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

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

WHAT ARE WATER TRAILS?
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

23 soft trails
15 fishing nodes
22 govts.
18 wading areas

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Raccoon River

• 31 miles
• Tale of 2 rivers – rural and urban
• Multi-day paddling trips

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Raccoon River: Van Meter to I35
Raccoon River: I35 to downtown

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Van Meter: *Economic Development Hub*

Carry down access
Used by emergency responders

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Access for anglers

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Van Meter: Economic Development Hub

Trail connections
Interpretive and wayfinding signage
Pedestrian connection to downtown

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Booneville: *Economic Development Hub*

- Boat access
- Bed and breakfast lodging, cafes
- Camp sites
- Pedal/paddle potential
- Bicycle/watercraft lockers

[Link to dmampo.org/water-trails]
Booneville: *Economic Development Hub*

- Boat access
- Bed and breakfast lodging, cafes
- Camp sites
- Pedal/paddle potential
- Bicycle/watercraft lockers

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Quarry Restoration

- Wildlife habitat
- Fishing amenities
- Birding trails
- Trail connections
- Carry-down portage connection from river to quarry

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Raccoon River Regional Park

- Brown’s woods
- Raccoon River Park
- Water Works Park
- Gray’s Lake Park

Walnut Woods
Raccoon River Regional Park

- Carry-down access
- Wading areas
- Riverside camping
- Pedestrian access from river to park paths
- Soft trails

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Raccoon River Regional Park

Fishing nodes

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Programming

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Family Friendly

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Rentals
Storage

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Beauty
Respite

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Raccoon River Regional Park

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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Shoreline Restoration, Watershed Improvements & Floodplain Protection
Shoreline Restoration & Watershed Improvements
Floodplain Protection

27% of floodplain for the Raccoon River is protected
Maintenance: Logjams & Trail Viewpoints
Downtown: Economic Hub

Access points
Dam mitigation
Fish cleaning station
Watercraft storage
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
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WHAT DID WE MISS?

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