

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

02-640

AGENDA:

DECEMBER 16, 2002

SUBJECT:

DES MOINES TRAILS
PLAN

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

SYNOPSIS —

Approve a revised Trails Plan for the City of Des Moines that includes both on-street and off-street trails. This plan will replace the existing Trails Plan that is maintained by the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

FISCAL IMPACT —

None.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

For many years since the mid 1970's, the City of Des Moines has identified and catalogued proposed trails within its boundaries. In 1998, the local MPO, a transportation planning body that receives and administers federal funding assistance, assumed responsibility for mapping proposed trails, both on-street and off-street, for many cities in the metro Des Moines area. In creating the first bicycle/pedestrian map, the MPO solicited each city's existing records and maps and generated a "new, updated" map. During the summer of 2002, the Park and Recreation Board's Bicycle and Recreational Trails Advisory Committee decided to place new emphasis on signing existing bicycle routes, and to begin a process for establishing the first bicycle lanes on selected, high-priority streets. This was recommended in order to assist bicyclists wishing to commute to work or to travel more quickly around the City "on-street." Members of the Committee were tasked to review the existing MPO Trails Plan for Des Moines and make recommendations to locate routes and lanes more conveniently and safely. All existing and proposed off-street, multi-recreational trails were updated and included on the revised maps.

After much footwork, research, and discussion, several deletions and additions of on-street trail segments were made to the Trails Plan. On November 11, 2002, the Bicycle and Recreational Trails Committee voted unanimously to recommend the revised Trails Plan for Des Moines to the Park and Recreation Board. On November 26,

	<p>2002, the Park and Recreation Board unanimously approved the recommended Trails Plan for Des Moines. If approved by the City Council, the Trails Plan would be forwarded to the local MPO office where it would replace the existing Trails Plan for Des Moines. In the future, any new proposed trail, whether on- or off-street, will be reviewed by the Bicycle and Trails Advisory Committee, the Park Board, and City Council before being added to the official, updated Trails Plan.</p>
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