

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	February 5, 2018
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>33</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>18-0209</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>18-050</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Erin Olson-Douglas, Economic Development Director</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Resolution approving 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. The project was selected by the IDALS to submit formal full application following pre-application submittal in December 2017. City staff in Office of Economic Development, Public Works Department, Engineering 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 ongoing maintenance.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$100,000 requested from IDALS for the estimated \$2,150,000 Raccoon River area project.

Funding Source: Stormwater Enterprise Funds for remainder of project cost unless other grant funds are awarded.

**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. Work will include concrete removal, micrograding, and native plant establishment.

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

Date: December 4, 2017

Roll Call Number: [17-2067](#)

Action: [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. ([Council Communication No. 17-817](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

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:**

- Urban Design Review Board and Park and Recreation Board review; other committees and boards as appropriate.
- Construction summer/fall 2018

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