

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> April 20, 2015
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 22 <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>15-0660</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>15-202</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving a Chapter 28E Agreement by and between the City of Des Moines, Iowa and the Polk County Conservation Board (PCCB) for the Great Western Recreational Trail Construction and Maintenance.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval of a Chapter 28E Agreement by and between the City of Des Moines, Iowa and the PCCB for the Great Western Recreational Trail Construction and Maintenance. The trail will create a much needed connection between the City’s Bill Riley Trail and the County’s Great Western Trail.

**FISCAL IMPACT: NONE**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

On June 13, 2011, by Roll Call No. 11-1046, the City Council adopted the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan. This plan called for a trail connection between the Bill Riley Trail owned by the City and the Great Western Trail owned by the PCCB. The actual trail connection will begin at the current trailhead south of George Flagg Parkway, near the Izaak Walton League, eastward to SW 30th Street. The route is an old railway, currently owned by both Des Moines and Polk County, and is within the proposed right-of-way of the Southwest Connector.

Currently, trail users are able to make the connection between the Great Western Trail and the Bill Riley Trail by utilizing the park roads in Water Works Park, but are unable to do so at times of flooding along the Raccoon River. Completion of this trail segment will also provide a continuous trail link between the Great Western Trail and the Bill Riley Trail even during flood conditions.

The PCCB approached the Parks and Recreation Department about partnering with the City to develop this trail connection. PCCB will pay for the design and construction of the project and the City of Des Moines will retain ownership of the trail on its underlying property. Additionally, the PCCB will be responsible for all maintenance and repairs of the trail. The trail will be an 8-foot wide granular trail with 340 feet of 10 foot wide concrete paving on the eastern end where the slope rises to meet the existing Bill Riley Trail near SW 30<sup>th</sup> Street.

Prior to approaching the City about the project, the PCCB contacted Des Moines Water Works to ensure that the trail connection would not interfere with improvement plans for Water Works Park. Water Works has indicated that the trail will not interfere with their plans to improve the park. The

Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association was consulted in regards to the trail connection and they received favorable comments from residents of the neighborhood. Also, the trail is located within the proposed right-of-way of the Southwest Connector and at such time as the Southwest Connector project proceeds to construction the trail will be removed and the agreement will be terminated.

Upon approval of the 28E agreement by the City of Des Moines, the PCCB will finalize the trail design, prepare the project for bid with construction planned for the summer of 2015.



#### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: June 13, 2011

Roll Call Number: [11-1046](#)

Action: [Adoption](#) of Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan and authorize City Manager to appoint an advisory committee to coordinate fundraising and implementation strategy. ([Council Communication No. 11-360](#)) Moved by Moore to adopt; City Manager to provide Council with a pool of candidates for appointment to the Advisory Committee. Motion Carried 7-0.

#### **BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: April 26, 2011

Resolution Number: 11-050

Action: Receive and file the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan.

Board: Plan and Zoning Commission

Date: June 2, 2011

Action: Approval of the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as a comprehensive plan amendment to Des Moines' 2020 Community Character Plan. Motion carried 11-0.

Board: Traffic Safety Committee

Date: May 10, 2011

Action: Approval of the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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