

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date	October 26, 2009
	Agenda Item No. 59 Roll Call No. 09- Communication No. 09-761 Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Director of Park and Recreation	

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing a letter of consent for the Army Corps of Engineers to apply to the Secretary of the Interior to designate the Des Moines River Water Trail as a National Recreational Trail.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend authorizing a letter of consent to the Army Corps of Engineers to apply to the Secretary of the Interior for designation of the Des Moines River Water Trail as a National Recreational Trail.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Army Corps of Engineers is initiating an application to the Secretary of the Interior to designate the Des Moines River Water Trail as a National Recreational Trail (NRT). The Trail runs the length of the Des Moines River in Iowa, but the NRT designation will only apply to the portion of the trail that lies within Polk County, including the trail within the City’s boundaries. (The portion of the River between the Center Street and Scott Street dams is not navigable and not included in the application.) In order to move forward, the City must submit a letter of consent to the Army Corps of Engineers to complete their application to the Secretary of the Interior.

There was a dedication ceremony for the Des Moines River Water Trail in June of this year at Prospect Park.

The National Trails System Act of 1968 authorized creation of a national trails system comprised of NRTs, National Scenic Trails, and National Historic Trails. The NRT program recognizes trails of local, regional, and national significance and showcases the diversity of trails across America, from our cities and suburbs to deserts, waterways, and high mountains.

The benefits of NRT designation includes:

- Increased visibility and prestige of being part of the National Trails System;
- Use of the NRT logo;

- Access to funding opportunities, training, and technical assistance; and
- Inclusion in the online NRT database.

NRT's must comply with the following criteria:

- Be currently open to the public;
- Remain open for public use for at least the next 10 years;
- Be designed, constructed and maintained according to best management practices; and
- Comply with all applicable land use plans and environmental laws.

The Department agrees to comply with these criteria for designation of the Des Moines River Water Trail as a NRT.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- Maintenance and compliance with above criteria for at least the next 10 years.

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