


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	<b>25-023</b>	Meeting:	<b>January 27, 2025</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>54</b>	Roll Call:	<b>25-0153</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Jonathan A. Gano, P.E., Public Works Director</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 42 of Municipal Code relating to stormwater management standards for development and redevelopment for grading permits, site plans, and plat approvals.

## SYNOPSIS:

Approving amendments to Chapter 42 of the Municipal Code to amend Article II, Sections 42-87 and 42-121; and Article XI, Sections 42-558, 42-559, 42-560, 42-561, and 42-562 relating to stormwater management standards for development and redevelopment for grading permits, site plans, and plat approvals. The ordinance is scheduled to go into effect after its passage and on the date of publication as provided by law.

## FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On November 1, 2021, the Des Moines City Council adopted updated stormwater ordinances based on a model ordinance developed by the metro-wide Capital Crossroads Local Government Collaborative effort that started in 2018. The updated ordinances adopted the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual as the design standards for stormwater management facilities on private development with some city specific modifications.
- During the 2024 legislative session, Senate File 455 was passed and includes the following:
  - Limiting topsoil management requirements on construction sites.
  - Restricting stormwater runoff management outside of specified sizes of storms. (The City can still require stormwater management of the 100-year storm runoff rate to the five [5]-year storm runoff rate through detention and require water quality improvements.)
  - Limiting stormwater runoff requirements based on the existing conditions at the time construction commences versus the previous requirements of using agricultural fields or native prairies for stormwater runoff requirements.
  - Restricting stormwater runoff management requirements coming from properties upstream of those being developed.

- Disallowing special assessments to recover costs for stormwater improvements above and beyond what was allowed in Senate File 455.
- The updates being proposed will bring the City's stormwater ordinances in compliance with the legislative changes included in Senate File 455 (<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=90&ba=sf455>).

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: November 1, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-1696](#)

Action: [Amending](#) Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines by adding Chapter 42, Article XI, Sections 42-558, 42-559, 42-560, 42-561, 42-562, 42-563, 42-564, 42-565, 42-566, relating to stormwater management standards for development and redevelopment for grading permits, site plans, and plat approvals. ([Council Communication No. 21-470](#)) Moved by Voss that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Cownie.

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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