


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number: 26-173	Meeting: May 4, 2026
	Agenda Item: 32	Roll Call: 26-0576
	Submitted by: Benjamin R. Page, Parks and Recreation Director	

AGENDA HEADING:

Hold hearing for vacation of a portion of Bates Park located at 220 Clark Street.

SYNOPSIS:

Hold hearing regarding the proposed vacation of approximately 0.7 acres consisting of two parcels of parkland within Bates Park.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Bates Park is currently a 3.7 acre park located at 220 Clark Street, Des Moines, IA 50314. The improved portion of Bates Park is within the western half of the park and contains a sprayground, open air shelter, playground, basketball court and flat open space.
- The proposed portion of Bates Park for vacation is within the eastern unimproved portion of the park. Outlined in yellow, this section is sloped and rarely used for park activities.



- On February 24, 2026, the Parks and Recreation Board received and filed a presentation regarding the property status indicating low park use value for the hillside portion of the park.
- On approximately March 16, 2026, postcards were mailed to all residents within 500 feet of Bates Park providing notification and invitation to attend and share comments at the Parks and Recreation Board review on March 24, 2026. Opportunity for comments to be made by phone and email were also communicated on the postcard. Public comments were received and the Board unanimously approved the motion to relinquish and forward to City Council.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: April 20, 2026

Roll Call Number: [26-0493](#)

Action: [On](#) vacation of a portion of Bates Park located at 220 Clark Street, (5-4-26). ([Council Communication No. 26-137](#)) Moved by Voss to adopt. Second by Barron. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: March 24, 2026

Resolution Number: #26-022

Action: Motion by Davis to relinquish the designated area and forward to city council. Second by Chiodo. Motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- The City Manager will evaluate options for the conveyance and sale of the identified parcels and return to the City Council with a recommendation.

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 second floor of T.M. Franklin Cownie City Administration Building, 1200 Locust Street. 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.