

ITEM #:	15
DATE:	11-25-25
DEPT:	P&R

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES REAP GRANT FOR
ONTARIO PARK

BACKGROUND:

In the fall of 2023, the City completed the purchase of 50 acres of property from the Sands-McDorman Family, located at 5658 Ontario Street, to be developed into a community park. The city had been pursuing this property since 2011. Staff is in the process of developing a Request for Proposals for a firm to develop a master plan for the park.

In August, staff submitted a grant application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program for \$200,000 for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Clear Creek, which bisects the park. The bridge will provide safe access for patrons to the 40+ acres of property located on the south side of Clear Creek. Council approved submittal of the application at its August 12 meeting.

In late October, staff received notification that the City is being awarded the \$200,000 grant to go towards the construction of the bridge. There are currently no funds budgeted for the construction of a bridge in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). In anticipation of a master plan being completed in spring 2026 for Ontario Park, staff will be presenting a phase 1 CIP project to Council in January 2026. The Geitel Winakor Fund will be suggested as a funding source.

The requested action by Council is to approve entering into a REAP Grant Agreement with the Iowa DNR. If approved, staff will start soliciting for an engineering firm to design a bridge for the park. The approximate cost of the pedestrian bridge and design is \$250,000 - \$300,000.

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 to help fund the installation of a pedestrian bridge in Ontario Park.
2. Do not enter into a grant agreement at this time.
3. Refer back to staff.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The City has received multiple REAP grants in the past that have gone towards park land acquisition as well as park improvements. Installing a bridge in Ontario Park will need to be completed in order for patrons to utilize and enjoy the land to the south of Clear Creek. The \$200,000 will help fund the project and reduce the City's local cost.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

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