



Agenda Item:

13

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 12/06/04
04-620

Communication No.:

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call No:

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director
Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

-

SUBJECT—

American Discovery Trail, Walnut Creek Connection, Segment 3; Trail Alignment and Right of Way Acquisition

SYNOPSIS—

Approval of alignment and the authorization to begin acquiring the right of way and easements necessary for the construction of Segment 3 of the Walnut Creek Connection of the American Discovery Trail. Completion of this trail segment along with three other trail segments to the north along Walnut Creek will be a significant connection that allows trail users to access the Clive Greenbelt Trail and other trails in the western suburbs from the existing network of trails within the City of Des Moines that includes Gray's Lake, the Riverpoint Trail, Neal Smith Trail and John Pat Dorrian Trail.

FISCAL IMPACT—

Total Project cost is estimated at \$450,000 with \$253,000 available from grants awarded to the City from the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). The City's contribution is \$197,000 from the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Fund: CP040 Org: PKS990000 Project: PKS045, Recreational Trails

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

The 0.9-mile alignment of Segment 3 of the Walnut Creek Connection of the American Discovery Trail (ADT) will be a ten-foot wide asphalt recreational trail that will connect other segments of the ADT ending at North Valley Drive with the Bill Riley Trail in Ashworth Park (please see a map of the trail alignment attached to the Fact Sheet). The ADT, a national trail project, runs from coast to coast across America.

The alignment of Segment 3 of the Walnut Creek Trail connection will begin at North Valley Drive on the east side of Walnut Creek approximately 130 feet from the end of the bridge crossing Walnut Creek. This trail will be utilizing an at-grade street crossing to meet the other trail segments coming from the north. Once south of North Valley Drive, the trail will curve toward Walnut Creek and meander through the large trees following the general direction of the creek. The trail will then meet with the Bill Riley Trail approximately 2,100 feet south of Ashworth Pool along the trail immediately after the Bill Riley Trail crosses the railroad tracks.

Along this trail alignment, there are two pieces of private property where easements will be needed for the trail, none of which contains private residences. The first is property owned by Betty Anderson of 204 North Valley Drive. This property is a large vacant, forested piece of property across the street from residence owned by Ms. Anderson. William and Mildred Shumaker of 5130 Welker Avenue own the second property needed for a trail easement. This property is also vacant open space south of the Shumaker residence on the south side of the existing railroad tracks.

This trail alignment was one of the options listed in the Walnut Creek Trail Connection Master Plan done by Brian Clark and Associates, completed in September of 1998. The City of Des Moines Engineering Department and Parks and Recreation Department identified this route as the most feasible trail route. Also, Segment 3 of the Walnut Creek Trail connection is part of the Des Moines Recreational Trail Master Plan. This plan was approved by the Des Moines Bike and Trail Advisory Committee on November 11, 2002, the Park and Recreational Board on November 26, 2002 and approved by City Council on December 16, 2002 by Roll Call No. 02-2976. Staff recommends that the City Council approve the trail alignment and also authorizes the Right of Way Division to begin the necessary acquisition of property to allow construction of the Segment 3 of the Walnut Creek Trail connection.