

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: January 24, 2011
	Agenda Item No. 35 Roll Call No. <u>11-0113</u> Communication No. <u>11-043</u> Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp Director of Park and Recreation

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of the proposed alignment of the Gray’s Lake Neighborhood Connecting Trail and addition of trail to the City of Des Moines multi-use recreational trails master plan map.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommending approval of the addition of the Gray’s Lake Neighborhood Connecting Trail to the City of Des Moines multi-use trails master plan map along with setting the alignment for the trail.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

There is no direct fiscal impact for adding the Gray’s Lake Neighborhood Connecting Trail to the master plan map or setting the alignment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Currently, due to a lack of trails and even sidewalks, residents of the Gray’s Lake Neighborhood, (which extends from the Raccoon River to Watrous Avenue between Fleur Drive and Southwest 9th Street), do not have a pedestrian connection to Gray’s Lake Park. The Gray’s Lake Neighborhood Association introduced the idea of a trail connection in this area to City staff over a year ago. Since then, several meetings of City staff and neighborhood representatives have been held to discuss alignment and fundraising. After study of the area with City Engineering staff and discussion with affected property owners, staff has identified a feasible trail alignment. The Gray’s Lake Neighborhood Association presented the conceptual plan at their October 21, 2010 meeting and received no objections; this connection is the top priority identified by residents of the neighborhood.

The Gray’s Lake Neighborhood Connecting Trail will begin where Casady Drive intersects with Bell Avenue and runs east-west along the north side of Bell Avenue as it becomes Thomas Beck Road. It will turn north to pass between two private commercial properties and connect to the Bill Riley Trail extension south of Gray’s Lake Park. This 0.6 mile, 10-foot wide trail creates a safe pedestrian and bicycle-friendly connection not only to Gray’s Lake Park, but also to the Bill Riley Trail as it heads to all trails west and the Meredith Trail as it heads to downtown Des Moines, thereby connecting it to the extent of Central Iowa’s 550-mile trail system.

On December 14, 2010, the Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee unanimously voted to recommend approval of the Gray’s Lake Neighborhood Connecting Trail project. On December 28, 2010, the Park and Recreation Board unanimously voted to approve this project as well.

If funding can be secured, it is expected that Gray's Lake Neighborhood Connecting Trail will start construction in late Summer 2011 and take approximately two months for construction.

Under separate roll call, the City Council is being asked to authorize acquisition of the necessary property interests in order to implement this trail connection.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 16, 2002

Roll Call Number: 02-2976

Action: Revised Trails Plan for the City to include both on-street and off-street trails, and to replace existing Trails Plan maintained by the local Metropolitan Planning Organization, (MPO). ([Council Communication No. 02-640](#)). Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Vlassis.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: December 28, 2010

Resolution Number: 10-106

Action: Recommending approval of the addition of the Gray's Lake Neighborhood Connecting Trail to the City of Des Moines multi-use trails master plan map. Moved by Gelb to approve. Motion Carried 12-0.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

The next step is to move forward with property acquisition necessary to implement the trail connection. Construction can begin after funding is secured. The estimated cost of the trail for design and construction is \$310,000.

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