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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All this plan could include....

WHAT ARE WATER TRAILS?
Variety of User Experiences

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DRAFT WATER TRAILS & GREENWAYS PLAN

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Greater Des Moines Water Trails & Greenways Plan

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

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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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Walnut Creek

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

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Walnut Creek

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Clive City Hall/Aquatic Center: Activity Hub:

- Initial point for paddling
- Capitalize on other amenities
- Add fishing, wading, carry-down access, play features
73rd St. Economic Hub

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Activity Hub: Colby Park

Create additional entrance to Colby Park from 73rd St. Entrance
Activity Hub: Wading

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Activity Hub: Fishing

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Trail Connection

Missing trail connection from the south and west.
Walnut Creek: Public Art

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Walnut Creek: “Dam” Mitigation

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Walnut Creek: “Dam” Mitigation

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Walnut Creek: Interpretation

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Walnut Creek: Shoreline & Watershed Improvements

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Walnut Creek: Shoreline & Watershed Improvements

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Floodplain Protection

41% of floodplain 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 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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