


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	25-154	Meeting:	April 21, 2025
	Agenda Item:	55b	Roll Call:	25-0621
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving dedication of City-owned property located at 3825 E. 9th Street as parkland and naming of the park as Kathryn Krieg Park.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval to dedicate the City-owned property at 3825 E. 9th Street as parkland and name the park at this address Kathryn Krieg Park. This action will honor Director Krieg's contributions to recreational programming, her role in advancing inclusivity, and her commitment to enhancing the overall quality of life in Des Moines. Shining a brighter light on her leadership and focus on innovation will provide inspiration to all who work in public service.

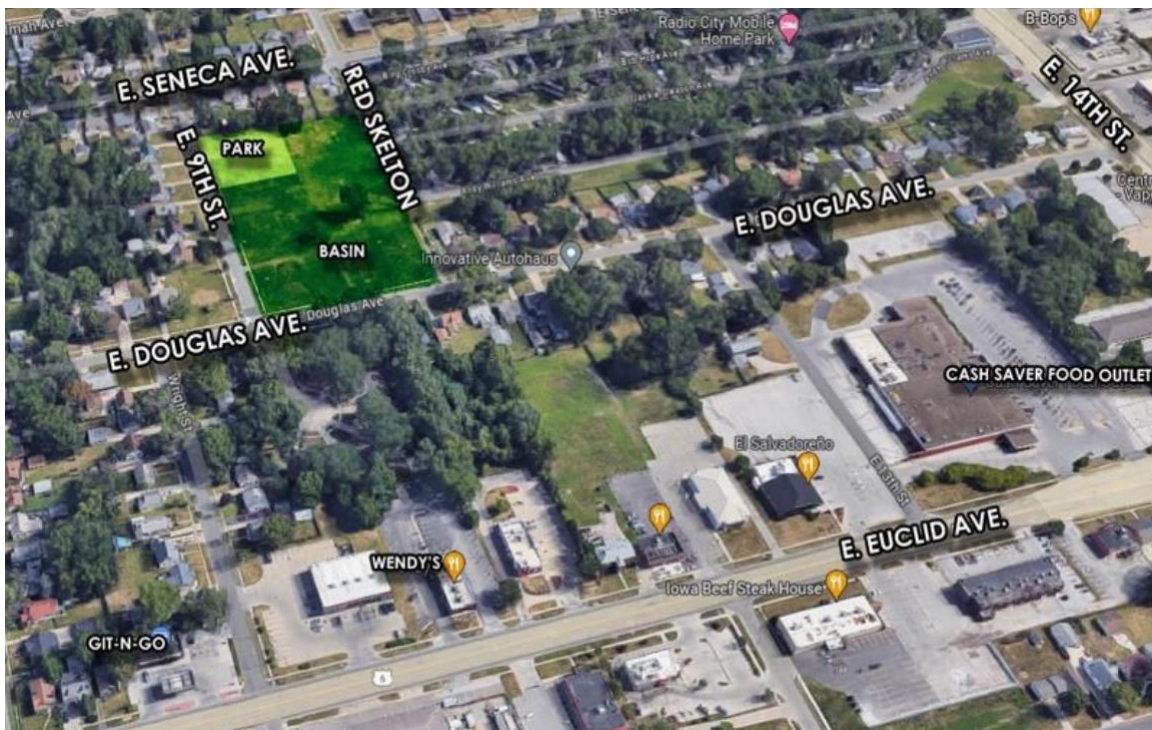
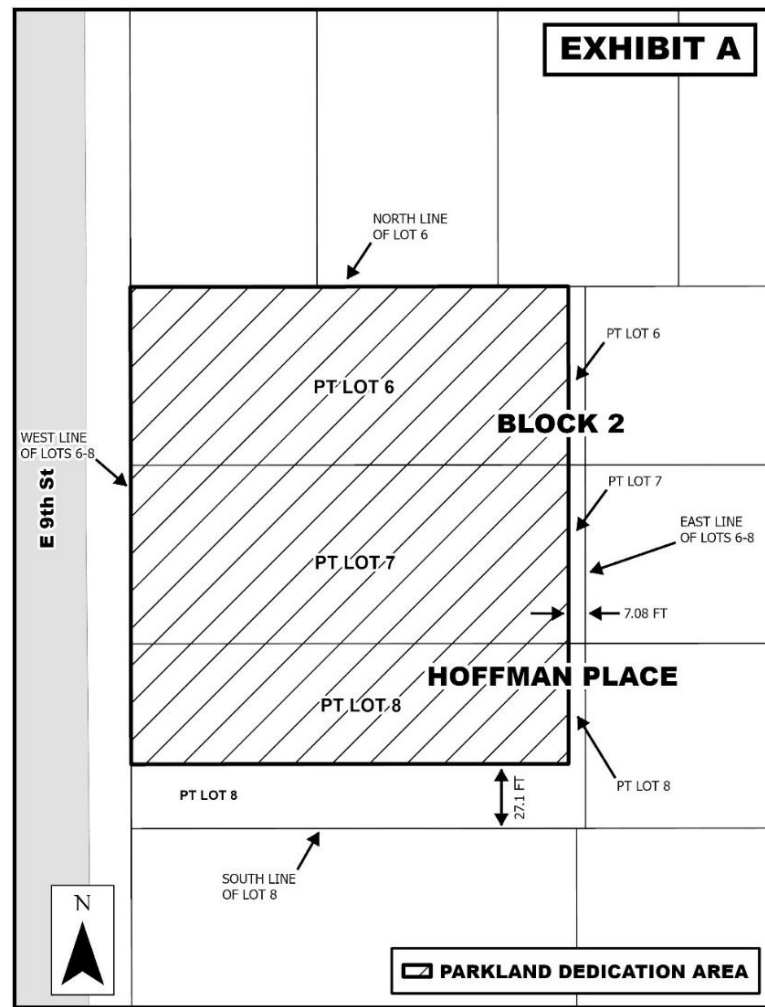
The naming of the park adheres to City Policy for Naming of Streets, Facilities and Park Land in the City of Des Moines. The Parks and Recreation Director recommends waiving and expediting the naming process.

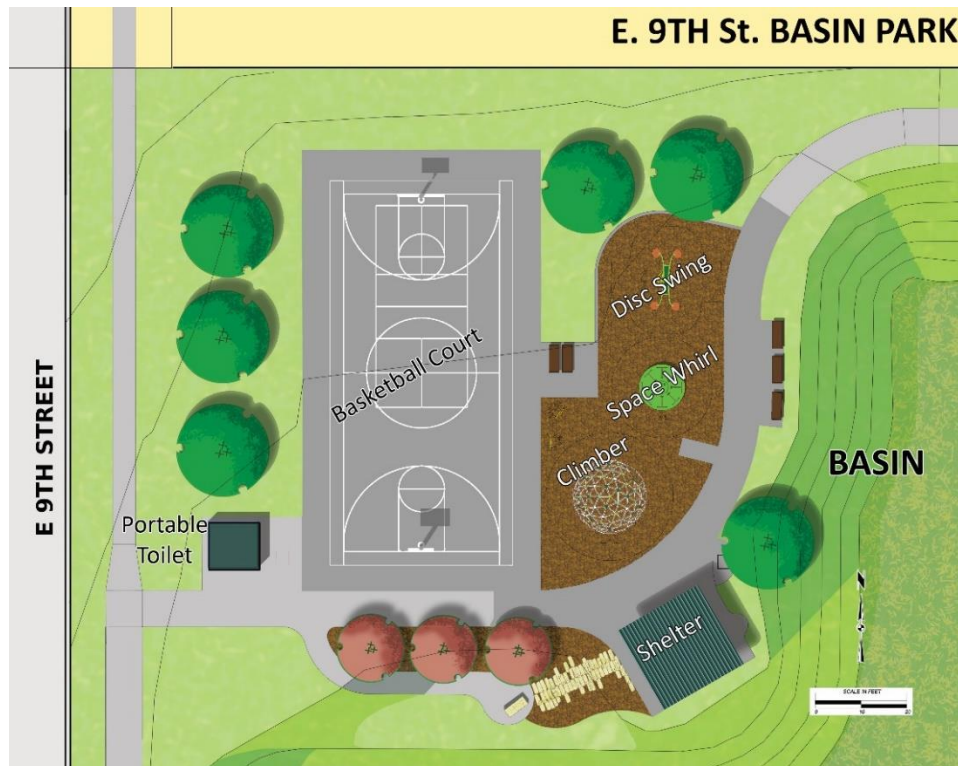
FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- This action serves two (2) purposes: 1) to dedicate this City-owned property as parkland, and 2) to name the park Kathryn Krieg Park in honor of Kathryn Krieg's impactful 46-year City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation career.
- Located at the corner of E. 9th Street and E. Douglas Boulevard within the Highland Park neighborhood, the 3.2-acre site proposed as Kathryn Krieg Park would serve over 2,900 residents within a 10-minute walk based on the current Trust for Public Land (TPL) ParkServe report, if approved. This includes over 1,200 residents who are not currently within a 10-minute walk of a park, significantly contributing to reaching the LiveDSM goal of every resident being within a 10-minute walk of the proposed park.
- The City property has been envisioned as parkland in collaboration with the community since the inception of the Hamilton Drain stormwater improvements. Formal parkland dedication will ensure their long-term use as a public park.
- Located within the Hamilton Drain stormwater improvement project, this project includes a designated area for park improvements adjacent to a stormwater basin, which will be operated and maintained by Public Works and will remain as stormwater property.

- Planned park improvements at the northwest corner of the E. 9th Street basin include a new open-air park shelter, full basketball court, playground equipment, seating and viewing areas, interpretive signage, and walking loop.
- Public input was sought for the proposed park in multiple formats and valuable insight was gained during these opportunities:
 - Online questionnaire: Open from December 15, 2023, to January 16, 2024, yielding 58 responses to seven questions.
 - Public open house on Thursday, January 10, 2024, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Community Church in a bi-lingual format to review preliminary design.
 - A Conditional Use public meeting was held on March 19, 2025, for a “Public Recreation Area” to allow construction of a new City park, including a playground, full basketball court, walking trail, open-air park shelter, seating and viewing areas, interpretive signage, walking loop and other site improvements
 - Public open house on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, from 5 – 7 p.m. at Ding Darling Shelter in Birdland Park to review refinements and confirm support for the proposed park improvements.
- Construction is anticipated to begin this spring/summer and be completed in fall 2025, pending Council approval. The Parks and Recreation Department will provide maintenance, operations, programming and customer service for the park.
- Kathryn Krieg’s extraordinary journey began with a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education from the University of Nebraska in 1926. Her pioneering spirit led her to attend the National Recreation Association’s Recreation Leadership School, where she became one of its first graduates. After joining the City of Des Moines in 1928, her temporary summer position evolved into a remarkable 46-year career. She rose to become the Superintendent of Recreation, later serving as Director until her retirement in 1974.
- Ms. Krieg’s achievements reflect her profound influence on recreation locally and nationally. Highlights of her legacy include:
 - Establishing some of the first organized playgrounds in the country, enhancing youth engagement.
 - Introducing community-wide activities like adult square dancing during the Great Depression.
 - Founding the iconic “Beggars Night,” a safe Halloween tradition.
 - Spearheading innovative partnerships with schools, civic organizations, and conservation groups, demonstrating a collaborative approach that was ahead of its time.
 - The Kathryn Krieg Memorial Scholarship is offered by the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association to carry on her significant legacy by supporting students pursuing a parks and recreation degree who are actively involved and show good academic merit.
- Kathryn Krieg’s influence extends beyond Des Moines. She co-founded and helped shape national organizations, including the American Recreation Society and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Her contributions earned her the NRPA’s prestigious Fellow Award and multiple accolades at the state and local levels. Her ability to connect with people and understand their needs made her an exemplary leader and role model. Naming the park will allow future generations to learn about and build upon her legacy, which shaped so many of the traditions, programs, and values that Des Moines Parks and Recreation continues to uphold.





PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: March 10, 2025

Roll Call Number: [25-0330](#)

Action: [E. 9th Street Basin Park Improvements: Receiving bids, \(3-25-25\) and Setting date of hearing, \(4-21-25\), Engineer's estimate, \\$475,000. \(Council Communication No. 25-102\)](#) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Zoning Board of Adjustment

Date: March 26, 2025

Resolution Number: ZBOA-2025-0000

Action: Voted 6-0 to grant a Conditional Use for a "Public Recreation Area" use in an "F" Flood District to allow construction of a new City Park to include a new playground, full length basketball court, walking trail, park shelter, and other site improvements.

Board: Access Advisory Board

Date: January 15, 2025

Resolution Number: 25-03

Action: Motion to approve by Armstrong. Stieler seconded. Motion carries 6-0.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

No future actions are anticipated if future readings are waived.

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