

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: October 8, 2012
	Agenda Item No. 46 Roll Call No. <u>12-1587</u> Communication No. <u>12-536</u> Submitted by: Ben Page, Interim Parks and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving development of a dog park at 3520 Hubbell Avenue.

SYNOPSIS:

Staff recommends approval of development of a dog park at 3520 Hubbell Avenue, the former site of Grandview Mobile Home Park, which was razed and purchased with the use of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding following the flood of 2008.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$55,000 estimated project cost

Funding Source: \$55,000 – FY 2012-2013 CIP, Page Parks – 14, Park Improvements, PKS 137, G.O. Bonds. Funding is available in the current fiscal year; however efforts are underway to offset a portion of the cost for development of a dog park at this location through private contributions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City of Des Moines experienced extreme flooding in 2008 that resulted in a Presidential disaster declaration. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures following a Presidential disaster declaration, to allow measures to be implemented during recovery that will limit damages in the future. Properties along Four Mile Creek on the City’s Eastside were particularly hard hit and included devastation of two (2) mobile home parks and numerous residences; the City of Des Moines received two (2) HMGP grants in order to purchase and demolish flood-damaged properties in the Four Mile area. This buyout program prevents future personal losses due to frequent flooding and required the City to maintain the properties as open space for the conservation of the natural floodplain function. Permissible uses include parks for outdoor recreation, wetlands management, and nature preserves. Certain public facilities functionally relating to these uses may also be erected if they are deemed to be flood-proof or open on all sides.

The Park and Recreation Department sought designation of the properties as parkland with an end-goal of connecting parks and trails in this area through a Four Mile Greenway. Subsequently the properties have been managed as open space, minimal-mow areas. Due to their size, the two (2) former mobile home park parcels provide opportunity for development of passive recreational spaces to local and regional residents.

Through an initiative undertaken by City Council Members Mahaffey and Moore, and the Park and Recreation Department staff, the larger, 12-acre property (formerly Country Estate Village, 3525 Hubbell Avenue) located along the Gay Lea Wilson Trail has been recommended to remain as new trailhead parking and its green space to remain open and have unstructured programming. The mobile home park's existing pavement and roadway infrastructure provide trail parking and an informal walking loop, as well as, the opportunity for use for event space through the park-use permit process.

Also through the efforts of Council Members Mahaffey and Moore, the smaller, 3.7 acre property (formerly Grandview Mobile Home Park, 3520 Hubbell Avenue) is being recommended for a dog park. The parcel is an ideal size for this type of facility and includes existing mature trees, established turf, minimal grade change, and is a good location. Its close proximity to Sargent Park, which is located along the East Douglas boundary of the property, provides parking and restroom facilities that minimize the cost to develop the area as a dog park. The Park and Recreation Department estimates the cost for its staff to purchase and install fencing, a dog waste containment system, signage, paved walkways and additional landscaping to be \$55,000.

Although CIP funding is available in the current fiscal year, City Council Member Robert Mahaffey believes development of a dog park in this former flood-prone area has the potential for funding support from area individuals and businesses. If the project is approved by Council, he would undertake an effort to offset a portion of the cost for development of this Eastside facility.

Public meetings of the Douglas Acres and Northeast Neighbors Neighborhood Associations on September 11 and 17, 2012 provided residents in the vicinity of the former Grandview Mobile Home Park location the opportunity to discuss potential for this use of the parcel and input on the design of the proposed dog park.

Specialized dog park areas provide a community setting for people to gather, socialize, and observe the interaction of groups of dogs satisfying their cravings for canine play and companionship. The City opened its first dog park at Ewing Park in Southeast Des Moines in the fall of 2011 and has recently opened the Riverwalk Dog Park in Downtown Des Moines. Other public dog parks located in the Des Moines Metro Area include facilities in Indianola, Ankeny, Windsor Heights, and West Des Moines.

Des Moines' locations are selected based on established criteria regarding viability for a dog park facility and prior existence of amenities that can keep development costs low. Use of the facilities is through issuance of a dog park permit which requires a dog license through the City or other jurisdiction. To date in 2012, 1066 dog park permits have been issued by the City Clerk's office; this represents 8% of the dogs licensed by the City of Des Moines. Operation of the facilities is minimal and entails mowing of areas already under a park maintenance plan and gate admission control through the use of volunteers.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 7, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-0670](#)

Action: Ordering construction of the following: [Downtown](#) Dog Park: Receiving of bids, (5-22-12), Setting date of hearing, (6-11-12). (Construction Estimate - \$136,500). ([Council Communication No. 12-220](#)). Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: April 11, 2011

Roll Call Number: [11-0637](#)

Action: [Development](#) of a Dog Park at Ewing Park. ([Council Communication No. 11-220](#)). Moved by Mahaffey to approve. Motion Carried 6-1.

Date: December 6, 2010

Roll Call Number: [10-1990](#)

Action: [Approving](#) contract amendments to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Property Acquisition Contracts with Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED). ([Council Communication No. 10-721](#)). Moved by Mahaffey to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: July 26, 2011

Resolution Number: 11-086

Action: Receive and File Four Mile Creek land acquisition.

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: April 26, 2011

Resolution Number: 11-046

Action: Approving of dog park fees.

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: March 22, 2011

Resolution Number: 11-025

Action: Approving development of a dog park at Ewing Park.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of purchase of fencing and its installation, anticipated to be in excess of \$25,000.

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