


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-112	Meeting:	March 8, 2021
	Agenda Item:	7E	Roll Call:	21-0353
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director and Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Ordering construction of the following: MacRae Park Improvements Phase 3 - Receiving bids, (4-6-21), and Setting date of hearing, (4-19-21). Construction Estimate - \$2,700,000.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend the City Council order construction of the improvement and set dates to receive bids and hold a public hearing, as required by Iowa Code, utilizing the method of financing referenced below. The project includes improvements to MacRae Park, including reconstruction of a portion of the southern roadway, installation of approximately ¼-mile of trail which includes a steel truss pedestrian bridge and concrete boardwalk over the pond, fishing improvements, and installation of a natural playscape and a new open-air shelter. The reconstruction of the roadway will include new pavement and new curbs and gutters, storm water improvements including sediment control structures, and two (2) new parking areas. The trail will be located along the south side of the roadway for a portion of the project and then separate away from the roadway and meander through the trees and traverse across the pond on a bridge and boardwalk. The nature playground will be located next to the existing restroom facility and the project will replace the existing shelter with a new open-air shelter.

FISCAL IMPACT:

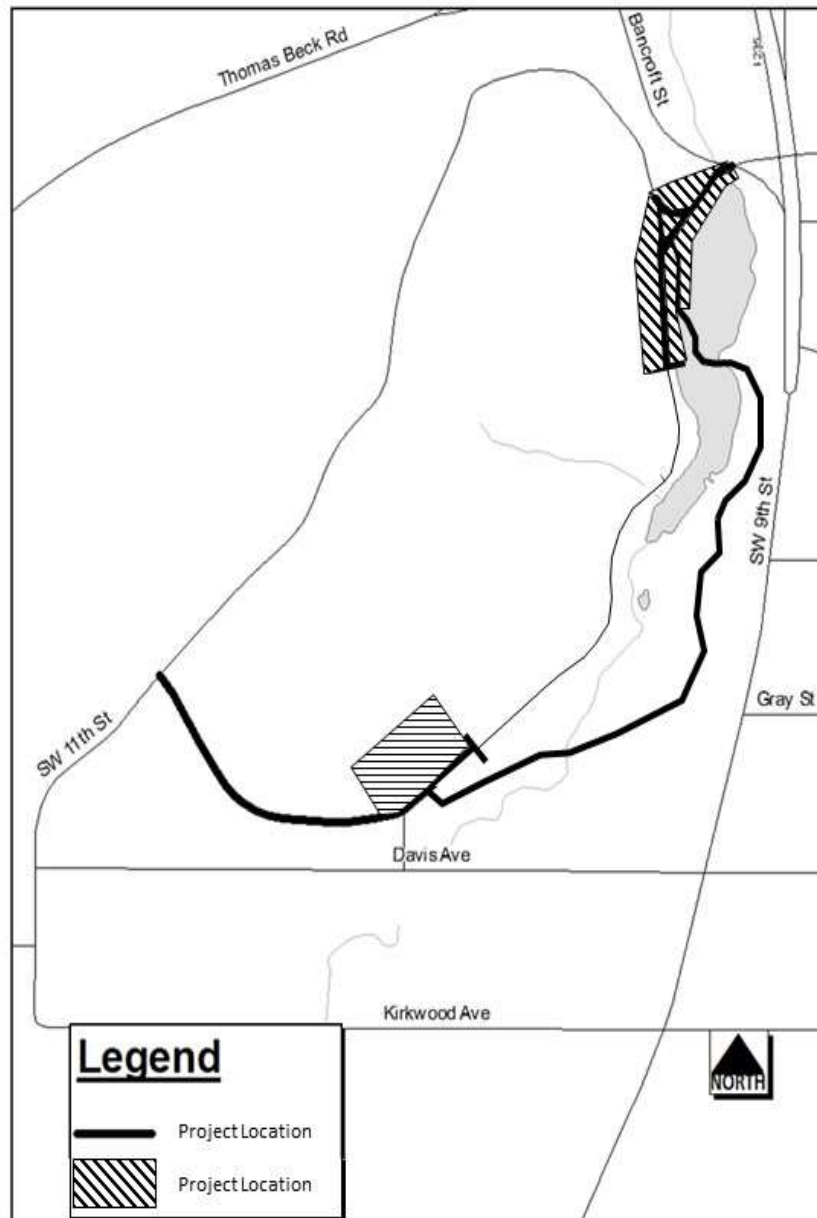
Amount: \$2,700,000 City Engineer's Estimate

Funding Source: Recommended 2021-2022 CIP, Page Park – 75, MacRae Park Improvements, PK179, Being: \$550,000 Private, \$96,643 Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) REAP funds, \$620,731 G.O. Bonds Issued, \$350,000 G.O. Bonds to be Issued; transfer of \$100,000 G.O. Bonds Issued and \$982,626 GO Bonds to be Issued from Page Parks – 73, Park Infrastructure, PK175.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Engineering Department has prepared plans, specifications, form of contract documents, and City Engineer's estimate for the construction of the MacRae Park Improvements Phase 3, 112019002.

- The improvement includes clearing and grubbing, pavement removal, grading, earthwork, storm sewer, storm intakes, Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) pavement, Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) sidewalk, PCC pavement for parking areas, PCC curb & gutter, PCC median, segmental retaining wall, playground equipment, pre-engineered steel truss trail bridge and abutments, precast concrete boardwalk installation, prefabricated shelter installation, miscellaneous amenities, pavement markings, seeding and restoration, and other incidental items; all in accordance with the contract documents, including Plan File Nos. 626-188/284, at MacRae Park.
- The estimated construction cost is \$2,700,000. The proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract documents are available for public inspection in the Des Moines City Engineer's Office.
- MacRae Park, acquired in 1897 and formerly known as South Park, is one (1) of Des Moines' four (4) original parks. This 62.7-acre site is located just south of downtown Des Moines.
- This landmark park has been in a state of renovation since 2017 with multiple phases already complete. Past phases include enclosing the Works Progress Administration (WPA) era Walker Shelter, construction of Phases 1 and 2 of the park road with additional parking and park loop trail, the EMC Overlook, the Julia Brenton Shelter and dredging plus related improvements to MacRae Pond. Investments to date total roughly \$2.7 million in construction, which was funded in part by many generous donors.
- The roadway improvements will be similar to the previous phases, until the pedestrian lane separates from the roadway near the future natural playscape. This allows trail users to experience the open woodland/prairie area to the west, which will include a prefabricated steel truss pedestrian bridge. Trail users will also cross the pond via a prefabricated concrete plank boardwalk that features several new fishing access points and a dedicated fishing pier specifically designed for inclusiveness.
- The natural playscape will become a major destination that includes water play elements, extensive use of limestone and innovative play features that anchor the playground into the natural topography of the park.
- All of the Phase 3 improvements are focused on increasing the passive and active recreation opportunities for the Gray's Lake and Indianola Hills neighborhoods and the near south side of Des Moines as well as providing a greater access to fishing the MacRae Park Pond, which the IDNR has committed to partnering with the Parks and Recreation Department in an effort to making it the premier urban fishery in Des Moines.
- Construction of this project is anticipated to begin late spring 2021 and be completed in the late summer/early fall 2022.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 22, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-0280](#)

Action: [Iowa](#) Department of Natural Resources REAP Grant Agreement for MacRae Park Improvements Phase 3. ([Council Communication No. 21-075](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Anticipated actions include public hearing, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, and approve contract and bond; also, partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

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