



WATER TRAILS & GREENWAYS PLAN

Steering Committee Meeting

September 13, 2016

September 13, 2016 Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. VOTE: Approval of Agenda
- ~~3. VOTE: Approval of Meeting Minutes~~
4. Introductions
5. Presentation & Discussion: Public Engagement & Feedback
6. Presentation & Discussion: Draft Greater Des Moines Water Trails & Greenways Plan
7. Presentation & Discussion: Planning to Implementation
8. Discussion: Legislative Agenda
9. Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee
10. Next Meeting Date
11. Adjournment

Public Engagement



- Nadas Nitefall on the River Concert – June 10
- Jim Pease – June 14
- Public open houses – June – including Dam Debate II
- Paddling outings – June – October
- Presentations to area Park and Recreation Boards, Conservation Boards, and City Councils, Botanical Garden Board, Water Works Board – Planning Subcommittee, Water Works Park Foundation Board

DRAFT WATER TRAILS & GREENWAYS PLAN

Organization

Booklets

- Goals/Strategies/Policies
- 7 river and creek segments
 - High level recommendations
 - Maps
 - Project lists
 - Creative writing

Updates

Executive Summary & Appendix
Process for plan development
Recreation recommendations
Implementation Strategies
Funding Strategies
Economic Development
Existing Conditions – all booklets
Conservation → Improved Recreation – all
Potential Water Trails designation category

Beaver Creek

- Only 1 of 2 beginner level water trail locations
- Recommend 2 carry down access
- Terra Lake Park Master Plan
- Improve fishing and birding
- Economic Hub: Merle Hay
- Protect the floodplain
- Restore the quarries

Updates

Merle Hay Road Gateway
Redevelopment Area
Kayak Park
Re-meandering of Beaver Creek

Walnut Creek

- Paddling during high water levels only
- Recommend 2 carry down access
- Biggest opportunity: wading and interpretation
- Lack of trail access from south/WDSM
- **Connecting plans:** watershed plan, Clive greenbelt, Windsor Heights comp plan

Update
Urbandale Projects

Mud and Fourmile Creeks

- Not recommended as a water trail, creek is too volatile
- Wading, fishing
- Floodplain protection
- Watershed plan
- Greenbelt planning
- Shoreline restoration

Updates

More clear about potential for paddling
Confluence with Des Moines River
Additional sites in Bondurant

North & Middle Rivers

- Water trail recommended only for Middle River
- Support watershed improvements, shoreline restoration, channel restoration
- Fishing, play hubs – Carlisle

Updates

More clear about potential for paddling North River
Extended North River study area to Warren County boundaries – greenway development

South Skunk River & Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

Chichaqua

- Wild level experience
- Family friendly
- Rentals
- Platform camping
- Navigation

Skunk River

- Restoration
- Re-meander

Updates

In-stream wayfinding
Portages for longer routes

Raccoon River - west

- Van Meter & Booneville – hubs
- Preservation of the floodplain
- Trail network
- Raccoon River Regional Park
- Connecting parks to the river
- Quarry restoration
- Water Works Master Plan
- Water Works to downtown key
- Stream bank restoration

Updates

Regional Park name

Watershed Plan

Walnut Woods – no river camping

Moved pedestrian bridge

Did NOT add boat parking

Carry-down boat access – north
side in downtown

Water Works – activity hub

Des Moines River

- Ding Darling & Des Moines River Regional Parks
- Master Plans: Saylorville, Red Rock, DSM Parks (proposed)
- Urban Partnership

Updates

Sustainable Rivers Project
Ding Darling Greenway – federal
Hydropower - Saylorville
In-stream navigation signage

Des Moines River

- Little in-stream recommendations, currently crowded section upstream from downtown to Saylorville
- Hub recommended at River Point Place (carry down access, fishing hub, etc.)
- Prospect and Birdland improvements
- Botanical Garden

Updates

Port of Des Moines proposal
Historical Significance
Dam Considerations
Fishing Ordinance
Downtown Des Moines:
Confluence Park

Des Moines River

- Harriet St. to Yellow Banks – 2nd beginner level experience in the metro
- Improve existing accesses
- Trail connections
- Soft trails
- Fishing improvements
- Visual screens

Updates
Fishing Park
Pleasant Hill Greenway Network
Flowage Easements

Next steps with the plan



Steering Committee Approves

MPO Technical Committee & Policy Board – October/November

- Planning & Engineering Subcommittees
- Bike/Ped Roundtable

Cities & Counties – Receive and File

Celebration?

Moving from Planning to Implementation



Phase I Implementation: Engineering Study

- Regional approach – each city pays in
- Site visits
- Meetings with jurisdictions – hone scale of project
- Final product for each community
- Dam Modification Study – first steps
- What needs more study?

Moving from Planning to Implementation



Organizational Leadership

- Regional approach
- Prioritize projects
- Coordinated funding, marketing, maintenance
- Land managers and user groups

Moving from Planning to Implementation

Organizational Leadership: Small Group Discussions

- Regional vs local jurisdiction tasks
- Common issues benefit from regional approach
- Funding – regional vs local
- Who lead this regional effort?
- How begin to prioritize?
- Who involved in this coalition?

Planning
Funding
Design
Construction
Marketing
Programming
Maintenance
Legislative

2016/2017 Legislative Needs



How begin to work together to advocate for state support of water trails, greenways and water quality.



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