

 <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>32</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>18-0208</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>18-051</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Erin Olson-Douglas, Economic Development Director</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Resolution approving application to Prairie Meadows for a Community Betterment Grant to conduct Water Quality Demonstration Project on City owned land.

**SYNOPSIS:**

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 adjacent to the Raccoon River, currently listed as one of Iowa’s impaired waterways. 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).

The project will be integrated into a current stormwater management system that drains approximately 330 acres of watershed to the Raccoon River, provides an opportunity for improved water quality and ongoing public education.

City staff in Office of Economic Development, Public Works Department, Engineering Department, and Park and Recreation Department will work with Hubbell Realty Company, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District on planning, design, construction, programming of the area, and ongoing maintenance.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: Requesting \$99,000 (maximum) from Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant Program for the \$2,150,000 project.

Funding Source: Stormwater Utility Funds for the remainder of cost unless additional grants can be obtained.

**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): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

- Completion of design plans by Hubbell Realty Company and approval by City staff.
- Receipt of required permits and approvals from outside agencies as warranted.
- Review of project by Urban Design Review Board and Park & Recreation Commission, Access Advisory Board as warranted.
- Anticipated construction summer/fall 2018.

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).