



# **WATER TRAILS & GREENWAYS PLAN**

Des Moines Area MPO

February 11, 2016

# November 13, 2015 Agenda

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1. Call to Order
2. VOTE: Approval of Agenda
3. VOTE: Approval of Meeting Minutes
4. Introductions
5. PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: State of the Rivers Report
6. PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: Public Engagement – Next Steps
7. REPORT and DISCUSSION: Development of the Plan – Next Steps
8. SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION: Draft Vision, Missing, Goals and Objectives
9. Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee
10. Next Meeting Date – TBD
11. Adjournment

# STATE OF THE RIVERS REPORT

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

# Public Engagement: Next Steps

- Presentations to Park Boards, City Council, County govts.
- Presentations to other agencies including area economic development experts, MPO committees, Community Foundation Board, Partnership, major employers, etc.
- Email State of the Rivers and Public Input Map to government leaders, user groups, neighborhood associations, etc.
- Media outlets – including editorial board meeting
- Public Open House - March

# DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT PLAN

# Development of Draft Plan: Next Steps

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## March/April: Mapping Workshops

- On-line mapping tool
- Public Open House
- MPO Committees including planning staff
- Steering Committee and other area experts

April/May: Staff analyzes feedback and drafts a master plan

June: Draft Water Trails and Greenways Master Plan published

# VISION, MISSION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES



# Draft Vision and Mission Statements



## **Vision**

The water trails and greenways of Greater Des Moines will be a natural haven, recreational keystone, economic driver, and community focal point that welcome people of all ages, abilities, interests, incomes, and cultures to connect and commune with their rivers, creeks and greenways.

## **Mission**

Ever mindful of future generations, our mission is to cooperate across political boundaries to accentuate and enhance the region's water trails and greenways to realize their immense potential as a multifaceted centerpiece for a vibrant and dynamic region.

# Draft Goals

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1. Conserve and enhance the environmental health of the rivers, creeks, and greenways
2. Expand access and connections between diverse communities and the rivers, creeks, and greenways
3. Further the health and well-being of all residents and visitors through activity and access to nature
4. Support and amplify a resilient regional economy with local, regional, and national attractions and amenities
5. Collaborate locally and regionally to develop a holistic and sustainable waterways and greenways network

# Draft Objectives

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## Small Group Discussions:

- Move to a table that matches the goal of interest to you
- Brainstorm measurable objectives
  - Ex. Restoration of 20 acres of riverfront each year
- Amenities list

# Possible Amenities/Improvements

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- Dam mitigation
- Visual barriers
- Protection of natural areas
- Improve access to river for...
- Improve water quality
- Improve public attitudes toward water quality
- Increase areas of “respite” along river (benches, etc.)
- Add wayfinding
- Add interpretive information
- Restore shorelines
- Increase paved trails
- Increase non-paved trails
- Connect biking and paddling
- Develop on-line resources for visitors
- Offer variety of paddling trip lengths
- Offer variety of paddling experiences/skill levels
- Develop fishing nodes along river
- Develop fish cleaning stations
- Increase small business – liveries, fishing library
- Create places for families to play
- Develop programming – how-to classes
- Add restaurant/bar
- Add white water course
- River-access camping
- Acquisition of land for preservation

# OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS