

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Public invited to presentations on draft water trails plan

Residents are invited to join community and elected leaders for presentations on the recently released draft Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Plan.

The draft plan recommends an abundant network of water recreation for 150 miles of the region's creeks and rivers, including places for tubing, birding, hiking, paddling, boating, fishing and more. The plan covers the Des Moines, Raccoon, South Skunk, North and Middle rivers, as well as Beaver, Fourmile, Mud and Walnut creeks.

The draft plan was developed by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization on behalf of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Each presentation will highlight the recommendations specific to the rivers and creeks in that part of the region. Presentations include:

- 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 11, City of Clive Parks and Recreation, 1900 NW 114th Street, Clive**
- 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, Polk County Conservation Board, Easter Lake Park, Des Moines**
- 6 p.m. Thursday, July 14, City of Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation, 5160 Maple Dr. Suite A, Pleasant Hill**
- 6 p.m. Monday, July 18, Windsor Heights City Council, 6900 School Street, Windsor Heights**
- 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, City of Johnston Parks and Recreation, 6300 Pioneer Parkway, Johnston**
- 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, City of Van Meter Parks and Recreation, 310 Mill Street, Van Meter**
- 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 21, City of West Des Moines Parks and Recreation, 4200 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines**
- 6 p.m. Monday, July 25, West Des Moines City Council, 4200 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines**
- 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation, 1551 E. Martin Luther King, Jr Parkway, Des Moines**
- 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 27, Polk County Board of Supervisors, 111 Court Avenue #300, Des Moines**
- 6 p.m. Thursday, July 28, Bondurant Planning and Zoning Board, 200 2nd Street NE, Bondurant**
- 5:30 p.m. Monday, August 1, Ankeny City Council, 410 West 1st Street, Ankeny**
- 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 8, Carlisle City Council, 195 North 1st Street, Carlisle**
- 6 p.m. Wednesday, August 10, Warren County Conservation, 15565 118th Avenue, Indianola**
- 6 p.m. Thursday, August 11, Clive City Council, 1900 NW 114th Street, Clive**
- 6 p.m. Monday, August 15, Bondurant City Council, 200 2nd Street NE, Bondurant**
- 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 16, Pleasant Hill City Council, 5160 Maple Drive Suite A, Pleasant Hill**
- 7 p.m. Thursday, August 18, Van Meter City Council, 910 Main Street, Van Meter**
- 7:30 a.m. Monday, August 22, Des Moines City Council, 1551 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, Des Moines**
- 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 30, Urbandale City Council, 3600 86th Street, Urbandale**

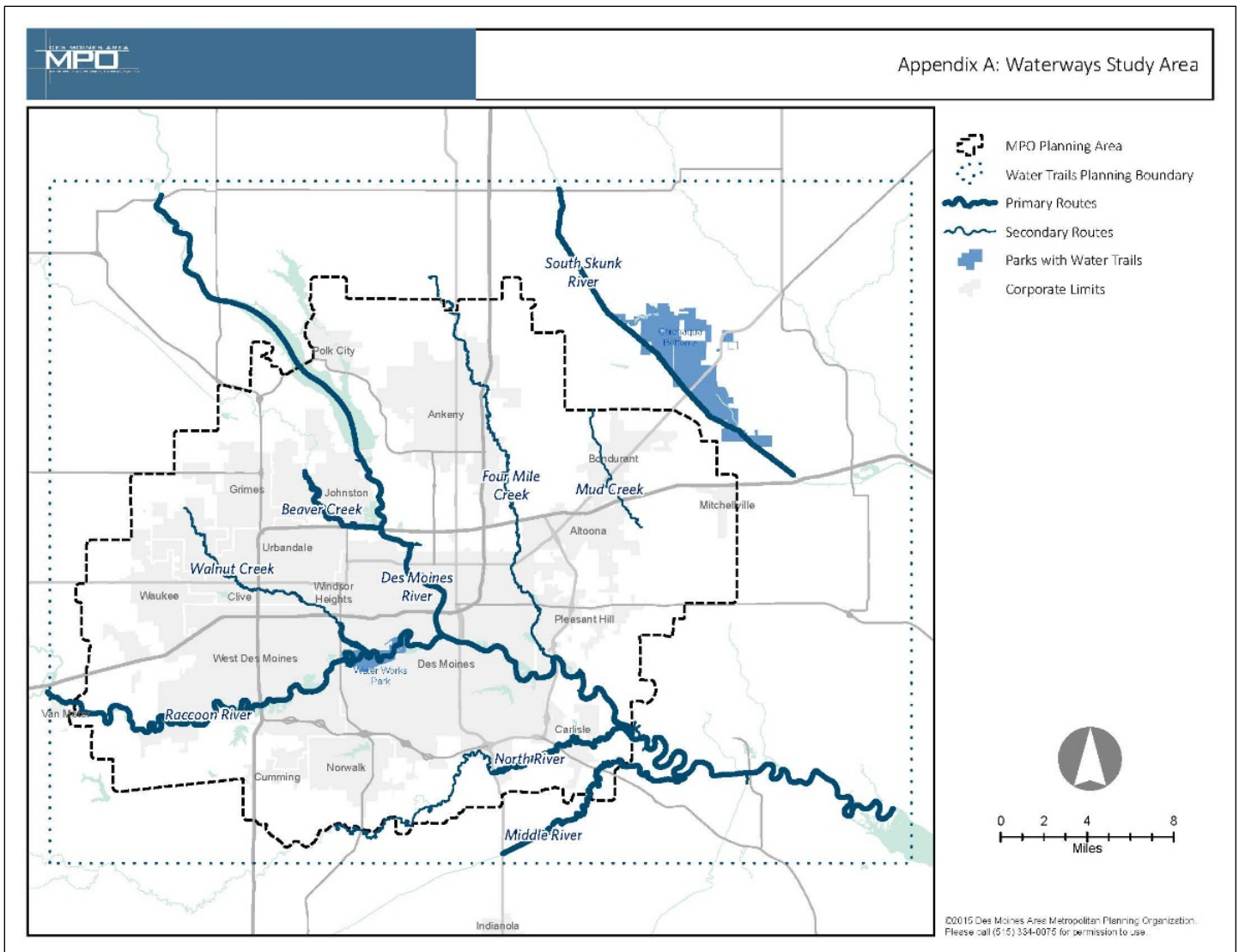
The draft plan was developed over the past year with research of existing conditions and input from people and organizations with a wide range of interests in the waterways, notably recreation, quality of life, economic development, tourism and environmental conservation. Over the coming summer, these recommendations will be vetted by the public, and the plan will be refined as needed before being finalized this fall by vote of the MPO Policy Committee.

The plan is available online at www.dmampo.org/water-trails/, where the public can also take a three-question survey indicating their level of interest in water trails. For more information, call 515-334-0075 or email info@dmampo.org.

What are Water Trails?

“Water Trails” is a designation given by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and are defined as recreational corridors and routes on rivers and lakes that provide a unique experience for all water users. Water trails help re-connect lowans to their waterways’ history, heritage, geology, fisheries, and wildlife. Water trails provide adequate access and can include amenities like riverside camping, wild spaces, picnic areas, and restrooms, and watercraft rentals provided by local, state, and federal partners. Coordinated signage and mapping systems guide users toward the types of experiences they seek, ranging from a highly social first-time river experience lasting a few hours to multi-day adventures. Water trails help boost local economies and give central lowans outdoor experiences just out their back doors.

Study Area for Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Plan



Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) acts as a regional forum to ensure coordination between the public and local, state, and federal agencies in regard to planning issues and to prepare transportation plans and programs. The MPO develops both long- and short-range multimodal transportation plans, selects and approves projects for federal funding based upon regional priorities, and develops methods to reduce traffic congestion.