

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: ADA HAYDEN PARK WATER QUALITY MONITORING

BACKGROUND:

As a part of the 2008/09 operating budget, Council set aside funds to be used for water testing at Ada Hayden Heritage Park. On September 23, 2008, Council gave staff direction to begin looking at improvements that would mitigate phosphorus contamination of Ada Hayden Lake. On December 16, 2008, Council approved a plan to address these concerns. That plan included targeted public education in the Hayden Park watershed, testing of the stormwater entering the south wetland to ensure there is no sanitary waste entering the storm sewer system, evaluation of possible carp exclusion devices, and a review of the north wetland performance.

During amendments to the current year operating budget, staff reallocated funds from other areas to allow the monitoring activity to proceed at the funding level originally authorized and to carry out the additional efforts approved by Council in December 2008. Below is a summary of the current Council-approved funding.

FY 08/09	\$15,000	Water Level Monitoring Probes
	\$30,000	Water Quality Monitoring
	\$15,000	Additional Hayden Park Activities
FY 09/10	\$30,000	Water Quality Monitoring
	\$15,000	Additional Hayden Park Activities

Since 1999, several research projects have been conducted in the park and a multi-year in-depth analysis of the lake has already been completed. The research completed to date, at a cost total of \$128,620, has provided staff with a solid baseline picture of how the lake and wetlands are currently functioning.

Staff has prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) to continue monitoring of the Hayden Park Lake. Monitoring will occur between May 1 and September 30 of the next two years. The proposed sampling and analytical services in the RFP have been scaled back, as the baseline work is complete and the on-going monitoring will simply be tracking any deviations from the baseline. This level of activity will also allow the work to be completed within the originally authorized funds. The next two years would be focused on monitoring key parameters, compiling data, and observing if any changes occur in water quality.

Staff requests Council guidance on the prioritization of funds designated for Ada Hayden Heritage Park monitoring. The RFP prepared by staff is a scaled-back effort in comparison to the previous monitoring activities but still includes a sufficient level of effort to adequately monitor changes in water quality in the lake over time. It also allows the additional re-allocated funding to be used to accomplish the work plan approved by Council in December 2008.

Alternately, Council could elect to forego the activities approved in December and authorize a continuation of the more in-depth monitoring activities. A third alternative could be to conclude that sufficient background data on in-lake water quality already exists and that the entire allocation related to Hayden Park should be redirected to some other form of watershed improvement activity.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize staff to issue the Request for Proposals for monitoring services at a level that is scaled back from previous monitoring activities and can be funded from the approved funding level shown above.
2. Direct staff to revise the Request for Proposals for monitoring services to include the higher level of activity that has occurred in recent years.
3. Do not authorize staff to solicit proposals for monitoring and, instead, direct staff to evaluate options for using the funds for some other form of watershed improvement activity.
4. Do not direct staff to take any action at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Ada Hayden Heritage Park has been identified as a valuable resource for the City of Ames. The Council has requested that staff continue efforts to maintain the overall health of the lake and wetlands. Water quality sampling is an important part of a lake management plan by monitoring any changes in lake quality.

Therefore it is the City Manager's recommendation that the Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing staff to issue the Request for Proposals for monitoring services at a level that is scaled back from previous monitoring activities. With the reallocations made during the mid-year budget amendments, sufficient funding is available to carry out the additional activities approved by Council in December 2008.