


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-095	Meeting:	March 8, 2021
	Agenda Item:	34	Roll Call:	21-0385
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of donation and naming agreement with Susan Moore and Des Moines Parks and Recreation Foundation for the Natural Playscape at MacRae Park and naming the playscape the “Larry E. Moore Natural Playscape at MacRae Park.”

SYNOPSIS:

Approving the donation and naming agreement with Susan Moore and Des Moines Parks and Recreation Foundation for the Natural Playscape at MacRae Park and naming the playscape the “Larry E. Moore Natural Playscape at MacRae Park.” This generous \$300,000 donation will support the construction of a major destination natural playscape that includes water play elements, extensive use of limestone and innovative play features at MacRae Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$300,000 charitable donation

Funding Source: Donation \$300,000. Remaining \$200,000: 2021-2022 Recommended CIP, PK179 MacRae Park Improvements, Page 75.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- MacRae Park, acquired in 1897 and formerly known as South Park, is one (1) of Des Moines’ four (4) original parks. This 62.7-acre site is located just south of downtown Des Moines.
- This landmark park has been in a state of renovation since 2017 with multiple phases already complete. Past phases include enclosing the Works Progress Administration (WPA) era Walker Shelter, construction of Phases 1 and 2 of the park road with additional parking and park loop trail, the EMC Overlook, the Julia Brenton Shelter and dredging plus related improvements to MacRae Pond. Investments to date total roughly \$2.7 million in construction, which was funded in part by many generous donors.
- The Larry E. Moore Natural Playscape at MacRae Park is part of the overall Phase 3 renovations to MacRae Park that include this element, major roadway and trail improvement, a boardwalk over MacRae Pond, a new open-air shelter and other related work. This generous donation will specifically support the new destination natural playscape featuring water play elements, extensive use of limestone and innovative play features.

- Parks and Recreation Department staff developed this plan for a new natural playscape feature at MacRae Park at an estimated cost of \$500,000 with construction anticipated to begin in spring 2021 and completed by fall 2022.
- This donation agreement between the City of Des Moines and Susan Moore and the Friends of Des Moines Parks provides for the Friends of Des Moines Parks to make such charitable donation to the City for the natural playscape, that the natural playscape will be named the “Larry E. Moore Natural Playscape at MacRae Park” and in order to expedite such naming, the City Council desires to waive the requirements of the City’s policy for naming of streets, facilities and park land for the naming of such playscape in honor of Larry E. Moore and to acknowledge such a generous donation.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 22, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-0280](#)

Action: [Iowa](#) Department of Natural Resources REAP Grant Agreement for MacRae Park Improvements Phase 3. ([Council Communication No. 21-075](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Anticipated actions include ordering construction, public hearing, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, and approve contract and bond; also, partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

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