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 – June 2016

Master Plan – Fall 2016

Public Input – Major input opportunities throughout

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WHAT ARE WATER TRAILS?

All this plan could include....

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Variety of User Experiences
Greater Des Moines Water Trails & Greenways Plan

- 150 miles of waterways
- 36% of floodplain protected
- 23 soft trails
- 15 fishing nodes
- 13 paddle carry down accesses
- 18 wading areas
- 22 governments involved
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Organization

Booklets

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

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Beaver Creek

- **Potential**: Only 1 of 2 beginner level water trail locations
- Scenic
- Natural
- Intimate

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Carry-down access 1 of 2
Terra Lake Park: Activity Hub

- Carry-down access
- Connect to existing park amenities
- Create a looping experience with chutes for kayaking/canoeing

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Terra Lake Park: Activity Hub

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Terra Lake Park: Activity Hub

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Merle Hay Road: Economic Hub

2nd of 2 main carry-down access

Connect water trail and paved trail existing park amenities and redevelopment opportunities

Fishing access

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Merle Hay Road: Economic Hub

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Quarry Restoration & Fishing Improvements

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Shoreline Restoration & Watershed Improvements

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Floodplain Protection

39% of floodplain protected

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Maintenance: Logjams & Trail Viewpoints

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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 your council, boards, etc.
• MPO Board vote on final master plan – fall 2016
• Request each city adopt the plan
• Phase I Implementation

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