



Agenda Item:

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## **COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Agenda Date: 10/25/04  
541

Communication No.: 04-

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call No:

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

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### **SUBJECT—**

Addition of Easter Lake Recreational Trail System to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Facilities Plan Map.

### **SYNOPSIS—**

Add the "Easter Lake Trails" System to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Facilities Plan Map. This trail system is a part of the existing Easter Lake New Town Plan and needs to be added to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Facilities Plan Map before it can become eligible to be added to a future CIP work plan.

### **FISCAL IMPACT—**

Approval of this trail system will allow the Park and Recreation Department to start planning this trail system into future CIP budgets so that grants for the trails can be written, funds can be allocated, and eventual construction of the trail system can be completed.

### **RECOMMENDATION—**

Approval

### **BACKGROUND—**

Since the mid 1970's, the City of Des Moines has identified and catalogued proposed trails within its boundaries. In 1998 the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (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 and pedestrian map, the MPO solicited each City's existing records and maps and generated a "new, updated" map. On November 11, 2002, the Bicycle and Recreational Trails Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend the revised map to the Park and Recreation Board. It was approved by the Park and Recreation Board and forwarded to the City Council who also adopted it by Roll Call No. 02-2976 on December 16, 2002. In the future any new proposed trail, whether on or off street, must be reviewed by the Bicycle and Trails Advisory Committee, the Park and Recreation Board, and City Council before being added to the official, updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Facilities Plan Map.

The "Easter Lake Trails" System is part of the Easter Lake New Town Plan adopted by City Council on January 8, 2001, by Roll Call No. 01-131. This system of trails includes a spine trail that is ten-feet wide and starts near the intersection of Indianola Road and Hwy 69. It then works northeasterly until it reaches the southern portion of Easter Lake near Easter Lake Drive and SE 34<sup>th</sup> Street. The City will construct much of this trail with portions being constructed by developers when possible. The next portion of the system is a series of neighborhood trails that are eight-feet in width and feed pedestrians and bicyclists from the surrounding neighborhood into the "spine" of the system. As much as possible, these neighborhood trails will be constructed by developers. At this time, various portions of this trail system are under development as the Easter Lake area develops. On the north end of the spine, it will connect to a future off-street trail along the Des Moines River.

On January 12, 2004, the Bicycle and Recreational Trails Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend adding this system to the map, and on March 23, 2004, by Roll Call No. 04-019 the Park and Recreation Board voted to add the "Easter Lake Trails" System to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Facilities Plan Map.