

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-251	Meeting:	July 13, 2026
	Agenda Item:	28	Roll Call:	
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Parks and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing execution of American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Community Challenge Grant Agreement for Riverside Bridge Park Improvements.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approving the AARP Community Challenge Grant Agreement Number 26-R4-NR AARP for \$15,000 for the Riverside Bridge Park Improvements project. AARP requires that the Community Challenge Grant Agreement be executed by the City. A copy is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

The Riverside Bridge Park Improvements project will complete remaining amenities for the recently renovated Southwest 1st Street Bridge, a 0.6-acre riverfront trail connection near the confluence of the Raccoon River and Des Moines Rivers. Now renamed Riverside Bridge Park, the former bridge provides a unique pedestrian park space on the Meredith Trail, serves 6,279 Des Moines residents within a 10-minute walk, and recorded more than 154,650 trips in 2024. The project will add custom fabricated benches, pavement markings, and park signage to strengthen the bridge as an accessible trail destination and riverfront public space in the City of Des Moines.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$15,000 in grant funding toward an overall estimated project cost of \$55,600

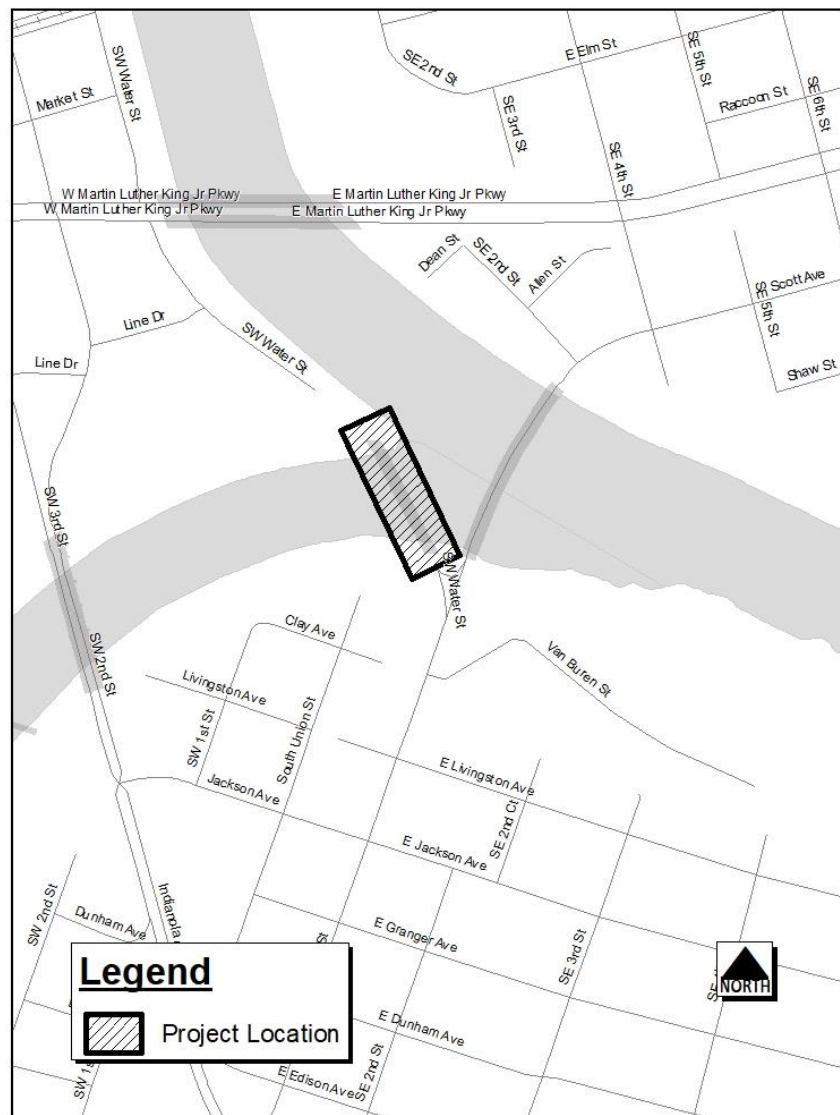
Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 74, Multi-Use Trails, PK045.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Located near the confluence of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers, the 0.6-acre Southwest 1st Street Bridge was originally built in 1937 and was rehabilitated in 1974. The bridge was converted to a multi-use trail facility in 2005 and was again rehabilitated in 2019 as part of the City's Bridges to Opportunity Project funded by the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program. In addition to structural repairs, the deck was improved to provide a flat surface and lighting to support future park improvements.
- The Southwest 1st Street Bridge is part of the Meredith Trail, providing access to 6,279 Des Moines residents within a 10-minute walking distance. In 2023, a bicycle and pedestrian

infrared counter stationed on the bridge captured nearly 210,000 trips. In 2024, the same counter documented just over 154,650 trips, with the reduction in usage attributed to levee alterations and construction activities impacting the Carl Voss Trail and Meredith Trail. The counter was not in place during construction in 2025.

- The Southwest 1st Street Bridge was renamed Riverside Bridge Park during the renovation of the bridge into a pedestrian park space in 2025. The remaining items from the renovation project are included in the scope of the AARP grant. These items include four custom fabricated benches, pavement markings, bike racks, litter receptacles, additional sedum sod groundcover, skateboard deterrents, and park signage.
- Construction of this project is anticipated to be completed in summer 2026.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: January 27, 2025

Roll Call Number: [25-009](#)

Action: [Designation](#) of lowest responsive, responsible bidder as Minturn, Inc. (Clinton M. Rhoads, President) and approval of contract and bond on SW 1st Street Bridge Park Improvement, \$961,268.75. ([Council Communication No. 25-041](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Access Advisory Board

Date: September 18, 2024

Resolution Number: #24-10

Action: Motion to Approve by Dylan Jones noting suggestions of turning spaces and markings Seconded by Garland Armstrong. Motion Carried 8-0

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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.