


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number: 23-447	Meeting: October 2, 2023
	Agenda Item: 56	Roll Call: 23-1346
	Submitted by: Scott E. Sanders, City Manager	

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of Donation and Naming Agreement between the City of Des Moines and Polk County Conservation Board (PCC) regarding the Easter Lake Park – Athene North Shore Recreation Area Project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approving the Donation and Naming Agreement with the PCC regarding the Easter Lake Park – Athene North Shore Recreation Area Project, as described below and in exchange for 20-year naming rights for the “Concession & Rental Hub – Sponsored by the City of Des Moines” in accordance with the project’s established naming standard.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$250,000

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), PK137 Park Improvements, Page 74, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA funds will be transferred to the General Fund and/or the Capital Improvement Plan for this expenditure.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A key component of the multi-phased improvements to Polk County Conservation’s Easter Lake Park is the Athene North Shore Recreation Area Project. Accessible, welcoming, recreation are the three guiding principles driving PCC’s efforts to create the most universally designed waterfront in Iowa.
- Planned accessible amenities include:
 - ADA Accessible pontoon boat
 - Quiet, de-escalation rooms for people with sensory input disorders
 - Large beach mats to serve as accessible walkways over sand
 - Extra-wide concrete paths for wheelchairs and walkers
 - Full inventory of adaptive and accessible equipment for rent
 - Zero-entry ramps providing easier access to the water
 - Fully accessible natural playscape
 - Nature and outdoor recreation programming including accessible equipment and circulation

- This project aligns with the same values that also guide the work of the City of Des Moines’s Parks and Recreation Department. Because of this alignment, the collaborative relationship between the City and Polk County, and PCC’s request of the City to help fill a funding gap, this ARPA funding donation is proposed in exchange for a minimum of 20-year naming rights at the Concession & Rental Hub – Sponsored by the City of Des Moines. This facility and the City’s donor recognition signage will feature prominently amongst the collective North Shore improvements (see rendering below).
- In March of 2021, the United States government adopted ARPA in response to the continuing intertwined public health and economic crisis created by COVID-19. ARPA established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to provide state, local, and tribal governments with the resources needed to respond to the pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger, more equitable economy during the recovery.
- The City of Des Moines has received its full allocation in the amount of \$94,824,614 from the SLFRF program. These funds are being distributed to outside entities or transferred to internal projects as expenditures occur.
- City Council has allocated up to \$6.9 million for Parks related capital improvement projects within the approved CIP.



Rendering depicting the vision for the Athene North Shore Recreation Area Project

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 21, 2022

Roll Call Number: [22-1817](#)

Action: [Expenditures](#) of ARPA funds. Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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