GREATER DES MOINES WATER TRAILS AND GREENWAYS PLAN

A shared vision for our rivers, creeks and greenways.

www.dmampo.org/water-trails
Iowa’s First Regional Water Trails Plan
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?
Variety of User Experiences

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Greater Des Moines Water Trails & Greenways Plan

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

Booklets

• Goals/Strategies/Policies
  – Regional coordination
  – Greenways

• 7 river and creek segments
  – High level recommendations
  – Maps
  – Project lists
  – Creative writing

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Des Moines River

- 65 miles in study area
- 41% in public ownership
- Capped by the two reservoirs
- Greatest diversity of uses
- Section of it already designated as a water trail

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Des Moines River
Harriet Access – Yellow Banks
Activity Hub: Boat Access

Ample parking. Recommended to pave the parking lot to ease clean-up post floods.
Activity Hub: Wading

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Activity Hub: Fishing

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Activity Hub: Habitat & Soft Trails

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Fourmile Creek & Mud Creek Wading

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Fourmile Creek, Mud Creek & Des Moines River: Interpretation & Wayfinding

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Fourmile Creek, Mud Creek & Des Moines River: Shoreline & Watershed Improvements

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Fourmile Creek, Mud Creek & Des Moines River:
Shoreline & Watershed Improvements

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Floodplain Protection & Greenway Development

- 75% of Des Moines River’s floodplain is protected
- 16% of Fourmile Creek’s floodplain is protected

- Adopt policies to protect floodplain
- Purchase gaps in greenways
- Improve habitat within greenways
Fourmile Creek, Mud Creek & Des Moines River: Connected Greenways

Connected system of parks – Des Moines – Yellow Banks

Connected trails – Des Moines River (north and south) and Fourmile and Mud Creeks

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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
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
WHAT DID WE MISS?

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