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

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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 2 rivers – rural and urban
- Multi-day paddling trips

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Raccoon River: I-35 to downtown

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Carry-down/Boat Access Points

Van Meter
Booneville (improve)
Hallett-Marietta Reclamation
Commerce Ledges

63rd Street (north side)
Walnut Woods (improve)
Water Works Park – 2 (add and improve)
Downtown Des Moines (north side)

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Economic Development Hubs

Van Meter
Booneville
Another in WDSM?
Downtown Des Moines

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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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Raccoon River Regional Park
Fishing Access & Aquatic Habitat

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

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Raccoon River Regional Park
Wading, Discovery, Play

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

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Raccoon River Regional Park

Trail Connections, Soft Trails and Pedal/Paddle Opportunities

- Connect Van Meter to future Dallas County and WDSM trails
- Maffitt and WW property to other trails and the river
- Soft trails
- Pedestrian crossings over the river – Hallett Quarry, Raccoon River Park
- Pedal/Paddle opportunities

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

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Raccoon River Regional Park
Interpretation, Wayfinding, Marketing

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

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Raccoon River Regional Park
Rentals/Liveries

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

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Raccoon River Regional Park
Programming – classes and events

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

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Raccoon River Regional Park

Beauty & Respite

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

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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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Quarry Restoration

Wildlife habitat
Fishing amenities
Birding trails
Trail connections

Carry-down portage connection from river to quarry

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Public Art
Shoreline Restoration, Watershed Improvements & Floodplain Protection
Shoreline Restoration & Watershed Improvements
27% of Raccoon River floodplain is protected
Maintenance: Logjams & Trail Viewpoints
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?

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