 and available in the FY10 CIP. The SWCD assesses local watersheds and determines ways to improve water quality, reduce run-off and protect stream areas from further degradation. MWA and GGC are committed to improving and maintaining the health of our metro-area watersheds. Through a grant program called Watershed Connections, these agencies are offering reimbursable grants to organizations or governmental bodies for watershed improvement, enhancement and sustainability projects.

The project elements include invasive plant management and the implementation of a healthy riparian habitat. Work activities include hand clearing and disposal of invasive plants, native seeding and placement of educational signage. To implement the project's work, the services of a qualified contractor will be obtained in compliance with the City's regular competitive procurement process.

If this Agreement is approved by the City Council, a Maintenance/Performance Agreement is included in the conditions that require that the City of Des Moines not "remove, alter or modify any soil and water conservation practices herein named for 20 years from the date of this Agreement... If any unauthorized removal, alteration or modification occurs, RECIPIENT will repair or reconstruct the practices to their original as-built design specifications at RECIPIENT'S own expense. In lieu of repairing or reconstructing the practices, DISTRICT, at its sole discretion, may allow RECIPIENT or RECIPIENT'S successors to refund to the Iowa Division of Soil Conservation the entire amount of the financial incentive payment [\$9,000] received by RECIPIENT."

Legal counsel for the City of Des Moines has advised that even if the property is sold, the land transfer must include the above condition. Staff agrees to these stipulations and recommends approval of the Agreement. The start date of the project is approximately late August 2009, with a completion date of no later than December 15, 2009.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of both the SWCD and GGC Grant Cost Share Agreements.

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