


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>20-192</b>	Meeting:	<b>May 4, 2020</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>31</b>	Roll Call:	<b>20-758</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director and Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program grant application and certification.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) ORLP Program grant application by the Parks and Recreation Department seeking \$500,000 towards the Central Place Levee Trail Phase 1 project.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$500,000 LWCF-ORLP grant revenue, if awarded, toward an overall pre-design/concept estimate of \$1,500,000.

Funding Source: Anticipated \$500,000 in LWCF funding from Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and remaining funding from Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 STBG Set-Aside \$435,000 funding award and 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 CIP, Park Improvements Page 13 - Multi-Use Trails - Central Place Levee Trail Phase 1.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The National Park Service LWCF ORLP is managed through the IDNR and supports cities with populations of 50,000 plus, that are delineated as urbanized areas by the US Census Bureau. Project sponsors must request of minimum of \$300,000 and may request up to a maximum of \$1,000,000 per project proposal for the development and/or acquisition of land for natural resources and outdoor recreation.
- The Parks and Recreation Department is applying for approximately 33% of the pre-design estimate of \$1,500,000 for the Central Place Levee Trail Phase 1 project. This application requires that the City Council provide certain authorizations and certifications when making the application that are standard to many grant programs.
- Anticipated grant agreement terms will dictate that the facility may not be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses for perpetuity. Anticipated terms would also include a 3-year performance period and reporting requirements typical of federally funded grant programs.

- The Central Place Levee Trail Phase 1 project is located on the west side of the Des Moines River with the northern terminus located on the west side of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Bridge (1901 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50314), and the southern terminus located at Rotary Riverwalk Park (821 W River Drive, Des Moines, IA 50309)
- From south to north the trail alignment will connect three (3) unique regions of the City. On the south end, the project will tie into the Principal Riverwalk and downtown, a major employment center. As the alignment proceeds north it will intersect with a major recreation node including the Lauridsen Skatepark. Continuing further north, the scope of Phase 1 will tie into a medium density residential area in need of equity investment. In addition to each terminus, access spurs will be constructed at University Avenue and College Avenue.
- The proposed trail alignment primarily follows a levee, which was improved by the Army Corps of Engineers in 2010. The City worked with the Corps. at that time to enable a future trail facility. Building on a flood control embankment ensures that wildlife and sensitive natural resources will not be further impacted by construction of the trail facility. Once implemented, the route will offer views of greater Des Moines River Greenway, an active wildlife corridor and the Central Place Open Space, which contains wooded floodplains and a wetland area. Placement atop the levee also provides a flood resilient facility providing constant connectivity for those that use trails for transportation.
- The proposed trail corridor will include an improved bicycle/pedestrian crossing at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, wayfinding signage, a seating/rest area, a trail counter, and service area spurs connecting to the River Bend Neighborhood and existing Des Moines Area Regional Transit network.



**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: November 18, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-1803](#)

Action: [Approving](#) submittal of a Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), also known as Surface Transportation Grant Set-Aside Program, Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 applications to the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). ([Council Communication No. 19-493](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Acceptance of grant award, ordering construction, public hearing, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, approval of contract and bond, partial payments to the contractor, and final acceptance of work.

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