

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	December 5, 2016
	Agenda Item No.	45
	Roll Call No.	<u>16-2098</u>
	Communication No.	<u>16-694</u>
	Submitted by:	Matthew A. Anderson, Assistant City Manager, Jonathan Gano, Public Works Director, Pamela Cooksey, City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution approving two (2) pre-applications to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for Water Quality Initiative Targeted Demonstration Watershed Project Grants on City owned land.

SYNOPSIS:

The first project site is located south of Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, west of SW 11th Street, east of SW 16th Street and north of the Raccoon River in downtown Des Moines. It includes land under current ownership by the City of Des Moines, Norfolk Southern Railway and Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART). Runoff from the area of interest is currently discharged to the Raccoon River. The Raccoon River is currently impaired due to high nitrate levels and pathogens. About one (1) mile downstream of this site area, the Raccoon River meets the Des Moines River.

The second site is City owned land near East 35th Street and Hull Avenue. A stormwater wetland is proposed to be constructed to treat runoff from a 30 acre drainage area before it enters Four Mile Creek.

If these projects are selected by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) to submit formal full applications, refined project scopes and City funding commitments will be proposed and submitted for City Council approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$500,000 proposed local match as applicant for the estimated \$1,300,000 Raccoon River area project; \$75,000 for the East 35th Street and Hull Avenue Area \$150,000 project.

Funding Source: To be determined. Sources may include Stormwater Enterprise Funds, project generated tax increment in the Metro Center Urban Renewal Area, other grant sources, or additional private sector contributions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The proposed Raccoon River area project will provide for the retrofitting of the three (3) existing basins in the area (the two {2} dry basins, referenced above, are owned by the City of Des Moines; the eastern wet basin is owned by DART) into a constructed, functioning wetland system.
 - The proposed water quality project will be required to retain capacity and function for regional stormwater management, but will offer a unique opportunity to begin to re-introduce the area as a place for the protection of water quality, public education and engagement, potential future recreation and a demonstration site for natural infiltration of pollutants and using stormwater as a critical resource, rather than managing it as a waste product.
 - The benefit to urban populations will be an attractive water feature with public access and improved water quality within the Raccoon River. The benefit to rural populations will be improved water quality within the Des Moines River and Red Rock Lake, which would be enhanced should this practice be combined with other watershed scale improvements.
- The proposed East 35th Street and Hull Avenue project is being coordinated jointly with the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Fourmile Watershed Management Authority.
- The benefit from the project will be the infiltration of stormwater from a significant geographic area, improving the quality of water reaching Four Mile Creek.
- This effort will augment several years of significant work and collaboration to analyze Four Mile Creek conditions and prepare plans for ongoing management and water quality enhancement.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Preparation and submittal of formal applications if the pre-applications are approved by IDALS.

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