

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: July 23, 2018
	Agenda Item No. 33 Roll Call No. [] Communication No. <u>18-382</u> Submitted by: Erin Olson-Douglas, Economic Development Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution approving acceptance of a \$5,000 Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant to conduct a Water Quality Demonstration Project on City-owned land.

SYNOPSIS:

On February 5, 2018, by Roll Call No. 18-0208, City Council approved application to Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant Program for funds to assist with the Gray’s Station Wetland Reconstruction and Water Quality Project. Prairie Meadows has awarded \$5,000 for the project, which will 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 (1) 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, providing 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 have worked 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 planning for ongoing maintenance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Receipt of \$5,000

Funding Source: Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The proposed Raccoon River area project will provide for the retrofitting of the three (3) existing basins in the area, two (2) dry basins owned by the City of Des Moines; and one (1) wet basin 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. Work will include concrete removal, micrograding, and native plant establishment.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 5, 2018

Roll Call Number: [18-0208](#)

Action: [Application](#) to the Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Program for a Water Quality Initiative Targeted Demonstration Watershed Project Grant on City-owned land. ([Council Communication No. 18-051](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Urban Design Review Board

Date: March 6, 2018

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Discussion with no formal action.

Board: Urban Design Review Board

Date: March 20, 2018

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Discussion with no formal action.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- Final plan approval and public bidding for the project.

- Award of contract and initiation of work on the project.
- Completion of work and acceptance of the public improvement by City Council

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