

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: August 23, 2010
	Agenda Item No. 29 Roll Call No. <u>10-1385</u> Communication No. <u>10-528</u> Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Acceptance of grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Water Trails Development Program for the development of the Raccoon River Water Trail in Polk County and approval of agreement for same.

SYNOPSIS:

Approving acceptance of an \$11,362 IDNR Water Trails Development Program grant for development of the Raccoon River Water Trail in Polk County. This grant was submitted by the City of Des Moines on behalf of Central Iowa Paddlers. The City will be implementing water trail signage and a portage south of the Scott Street Dam.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$87,644.45 total project cost (\$26,500 – City of Des Moines)

Funding Source:

City of Des Moines:

\$19,000 - 2010-2011 CIP, G.O. Bonds from Recreational Trails, CP040PKS990000, PKS 045, page 20.

\$6,500 - in-kind labor – portage and signage installation

\$1,000 – in-kind volunteer labor organized by the City

Other Sources:

\$11,362 IDNR Water Trails Development Program Grant

\$30,000 IDNR – in kind, parking lot at Commerce Ledges

\$10,000 IDNR – in kind, new access in Walnut Woods

\$2,207.45 Iowa Whitewater Coalition – IDNR Signage

\$1,200 Rick Dressler – in kind, kiosk design

\$1,500 Great Outdoors Fund – kiosk display and bases

\$1,875 Other grant funds – kiosk

\$2,000 Volunteer groups – in kind, signage and kiosk installation

\$1,000 Polk County Conservation Board - printing

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City of Des Moines submitted the IDNR Water Trails Development Program application on behalf of Central Iowa Paddlers, which is a non-profit group of paddle sport enthusiasts. The mission of the club is to share information, promote recreation opportunities and paddle sport safety, and encourage care of our aquatic resources. The Paddlers have identified the amenities necessary to create a water trail on the Raccoon River in Polk County, secured funding from various sources, and prepared the application to the IDNR Water Trails Development Program.

The IDNR promotes paddling on Iowa's lakes, rivers, and creeks, and is working toward creating a statewide trail system where rivers and lakes are developed in ways friendly toward canoeists and kayakers, where ample warning and portage trails are provided for known hazards like low-head dams, and where brochures and kiosks interpret the area's cultural, historic, and natural amenities. The Water Trail Development Program helps to fulfill this vision.

The North Raccoon River starting in Sac County and ending in Dallas County has been designated by the IDNR as a state water trail, as well as the Middle and South Raccoon Rivers in Guthrie and Dallas Counties. The Counties that have a designated water trail that involved one of the Raccoon Rivers are Sac, Carroll, Calhoun, Green, Guthrie, and Dallas. This grant enables establishment of a water trail on the Raccoon River in Polk County. The successful completion of this water trail would result in the Des Moines River Water Trail and the Raccoon Rivers Water Trails being tied together, creating a combined water trail over 200 miles in length.

The IDNR Water Trails Development Program funds can be used for the following purposes: "Expansion of parking at Commerce Ledges, development of new access at the campgrounds in Walnut Woods, safe portage around the Water Works and Scott Street Dams, and safety signage and kiosk development for the water trail, all located in Polk County, Iowa".

The City will be implementing water trail signage along with a new portage around the Scott Street Dam and new access south of the Scott Street Dam. The portage is a critical element in creating a safe portage around the low head dam and into the Des Moines River. The City is committing \$19,000 in CIP funds along with \$6,000 in employee labor and \$1,000 in volunteer labor to develop the Scott Street portage. The City has also committed to \$500 of in-kind labor for installation of a large kiosk at the confluence near Principal Park at the north end of the pedestrian bridge along with other signage within the City's limits.

The IDNR will be developing the access at Walnut Woods State Park, and Des Moines Water Works will be developing a portage trail around the dam at Fleur Drive (Water Works received two other grants to develop the Fleur Drive portage trail). Des Moines Water Works has written a letter of support and commitment for this project, which was included in the grant application package to the IDNR. The letter states, "As a partner in this project, we commit to maintaining all posts, signage and the portage trail on Des Moines Water Works property."

The grant requires that the portage built all or in part with grant funds shall be maintained in good condition and remain open to the public for a minimum of 20 years from the date the Grant Agreement is signed.

All work specified in the project proposal must be completed by December 31, 2011.

The Raccoon River Water Trail advances the following City goals:

Entertainment Destinations: Des Moines will be an entertainment hub for all ages and will attract visitors from the metro region and beyond.

Pride in Community Assets: The City will set the standard for constructing and maintaining attractive buildings, parks, and infrastructure that represent our world-class city and generate civic pride.

Public Safety: Residents and visitors will experience a sense of safety in all neighborhoods and in all activities.

Sustainable Green Community: Des Moines will be a leader in setting policies and practicing service delivery innovations that promote environmental sustainability. Des Moines will offer safe, reliable, and convenient transportation alternatives that reduce reliance on automobiles and parking facilities.

Vibrant Downtown Area: Downtown Des Moines will be a “24-7” city within a city, with a strong employment base, entertainment and recreation opportunities, housing, and retail.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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