

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

|                                                                                   |               |                                      |            |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
|  | Number:       | 26-189                               | Meeting:   | June 8, 2026 |
|                                                                                   | Agenda Item:  | 11                                   | Roll Call: | 26-0654      |
|                                                                                   | Submitted by: | Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer |            |              |

### AGENDA HEADING:

Accepting the Substantial Completion and Donation of the Harriet Street Access Water Trails Improvement, in the amount of \$1,972,751.84.

### SYNOPSIS:

Recommend acceptance of the Substantial Completion of the improvements at the Harriet Street Access Downtown Water Trails site, accept the site improvements as a donation by Iowa Confluence (ICON) Water Trails in the amount of \$1,972,751.84, open it for public use, and begin City-performed operation and maintenance of the improvements to be reimbursed annually by ICON Water Trails.

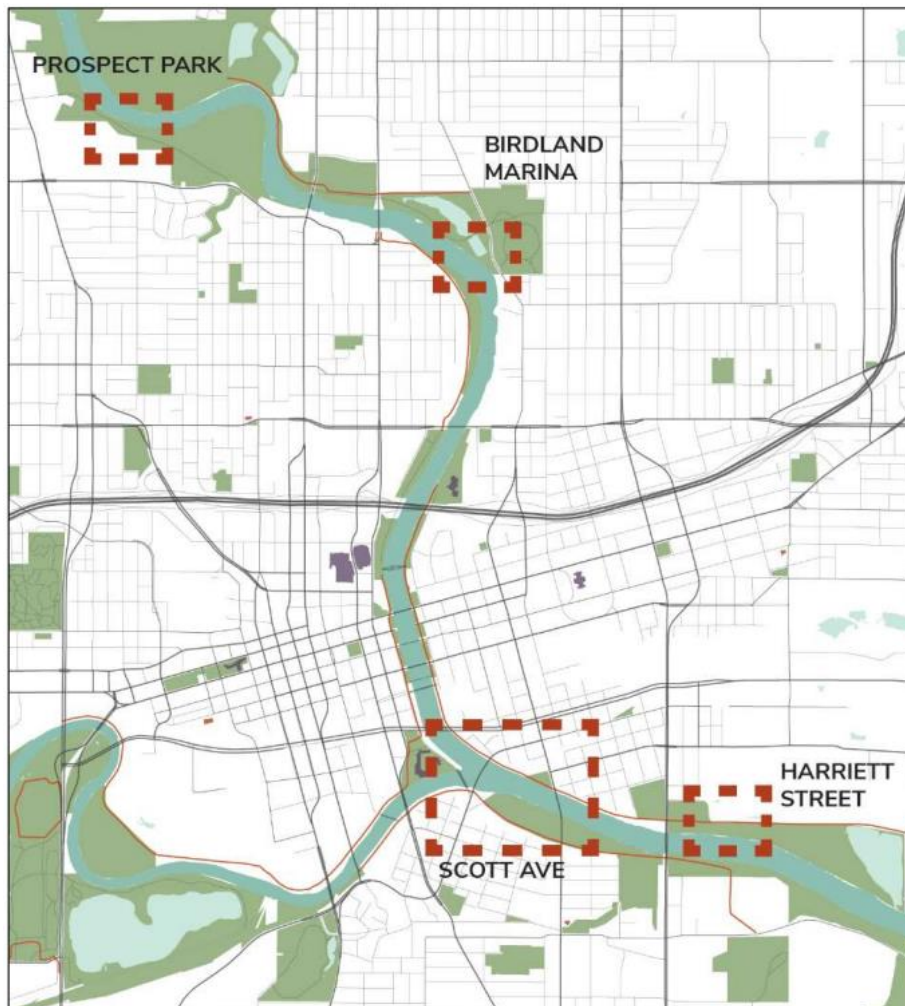
### FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ICON Water Trails is responsible for all costs of construction and maintenance.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was awarded a \$25 million United States Department of Transportation Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant for the Central Iowa Water Trails (CIWT): Phase I Dam Mitigation and User Access Project. The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) is the recipient of the BUILD Grant and the MPO is considered a First-Tier Recipient. The MPO is the contracting authority and is in responsible charge of the project. The MPO entered into a series of Agreements that address the design, construction administration and observation, funding, operations and maintenance and other obligations. There was a 28E Agreement between the City and CIWT (later renamed as ICON) regarding the operation and maintenance of the water trail access points. Additionally, there was also a multi-party Agreement with the MPO, CIWT and Polk County Conservation regarding the BUILD Grant where the City was included as a party to the Agreement. Those agreements were approved by the City Council by Roll Calls 21-1445 and 21-1446, respectively, on September 13, 2021.
- The project is a joint effort by the MPO and ICON Water Trails (Formerly CIWT) and includes modifying the low-head dam at Scott Avenue to help facilitate a water recreational trail and enhance three (3) additional sites along the Des Moines River, including Prospect Park, Birdland Marina, and the Harriet Street Access.

- The Agreement granted the MPO, Polk County, Polk County Conservation, ICON Water Trails, and their respective contractors, access to City-owned and leased property for the construction and maintenance of the project improvements. The projects are being coordinated with the City levee improvements that are occurring at the same time.
- Pursuant to the Agreement, the City monitored the construction and required that the MPO, ICON Water Trails as their designee, provide project documentation regarding conformance with plans, specifications, and City expectations of which has been received and reviewed by the Engineering Department.
- ICON Water Trails has a plan for Downtown Whitewater Access, which includes a site referenced as the “Harriet Street Access”. This site is located just downstream of the Southeast 14th Street Bridge over the Des Moines River.
- Following construction, ICON Water Trails will be responsible for overseeing the operation and maintenance of in-water improvements and associated power and controls needed for the in-water operations at Scott Avenue. The City of Des Moines will perform the landside maintenance and repair at all sites on City-owned or leased property including the uplands at Scott Avenue, Prospect Park, Birdland Marina, and Harriet Street Access. The costs for maintaining the Birdland Marina, Harriet Street, and Scott Avenue uplands will be tracked by the City and reimbursed annually by ICON Water Trails.



**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: September 13, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-1445](#), [21-1446](#), [21-1447](#)

Action: Items related to the Central Iowa Water Trails Project involving City of Des Moines, Central Iowa Water Trails, LLC, Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Polk County Conservation, and Iowa Confluence Water Trail as follows:

- (A) [28E Agreement](#) with [Central Iowa Water Trails, LLC](#) for the operation and maintenance of the City of Des Moines Regional Water Trail Access Points and Downtown Water Trail Locations. ([Council Communication No. 21-398](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Westergaard.
- (B) [Agreement](#) regarding [Build Grant](#) to the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Central Iowa Water Trails, LLC, and Polk County Conservation, and receiving and filing project plans and specifications. ([Council Communication No. 21-399](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Westergaard.
- (C) [Appointment](#) to Iowa Confluence Water Trails (ICON) Board of Directors and recommendations for City Representatives on ICON Executive Committee and Great Outdoors Foundation (GOF) ICON Investments Selection Committee. ([Council Communication No. 21-397](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Westergaard.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE****ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

- Dedication of portions of Harriet Street Access as parkland.
- Acceptance of substantial completion of improvements at the Scott Avenue, Birdland Marina, and Prospect Park sites.

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 Cowrie 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](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).