

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-088	Meeting:	March 9, 2026
	Agenda Item:	31	Roll Call:	<input type="text"/>
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Parks and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and ratifying execution of GC26 Public Art Grant Agreement with Bravo Greater Des Moines for \$50,000 of grant funding for the Cheatom Park Court Mural Project.

SYNOPSIS:

The Cheatom Park Mural Project aims to provide new, accessible public art which responds to community input and engagement, complements the upcoming anticipated park improvements project, and contributes to a unique and memorable destination in the City of Des Moines. Funding for this work is provided by grants and donations, including a Bravo Greater Des Moines GC26 Public Art Grant. This grant agreement is on file in the City Clerk's Office, to be executed by the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

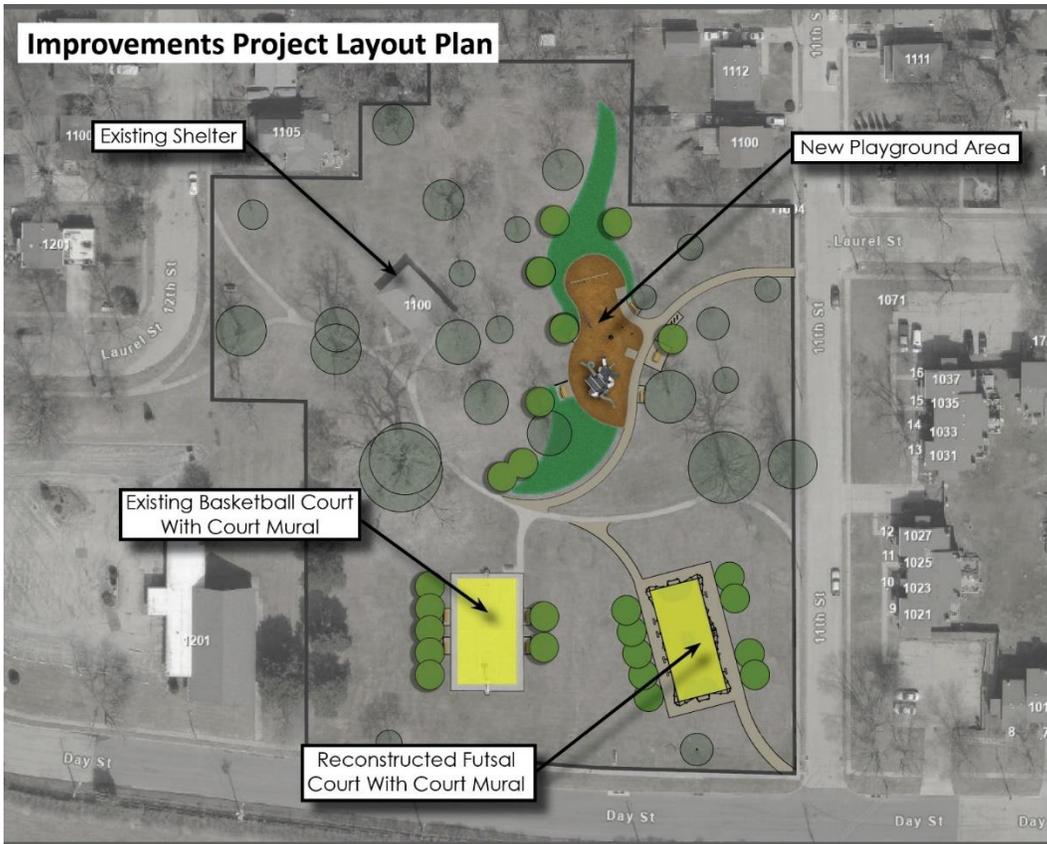
Amount: \$80,000 in grant funding and donations

Funding Source: FY2026 CIP, Page 88, Park Playground Improvements, PK185 with \$50,000 Bravo grant revenue, and the committed donations from the Friends of Des Moines Parks (\$14,000) and Musco Lighting (\$16,000).

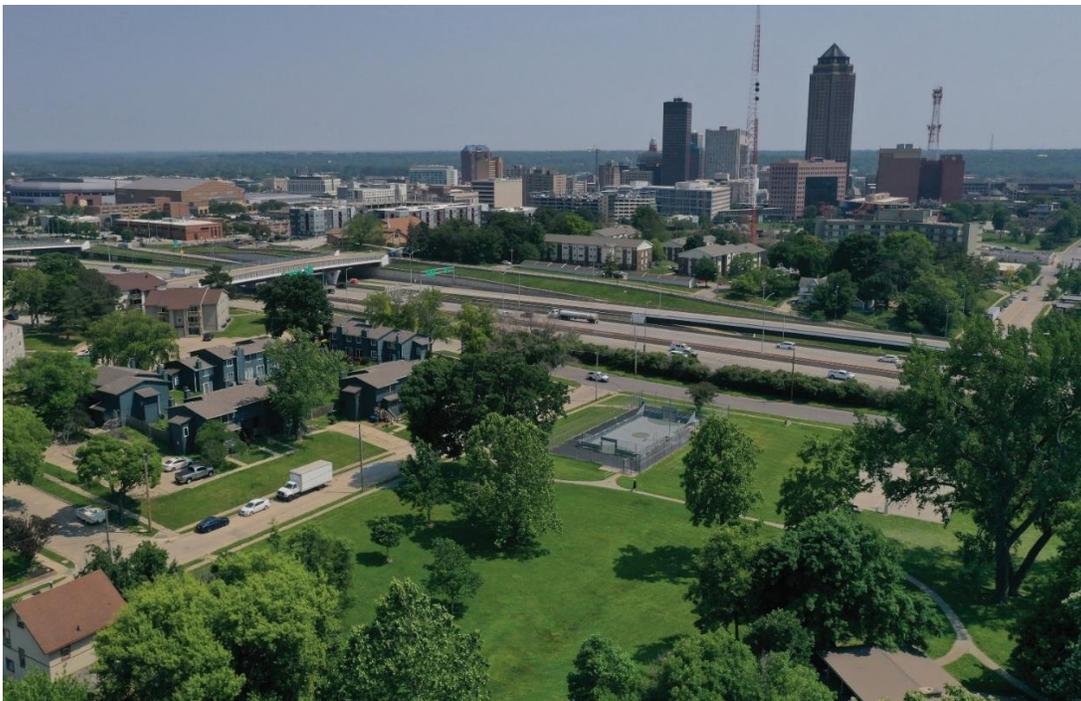
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Located within the Cheatom Park neighborhood, the 3.5-acre park serves over 2,600 residents within a 10-minute walk based on the current Trust for Public Land ParkServe report.
- The Cheatom Park Improvements project, which is currently out for bid and will include a new playground, walkways, seating and picnic areas, native plantings, existing basketball court resurfacing, and a new futsal court, will be complemented by the Cheatom Park Mural Project. Installation of the murals would follow completion of the court resurfacing. Construction is estimated to begin in spring 2026 and is estimated to be completed in fall 2026.
- These investments in Cheatom Park led to grant and donor funding opportunities for the planned murals. The Parks and Recreation Department applied for and was awarded a \$50,000 Bravo Greater Des Moines GC26 Public Art Grant and has received donation commitments from the Friends of Des Moines Parks and Musco Lighting that total the full hard costs of the project.

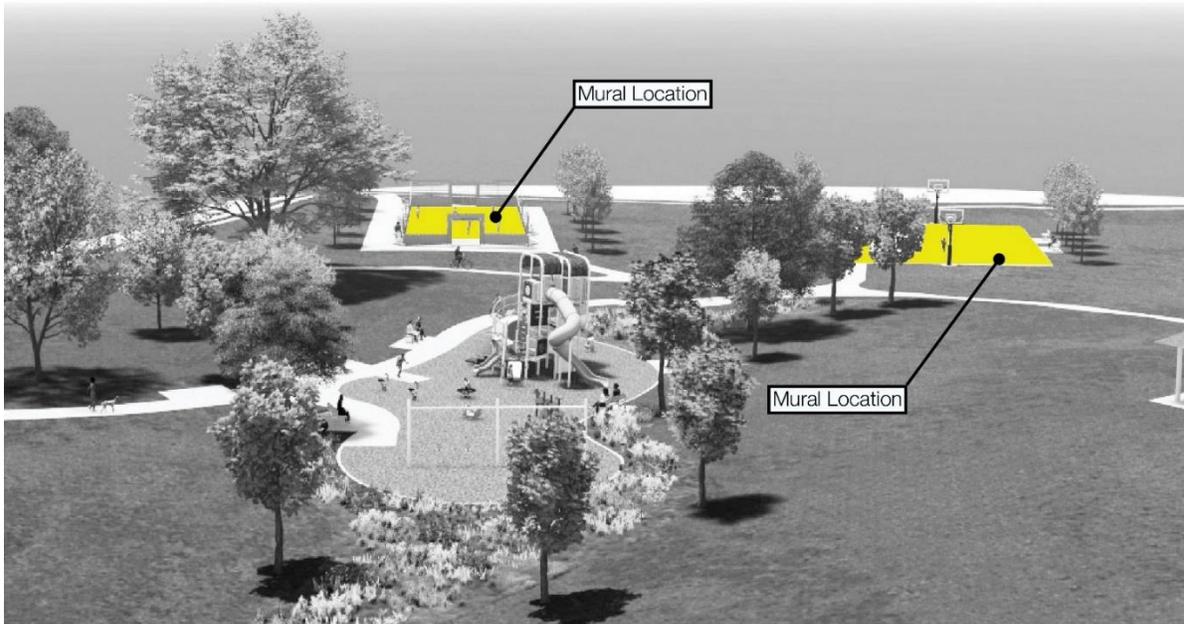
- The mural will complement the park improvements, plus add the finishing touches of the overall vision with site specific art that seamlessly weaves into the fabric of the community. To kick off this project, the Parks and Recreation Department presented the proposal for a mural to the Cheatom Park Neighborhood Association (9/9/25, 2/10/26). Attendees supported the project, expressing enthusiasm and appreciation for how the mural will complement the upcoming improvements at Cheatom Park.
- The mural artwork will be shaped by public engagement, incorporating input from neighborhood association outreach, an online questionnaire, onsite signage, social media, a public comment period, media and press coverage, and other outreach methods.
- This engagement and other related project processes will closely follow the approach used for the public art projects at Evelyn K. Davis Park (court mural), and upcoming mural installation at Pioneer Columbus Community Recreation Center (summer 2026), including sharing all public input information gathered with selected local artists to help shape the mural's concept and design framework.
- The project aligns with the goals and vision outlined in LiveDSM, PlanDSM, MoveDSM, and the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation.
- To select the local artist/team, Parks and Recreation staff consulted with the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation to develop a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Local artists/teams interested in the project will submit examples of work, experience in large-scale mural painting, and references.
- A selection panel with representatives from Parks and Recreation, Friends of Des Moines Parks, Bravo, the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, Cheatom Park Neighborhood Association, Musco Lighting, Mainframe Studios, and the Ward councilmember will review submissions and select five (5) finalists to develop mural concepts and proposals. Once proposals are received, the panel will select one artist/team to be awarded the project.
- The approved mural design will be installed using sport court paint materials supporting professional implementation and proper adhesion, durability, and long-term protection of the court's surface.
- Mural installation is anticipated to take place in late summer or early fall 2026, with coordination to align with Cheatom Park Improvements Project and the volunteer playground build day.
- Upon completion and acceptance, the mural will remain in place for the benefit and enjoyment of residents and be maintained for a planned duration of two (2) years, with additional renewal terms available in two (2) year increments, subject to available funding.



Location of Cheatom Park, and proposed court murals



Existing conditions drone photo of Cheatom Park



*Concept rendering of the Cheatom Park Improvements
and the location of the proposed Cheatom Park Court Murals*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 9, 2026

Roll Call Number: [26-0155](#)

Action: [Cheatom](#) Park Improvements: Receiving of bids, (2-24-26) and Setting date of hearing, (3-23-26), Engineer's estimate, \$380,000. ([Council Communication No. 26-041](#)) Moved by Barron to adopt. Second by Gatto. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- None related to the Mural Project; however, Cheatom Park Improvements actions include 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.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.