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|  <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p> | Date: | January 22, 2018 |
| | Agenda Item No. | 25 |
| | Roll Call No. | <u>18-0119</u> |
| | Communication No. | <u>18-040</u> |
| | Submitted by: | Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director |

AGENDA HEADING:

Approve a contract between the City of Des Moines and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for acceptance of a \$252,158 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant award for Witmer Park Master Plan Improvements.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approving a contract with the IDNR for the acceptance of a \$252,158 REAP grant award for construction of multiple improvements at Witmer Park, as recommended in the City of Des Moines’ 2011 Drake Neighborhood Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$252,158 REAP grant revenue toward an overall pre-design estimated \$520,000 project

Funding Source: \$252,158 in REAP funding from IDNR, with 90% (\$226,942) received in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and 10% (\$25,216) to be received in FY2019; \$267,842 of G.O. Bonds will need to be issued in FY2020, PK137 – Park Improvements

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Located amidst the Drake and Beavertdale neighborhoods, the 19-acre Witmer Park was originally designed in 1939 by the notable planning firm, Harland Bartholomew and Associates. The historic master plan called for a picturesque, English style landscape containing a pond, a pathway system, and numerous tree plantings. Over the last few decades there has been little investment in Witmer Park, and although the plantings have matured beautifully, many of the park’s constructed assets were degraded to the point of needing to be removed. Today, a dilapidated trail, tennis courts, and a dated playground remain. The multifaceted updates proposed for Witmer Park are supported by a wide array of planning documents to include the 2011 Drake Neighborhood Plan.
- The proposed improvements at Witmer Park include a mixture of development projects and natural resources improvements. The development components include a 2/3 mile eight-foot wide multi-use trail system, two open air shelters, an ADA accessible fishing pier, and three interpretive sign panels. The natural resources improvements include two pond aerators, 2.65 acres of prairie/savanna restoration, 0.63 acres of shoreline restoration, and 0.37 acres of timber stand improvements and invasive species removal. Construction is estimated to cost \$520,000. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring/summer of 2019 and will be substantially

complete by the winter of 2020. Existing approved funding plus secured REAP grant funding is expected to cover all costs related to the project.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Ordering construction. Approving lowest responsible bidder. Partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

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