

ITEM #:	<u>16</u>
DATE:	<u>11-25-25</u>
DEPT:	<u>P&amp;R</u>

### **COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES REAP GRANT FOR THE MOORE MEMORIAL PARK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In 1987, the Moore Family donated 90 acres of land to the City for a community park, known today as Moore Memorial Park. Ever since the park opened, there has been no direct access for users to the 40 acres of land west of Ioway Creek. In fact, the 40 acres had been leased to Iowa State University for farming until 2023. At that time the land was converted from row crops to prairie that is filled with species that benefit pollinators as well as other native wildlife.

In an effort to provide access to those 40 acres, staff budgeted funds for a bridge as part of the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The City Council approved \$75,000 in year one (FY 2025/26) of the current CIP for engineering and design of a bridge to be constructed over Ioway Creek. Year two (FY 2026/27) of the CIP has \$300,000 earmarked for the bridge construction.

In August, staff submitted a grant application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program for \$200,000 for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Ioway Creek. Council approved submittal of the grant application at its August 12 meeting.

**In late October, staff received notification that the City is being awarded the \$200,000 grant towards the construction of the bridge. The requested action by Council is to approve entering into a REAP Grant Agreement with the Iowa DNR.**

Based on the topography of Moore Memorial Park and the lack of a suitable crossing over Ioway Creek on park property, staff has had several meetings with representatives from Iowa State University to construct the bridge on University property, just south of Moore Memorial Park on Veenker Golf Course. The University is supportive of providing an easement to City for this project, pending approval from the Iowa Board of Regents.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve a resolution to enter into the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$200,000 towards the installation of a pedestrian bridge over Ioway Creek for the Moore Memorial Park Pedestrian Bridge Project.
2. Do not enter into a grant agreement at this time.
3. Refer back to staff.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Having access to the entire 90 acres of Moore Memorial Park has long been a goal of the City. Constructing a bridge is a critical step in making that goal a reality. The REAP program is made available for projects like this, and the City has been fortunate to receive multiple grants through this program. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City approve Alternative #1, as described above.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

[REAP Development Grant # 26-R4-NT.pdf](#)