GREATER DES MOINES WATER TRAILS AND GREENWAYS PLAN

A shared vision for our rivers, creeks and greenways.

www.dmampo.org/water-trails

Des Moines Area MPO
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Iowa’s First Regional Water Trails Plan

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Water Trails & Greenways

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

**Mission**: Ever mindful of future generations, our mission is to cooperate across political boundaries, cultures and recreational uses 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.

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Water Trails & Greenways: Project Phases

Existing Conditions Report – Complete

*State of the Rivers Report*

Vision and Goals - Complete

Draft Plan – Complete

Master Plan – Fall 2016

Public Input – Major input opportunities throughout

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WHAT ARE WATER TRAILS?

All this plan could include....
Variety of User Experiences
Organization

Booklets

• Goals/Strategies/Policies
• 7 river and creek segments
  – High level recommendations
  – Maps
  – Project lists
  – Creative writing
Greater Des Moines Water Trails & Greenways Plan

150 miles of waterways
36% of floodplain protected
13 paddle carry down accesses
22 govs.
18 wading areas

23 soft trails
15 fishing nodes

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Raccoon River

- 31 miles
- Tale of two rivers – rural and urban
- 24% in public ownership
- Multi-day paddling trips

[Image of a heron in water]

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Raccoon River: I-35 to downtown

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Des Moines River

- 65 miles
- 41% in publically owned land along
- Wooded to urban to wild
- Most visible
- Sections highly used

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Des Moines River: Hwy 210 – Botanical Garden
Carry-down/Boat Access Points

Raccoon River:
63rd Street (north side)
Water Works Park – 2 (add and improve)
Downtown Des Moines (north side)

Des Moines River:
Riverpoint Place
Prospect & Birdland (improve)
Downtown
Harriet Street (improve)

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Economic Development Hubs

Riverpoint Place
Birdland Marina/Union Park
Downtown Des Moines

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Redevelopment Hubs

Re-imagine Prospect Park, Birdland Marina, Union Park, Botanical Garden
Harriet Street Boat Access
Raccoon River Regional Park

Hallett Quarry Restoration
Maffitt and adjoining WW property
Walnut Woods
Brown’s Woods
Raccoon River Park
Water Works Park
Gray’s Lake Park

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Ding Darling Regional Park

Ding Darling Greenway
McHenry/Riverview Park
Prospect/Crocker Woods
Birdland Marina/Union Park
Botanical Garden

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Downtown Des Moines to Lake Red Rock

Des Moines River Regional Park

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Establish greenway between Harriet Street boat access and Yellow Banks Park
Des Moines & Raccoon Rivers, Fourmile Creek
Wading, Discovery, Play

Water Works Park
Gray's Lake Park
Riverview Park
Birdland Marina/Union
Botanical Garden
Downtown
Harriet Street
Fourmile Community Center

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Des Moines & Raccoon Rivers, Fourmile Creek Trail Connections, Soft Trails and Pedal/Paddle Opportunities

- Soft trails
- Pedal/Paddle opportunities
- Pedestrian connections from parks/trails along the river to the river
- Creative shuttling opportunities
Des Moines & Raccoon Rivers, Fourmile & Walnut Creeks
Interpretation, Wayfinding, Marketing

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Des Moines & Raccoon Rivers
Rentals/Liveries

- Water Works Park
- Gray’s Lake Park
- Downtown
- Riverpoint Place
- Birdland Marina

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Des Moines & Raccoon Rivers
Programming – classes and events

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Raccoon River Regional Park
Beauty & Respite

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Des Moines & Raccoon Rivers

Historical Roots

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Water Works Park

Master Plan:
- Circuit
- Access points (2)
- Dam mitigation
- Fish cleaning station
- Bcycle Hub

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Public Art

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Shoreline Restoration & Watershed Improvements

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Floodplain Protection

- 27% of Raccoon River floodplain is protected
- 41% of Walnut Creek floodplain is protected
- 1% of the North River floodplain is protected
- 14% of Fourmile Creek floodplain is protected
- 75% of Des Moines River floodplain is protected

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Maintenance: Logjams, Land Management, Flood Resilience

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Shoreline Restoration & Watershed Improvements

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DOWNTOWN DES MOINES

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Downtown Considerations

• Water levels: low-flow pool need to match flash board water levels
• Consensus: dams should be mitigated
• Edge treatment: more habitat, less formal
• Channel treatment: full spectrum of experiences
• Historic nature of balustrades
• Below dams: fishing/birding important

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Next Steps

- Gather feedback this summer – including feedback from council, boards, etc.
- MPO Board vote on final master plan – fall 2016
- Request each city adopt the plan
- Phase I Implementation
WHAT DID WE MISS?