


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number: 23-274	Meeting: June 12, 2023
	Agenda Item: 43A	Roll Call: 23-0842
	Submitted by: Jonathan A. Gano, P.E., Public Works Director	

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Water Quality Initiative Urban Conservation Demonstration Projects cost-share grant contract with Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) in the amount of \$500,000 for the Des Moines Stormwater Detention Basin Water Quality Retrofit Project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of cost-share grant contract with IDALS to provide up to \$500,000 of grant funds to convert an existing stormwater dry detention basin into a stormwater wetland to provide water quality benefits while preserving flood risk benefits.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$3,700,000 (being \$500,000 IDALS Grant, \$2,000,000 State Revolving Fund (SRF) Sponsored Projects Grant, and \$1,200,000 Stormwater Utility Funds)

Funding Source: 2023-2024 CIP, Page 101, Citywide Stormwater Utility Projects, SM057, Stormwater Utility Funds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City of Des Moines is utilizing the SRF loan program to fund sewer separation projects which are required by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Consent Decree requirements. The use of the SRF loan program also qualified the City to apply for Sponsored Projects funds which fund 100 percent (100%) of eligible non-point source and green infrastructure water quality improvements. The City's previous application for sponsored projects funds was approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for up to \$2,000,000 in water quality improvements. To best utilize these grant dollars, an engineering study was conducted to review all of the City's existing stormwater detention basins for water quality retrofitting opportunities. Five (5) locations (see Figure 1) were found to be feasible for wetland conversion with the highest water quality impact being at a detention basin near Jackson Steet and SE 9th Street at the outlet of Crawford Creek sub-watershed into the Des Moines River. The proposed wetland would provide water quality treatment as recommended by the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual for a 1389 acre fully developed urban watershed which outlets directly into the Des Moines River. This project will be an important and highly visible example of how Des Moines is being a leader in the State through managing stormwater by improving existing infrastructure to serve the dual purpose of managing storm flows while also improving water

quality being discharged to our streams and rivers. A similar project has successfully been completed by the City to create the Gray's Station stormwater wetland.

- The total cost of the wetland construction at the Jackson Steet detention basin is estimated to be \$3,700,000. To help further reduce the amount of Stormwater Utility funds needed to complete the project an application was submitted to the IDALS in the amount of \$500,000 which was approved. A contract to finalize the grant award was negotiated by City staff and is now recommended for approval.

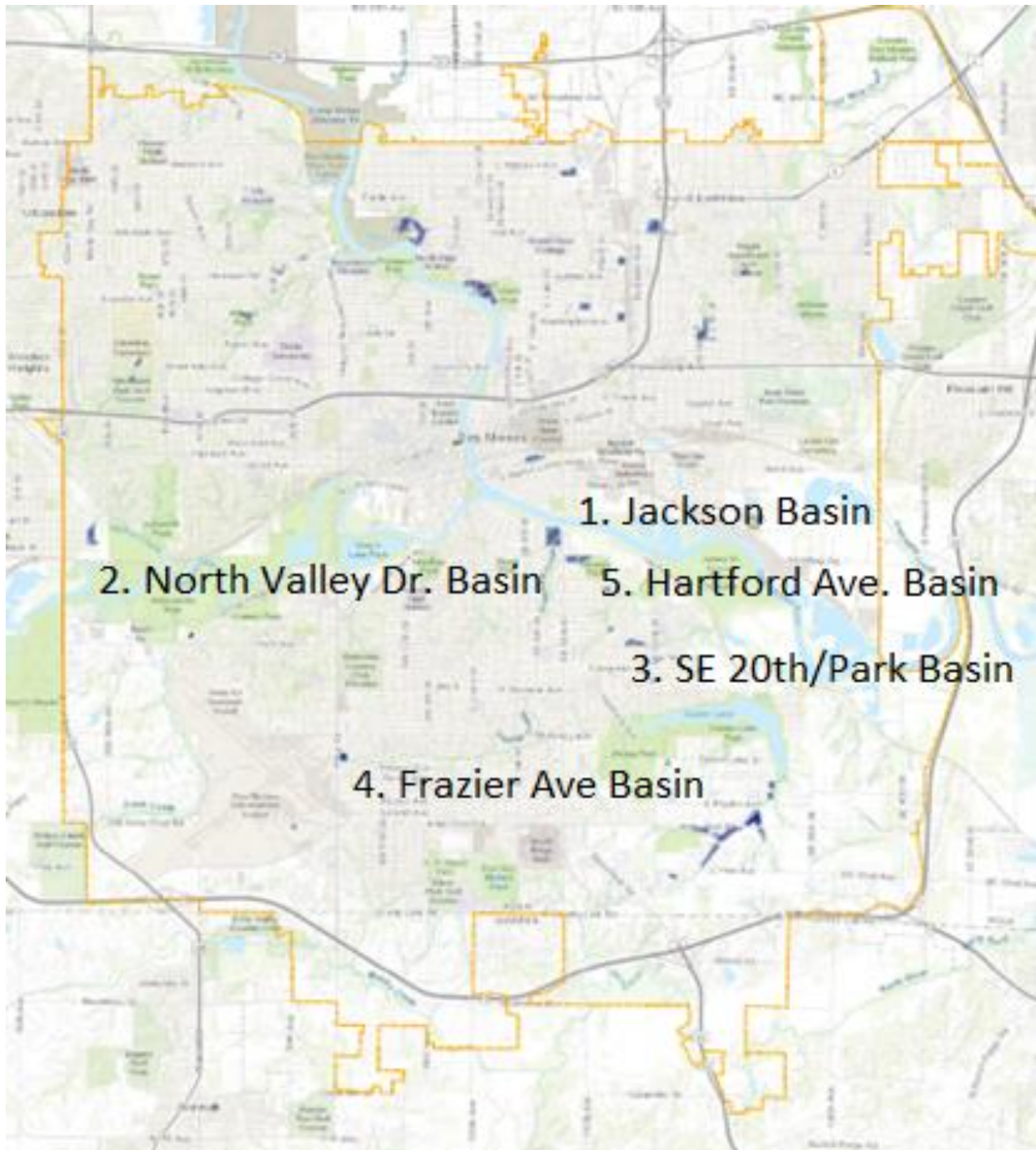


Figure 1 - Existing Stormwater Detention Basins

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 22, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-0252](#)

Action: [Application](#) to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for a Water Resources Restoration Sponsored Project to fund implementation of Urban Storm Water Best Management Practices and Green Infrastructure. ([Council Communication No. 21-076](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Normal actions related to professional services and construction contracts for capital improvements projects.

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