

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	December 4, 2017
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>29</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>17-2067</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>17-817</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Erin Olson-Douglas, Economic Development Director, Jonathan Gano, P.E. Public Works Director</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

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

**SYNOPSIS:**

The 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, Hubbell Realty Company 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 proposed project would provide for continued regional stormwater management while also offering a low-impact public wetland park amenity for education and passive recreation. Additional information is provided below. If the project is selected by the IDALS to submit formal full application, refined project scopes and City funding commitments will be proposed and submitted for City Council approval. City staff in Office of Economic Development, Engineering Department, Public Works Department, and Park and Recreation Department will work with Hubbell Realty Company, IDALS and the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District on planning, design, construction, programming of the area, and provisions for future maintenance.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$500,000 proposed local match as applicant for the estimated \$1,300,000 Raccoon River area project.

Funding Source: To be finalized prior to submittal of final application in February 2018 if invited to submit final application by IDALS. Sources may include Stormwater Enterprise Funds, sponsored project funds, project generated tax increment in the Metro Center Urban Renewal Area depending on timing/fiscal year of construction, 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, passive 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 design plans are currently in preparation by RDG Planning and Design, Civil Design Advantage and Hubbell Realty Company. Preliminary information is planned to be submitted for City plan review in December 2017, and will also be provided to IDALS and Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District staff. Work will include concrete removal, micrograding, and native plant establishment.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: February 6, 2017

Roll Call Number: [17-0197](#)

Action: [Application](#) to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for a water quality initiative targeted demonstration watershed project grant on City-owned land at E. 35<sup>th</sup> Street and Hull Avenue. ([Council Communication No. 17-065](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE****ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

- Preparation and submittal of formal application in February 2018 if the pre-application is approved by IDALS.
- Urban Design Review Board and Park and Recreation Board review; other committees and boards as appropriate.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Administration Building, 400 E. Court Avenue Ste.116. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).