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.

dmampo.org/water-trails
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

dmampo.org/water-trails
All this plan could include....

WHAT ARE WATER TRAILS?
Variety of User Experiences

dmampo.org/water-trails
DRAFT WATER TRAILS & GREENWAYS PLAN

dmampo.org/water-trails
Greater Des Moines Water Trails & Greenways Plan

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

dmampo.org/water-trails
Organization

Booklets

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

dmampo.org/water-trails
Walnut Creek

• 21 miles in study area
  2.5 primary miles
• Source of drinking water
• Lots of planning occurring already
• Trail adjacent
• Wooded
• Urban

dmampo.org/water-trails
Walnut Creek

dmampo.org/water-trails
Activity Hub: Aurora Avenue

dmampo.org/water-trails
Activity Hub: Walker Johnston Park

dmampo.org/water-trails
Activity Hub: Clive Aquatic Center

Carry-down access - 1 of 2

dmampo.org/water-trails
Clive Activity Hub: Wading

dmampo.org/water-trails
Clive Activity Hub: Fishing

dmampo.org/water-trails
Activity Hub: Habitat & Soft Trails

dmampo.org/water-trails
73rd St. Economic Hub

dmampo.org/water-trails
Activity Hub: Colby Park

dmampo.org/water-trails
Walnut Creek: Public Art

dmampo.org/water-trails
Walnut Creek: “Dam” Mitigation

dmampo.org/water-trails
Walnut Creek: “Dam” Mitigation

dmampo.org/water-trails
Walnut Creek: Interpretation

dmampo.org/water-trails
Walnut Creek: Shoreline & Watershed Improvements

dmampo.org/water-trails
Walnut Creek: Shoreline & Watershed Improvements

dmampo.org/water-trails
Maintenance: Logjams & Trail Viewpoints

dmampo.org/water-trails
Floodplain Protection

41% of floodplain protected

dmampo.org/water-trails
Beaver Creek: Quarry Restoration & Fishing Improvements

dmampo.org/water-trails
DOWNTOWN DES MOINES

dmampo.org/water-trails
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

dmampo.org/water-trails
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?

Lead Planner Teva Dawson
tdawson@dmampo.org

dmampo.org/water-trails