


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	19-269	Meeting:	June 24, 2019
	Agenda Item:	39	Roll Call:	19-1014
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Polk County Conservation Board and the City of Des Moines to establish the Greater Des Moines Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership.

SYNOPSIS:

The Greater Des Moines Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership will increase awareness of the conservation mission of the parties and partnership throughout the Greater Des Moines Metropolitan Area. Under this MOA, the Parties will coordinate conservation messaging, provide environmental education, interpretation, outreach and volunteerism to foster stewardship of our natural, cultural and wildlife resources.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Partnership creates future potential for joint grant applications and funding.

Funding Source: Not applicable, this agreement is neither a fiscal nor a funds-obligation document.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge located in Prairie City, Iowa is a part of the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, an innovative engagement model to work with neighboring communities within a 1-hour drive of their refuge.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through this Partnership, will be able to offer its professional expertise to the City's park and recreation system and a broader scientific knowledge assisting with community engagement, in establishing a lasting conservation ethic.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, IDNR, Polk County Conservation Board and the City have worked together to establish the Greater Des Moines Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership.

- Greater Des Moines Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership will work cooperatively to:
 - Plan activities
 - Identify expected outcomes
 - Implement mutually-beneficial programs
 - Preserve contiguous environmentally sustainable greenbelt
 - Design and develop wildlife habitat
 - Explore opportunities to enhance efficient operations and maintenance of the urban wildlife conservation program
 - Conduct activities consistent with the goals and mission of each party

- Upon approval of the MOA, the agencies in this Partnership will begin to seek funding for implementation. If successful in finding grant funding or other sponsorships, the Partnership may hire a coordinator to facilitate the Partnership and any grant-funded projects the Partnership applies for. As called for in the MOA, the City may provide assistance on the hiring committee, providing work and a desk space as part of Partnership agreement.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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