

January 10, 2014



The Honorable Mayor
and
Members of the City Council
City of Des Moines

Re: City of Des Moines Park and Recreation
Report to the Community 2013

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

Attached you will find the Parks and Recreation Report to Community for 2013 prepared under the direction of Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director. This report provides a high level overview of many of the Park Department's significant accomplishments over the past year.

Parks, trails, and green spaces are one of the most valued and utilized assets for any city and the numbers in this report, as well as our citizen satisfaction surveys, continue to illustrate that. I am pleased to report that we are delivering the parks and recreation services that our residents need and expect in a prudent and responsible manner. As you will read, a home in Des Moines with \$100,000 assessed value pays \$73 toward such a wide range of park amenities and quality recreational programs as well as golf courses, municipal cemeteries, aquatics facilities, and community centers. These investments continue to be very popular with our residents and significantly contribute to the quality of life in our community.

I encourage each of you to take a few minutes to review the report. I am confident the Park and Recreation team will bring many exciting things forward in 2014 under the leadership of Park and Recreation Director Ben Page and the President and Members of the Park and Recreation Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style.

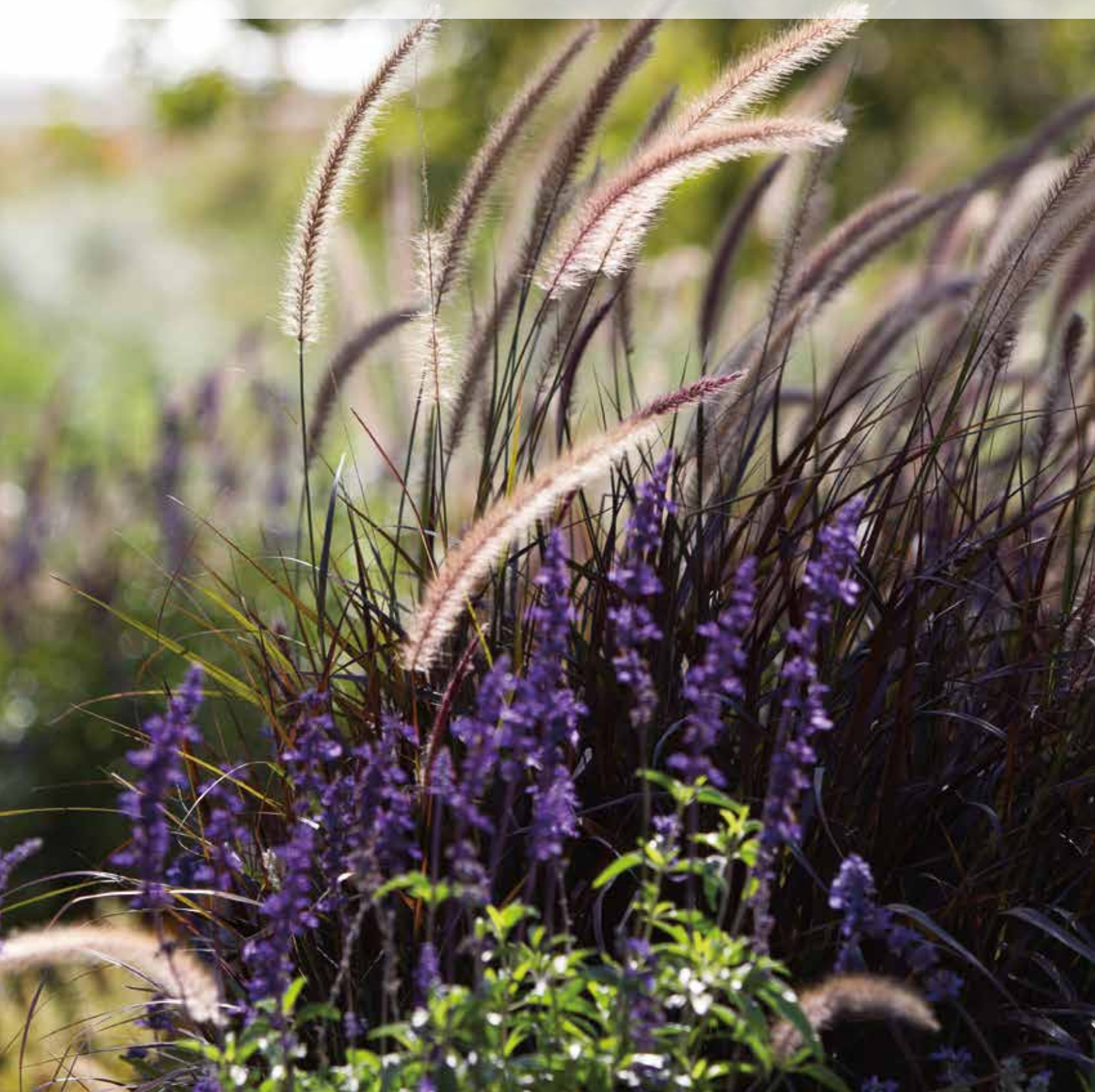
Richard A. Clark
City Manager

Attachment

cc: Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director



Report to the Community 2013





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Weather Hotline: (515) 256-2434

Text Messaging Notification

Text any of the following keywords to
 "84483" to sign up for updates on:

DSMEvents, DSMPools, DSMSports, DSMTrails

Letter from the Director

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department, it is with great pride that I present the citizens of Des Moines with the 2013 Report to the Community. As we reflect back on the past year, so many facets of our operation reflect the following: people, places, programs, projects and partners. Each member of our staff enjoys providing the people of Des Moines with places to recreate, programs to enjoy, projects to make our city better and working with partners to expand our resources. These elements are equally important and as surveys continue to show, are highly important to residents.



PEOPLE

Parks and Recreation in its most simple, purest state serves as a conduit for a healthy lifestyle. Amenities in our park system often become gathering places and create a sense of community within a neighborhood. In Des Moines, our department also provides an opportunity for service through our appointed Park and Recreation Board, as well as our numerous volunteer sub-committees.

PLACES

Parks, trails and green spaces are areas that make our city beautiful. I firmly believe that the 76 parks, 45 miles of trails and other numerous amenities positively contribute to the great quality of life we enjoy in Des Moines and have played a significant role in the numerous awards our city has received lately.

PROGRAMS

Even with the budget constraints our city is currently experiencing, we feel very fortunate to provide such a wide variety of recreational programs and events. The local and regional tournaments held at our facilities help drive the local economy by bringing in visitors who in turn spend money in nearby restaurants and hotels. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to be one of the largest seasonal employers in the area, specifically for our aquatics program. Structured recreational programming in high crime areas has shown to significantly reduce illegal activity.

PROJECTS

While managing 3,800 acres of parks and open space land, multiple ornamental collections, streetscapes, and municipal buildings, our team of 86 full time employees completed numerous projects that expanded recreational offerings and positively impacted the environment. Our ecological approach to projects, new land management practices and increased environmental education programs helped us to win the Environmental Impact Award (Civic Group). Two major initiatives which we focused on improving sustainability and water quality were the Natural Resource Inventory and the Greenwood Pond watershed project.

PARTNERS

Over the past year, our department has been fortunate to work with many groups that believe in our mission "Helping Des Moines Live Well, Play Hard and Protect the Earth" – as much as we do. There were projects of all sizes, from tree planting with the Girl Scouts to a complete playground installation with Rebuilding Together.

In a time that seems to be all about dollars and cents, it is often hard to put a value on the intangible, but in looking at how parks and recreation contribute to our city, these services are critical to not only maintain but improve the quality of life in Des Moines.

Respectfully submitted,

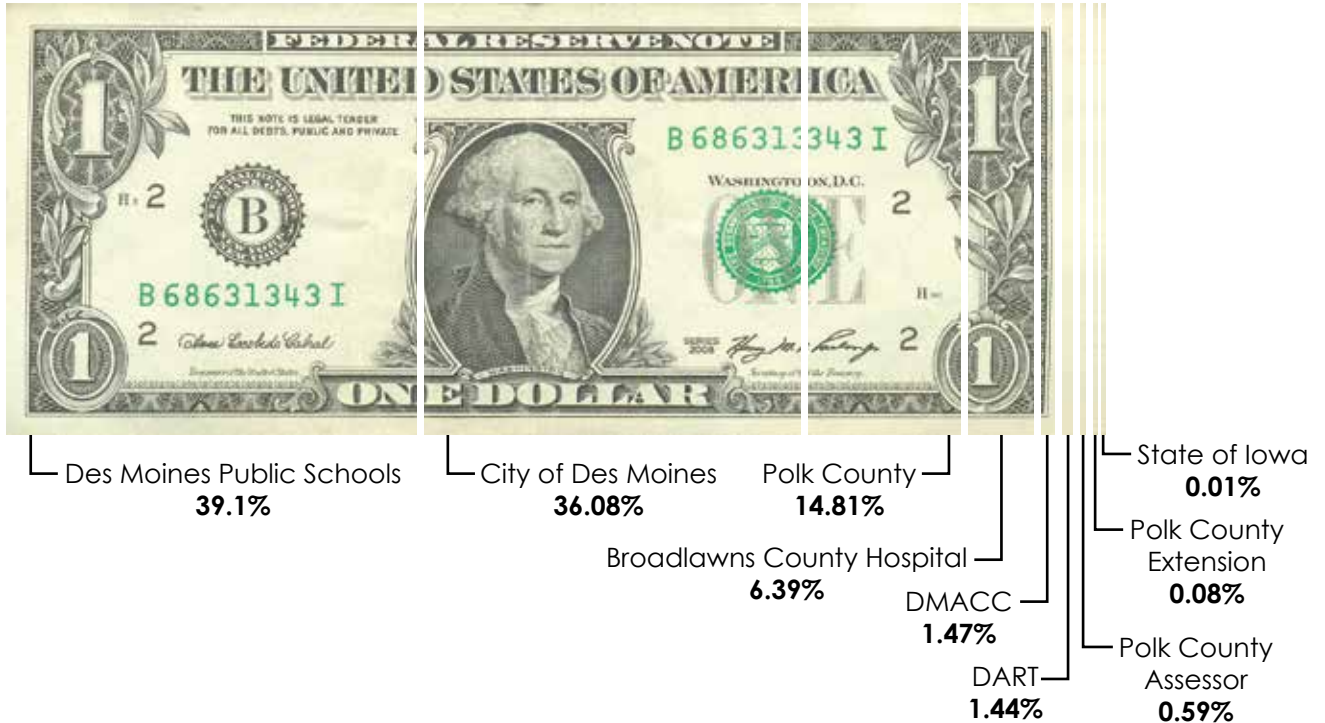
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Page", written over a white background.

Benjamin R. Page
Director of Parks and Recreation
City of Des Moines

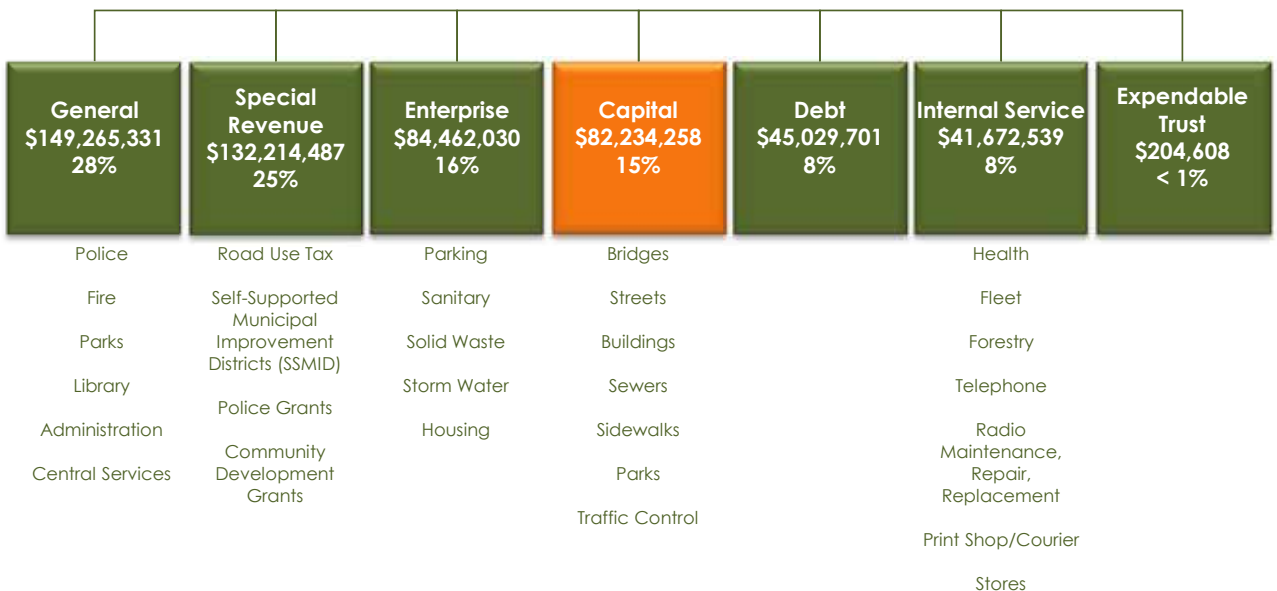
Finance

PROPERTY TAXES

The City of Des Moines receives 36¢ of each dollar paid in property taxes. There are 9 entities that collect revenue from your property tax dollar. They include:



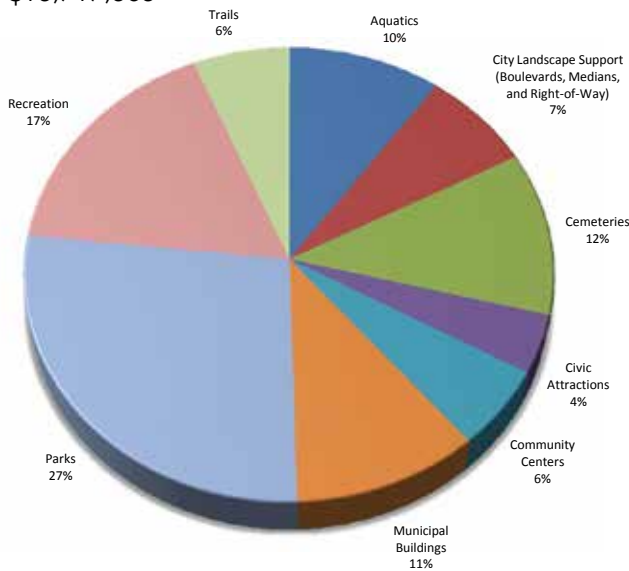
CITY OF DES MOINES \$535 MILLION BUDGET BY FUND



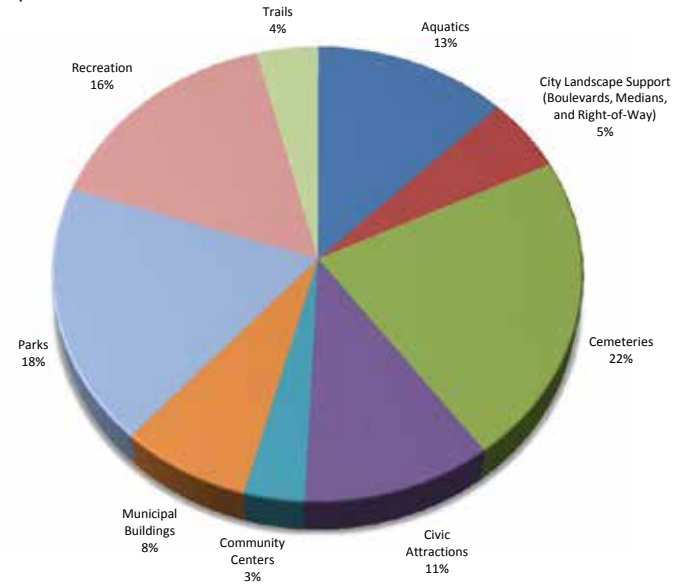
FY2014 ADOPTED PARKS AND RECREATION OPERATING BUDGET

FY2014 ADOPTED PARKS AND RECREATION OPERATING BUDGET

Service Line Expenditures
\$15,717,565

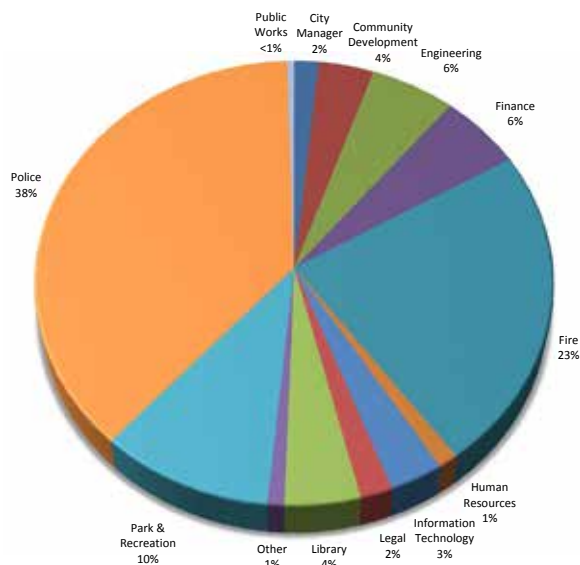


Service Line Revenues
\$4,753,973



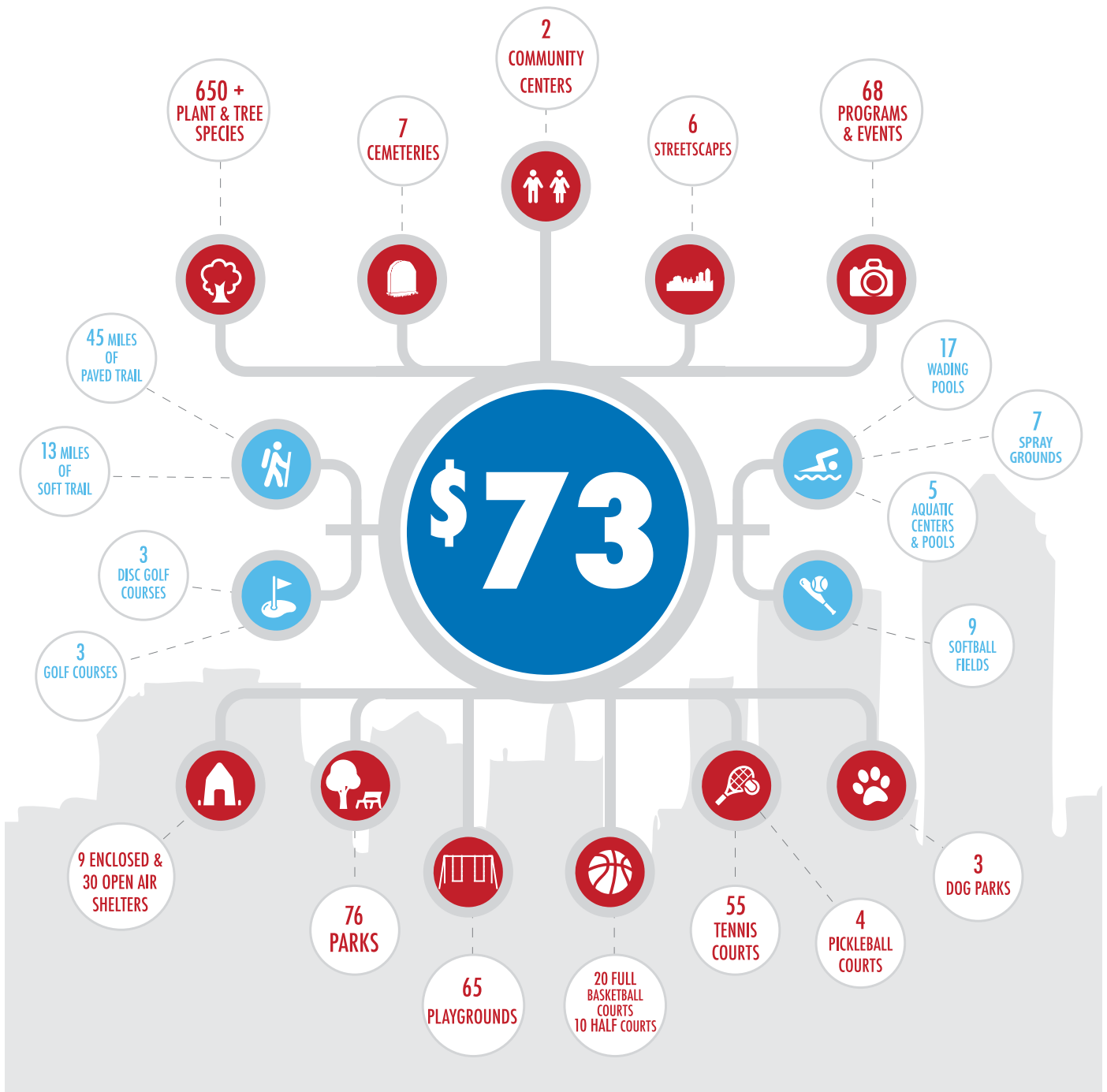
FY2014 ADOPTED CITY OF DES MOINES OPERATING BUDGET

General Fund by Department
\$149,265,331

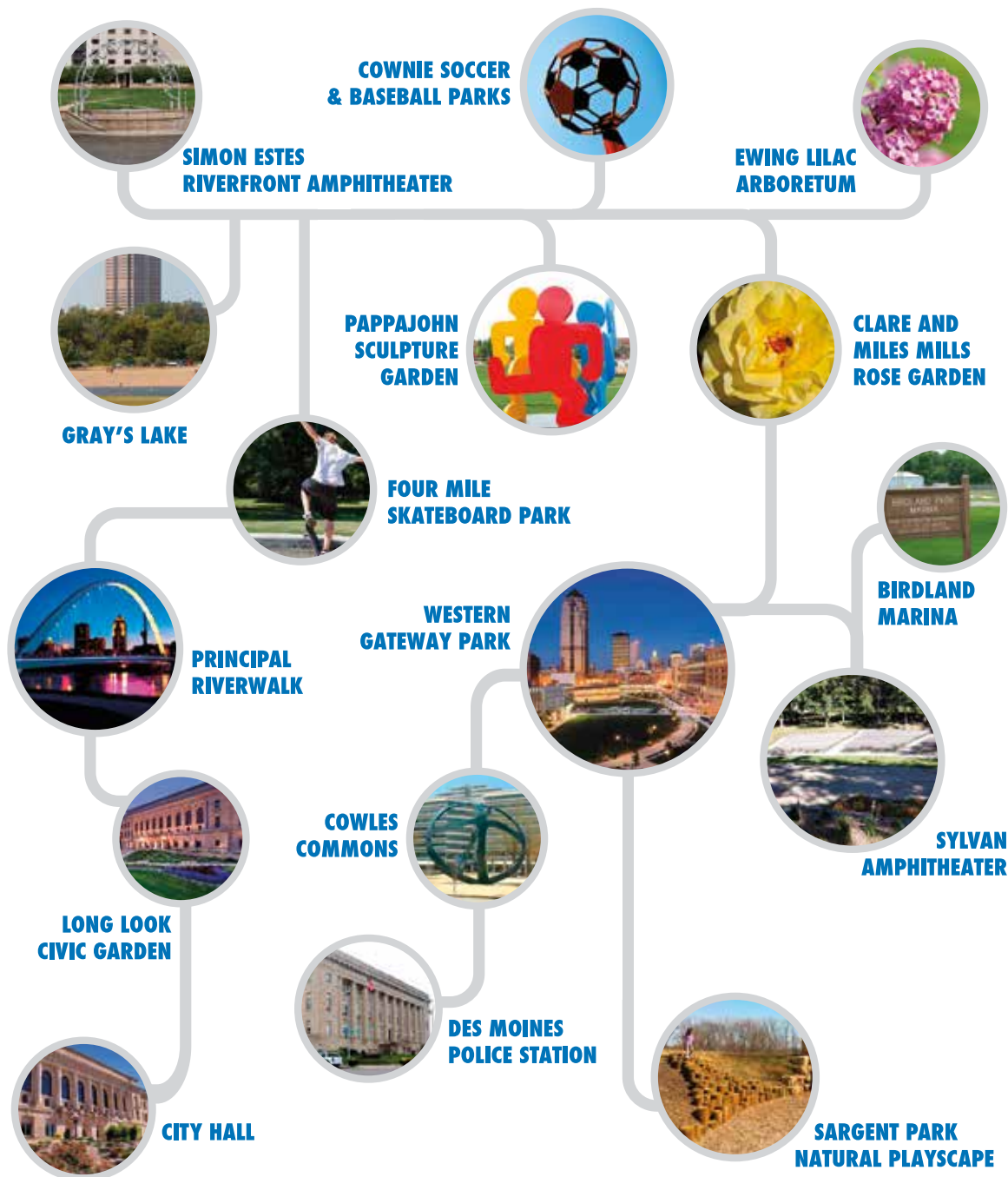


WHAT CAN YOU GET FOR 73 DOLLARS?

A home in Des Moines with \$100,000 assessed value pays \$73 towards Parks and Recreation. For \$73 a year, residents have access to these Parks and Recreation & Municipal Facilities:



\$73 also gets you access to great destinations:





Clare and Miles Mills Rose Garden

People

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

People

MAYOR & COUNCIL

T. M. Franklin Cownie Mayor
Halley Griess Ward I
Robert L. (Bob) Mahaffey Ward II
Christine Hensley Ward III

Brian Meyer (Served Until November) Ward IV
Christopher Coleman At Large
Skip Moore At Large
Richard A. Clark City Manager

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

An appointed Park and Recreation board meets monthly. This 15-member panel advises City Council and oversees planning and administration of city parks, cemeteries, recreation centers, aquatic centers, and various programs.

Susan R. Noland Chair
Connie Boesen Board Member
Jon D. Cahill Board Member
Jeffrey C. Clubb Board Member
George Davis Board Member
Victoria Facto Board Member
Paula J. Feltner Board Member
Andrea Jansa Board Member

Susan M. Koenig-VandeHaar Board Member
Loyd W. Ogle Board Member
Danny Passick Board Member
Carolyn Rogers Board Member
Vincent J. Scavo Board Member
Michael Simonson Board Member
Richard Thornton Board Member

SUBCOMMITTEES

Citizen Cemetery Advisory Committee

The Citizen Cemetery Advisory Committee (CCAC) is a committee authorized by the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board for the purposes of advocating for the public as well as assisting and advising Parks and Recreation Department management in matters concerning the City's seven municipal cemeteries. Its current stated mission is: We will be guided by the public's need for community gatherings celebrating life both past and present while honoring history in a serene, natural setting.

The CCAC's by-laws allow for a maximum of eleven members, two of whom are members of the Park and Recreation Board.

2013 Members

Dennis Allen	Cris Nagla
Patrick Beeman	Carlton Peterson
Tammy Hayes	Carolyn Rogers
Max Knauer	Sue Vivone
David Lamb	Ferol Wegner





Clare and Miles Mills Rose Garden

Rose Garden Committee

The Rose Garden Committee consists of citizen volunteers, who assist the Parks and Recreation Department in providing advisory oversight of the Clare and Miles Mills Rose Garden. The committee provides recommendations on rose varieties on an annual basis. They review and recommend anticipated capital improvements and care of the rose collection.

2013 Members

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Sarah Hill | Matt Rosen |
| Miles Mills | Janis Ruan |
| Delores Pagali | Scott Wallace |
| Ed Pagali | |

Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee

The Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee is authorized by the Polk County Conservation Board and the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board. The purpose of the committee is to assist and advise the City, County and other governmental agencies concerning the multi-use recreational trail system, the greenways system, nature trails, on-street bikeways and water trails.

The Des Moines Park and Recreation Board and the Polk County Conservation Board are each responsible for appointing five members to the committee. The cities of Ankeny, Johnston, Urbandale, West Des Moines and Pleasant Hill also appoint one member each.

2013 Members

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Linda Appelgate | Chris McCarthy |
| Vicki Facto | Ginger Soelberg |
| Carol George | Craig Stafford |
| Larry Jablonski | Scott Sumpter |
| Connie Johnson | Rick Swalwell |
| Tim Lane | Penny Thomson |
| Bailey Mader | |



Grandview Golf Course

Citizen Golf Advisory Committee

As the body established by the City Council to advise the Council in all matters pertaining to the Parks and Recreation Department, the Park and Recreation Board does herewith authorize the establishment and support of a citizen advisory committee to be known as The Des Moines Citizen Golf Advisory Committee whose activities will be of an advisory and informative nature to the Board and department staff in the Park and Recreation Board's process of recommending golf policy and fees to the Council for the citizens of the City.

2013 Members

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Jim Calvert | Vincent Scavo |
| Rex Coble | Richard Thornton |
| Gina Duffy | Jon Thyberg |
| Paula Feltner | Stephen Vilmain |
| Richard Hodges | Kathy Stachon |
| Sam Pugh | |

SUBCOMMITTEES CONTINUED...



Urban Conservation Advisory Committee

The Des Moines Park and Recreation Board created an Urban Conservation Advisory Committee as a standing subcommittee of the full board in 2004. The mission of the committee is to promote a park management philosophy that is holistic and ecologically based through policies that direct the planning, design and maintenance of healthy green space in the City of Des Moines toward protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

The City of Des Moines owns approximately 25% of the land in the City. Management policies and maintenance of this property are under the supervision of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Park and Recreation Board believes that implementing more sustainable practices on this land can have a large impact on the quality of our natural environment, the quality of life in Des Moines and can also demonstrate practices that homeowners and developers could implement as well.

Our work to date has addressed the Parks Department's maintenance practices to include the introduction of more native species throughout the City's park and open space lands, decreased mowing to expand the amount of land that is covered in native plants and trees, worked to implement a series of policies regarding stewardship of the City's land and buildings through the application of chemicals, urban reforestation studies and recommendations, storm water management, environmental education, waste reduction, use of nontoxic materials, energy management and sustainable site design.



The committee includes individuals with diverse backgrounds and interests, in an effort to create a balanced advisory group.

2013 Members

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Doug Adamson | Loren Lown |
| Scott Atzen | Susan Noland |
| Brian Bakke | Scott Ralston |
| Chuck Becker | Tom Rosburg |
| Jane Clark | Deb Schiel-Larson |
| Kevin Conn | Dave Silver |
| Marian Gelb | Marilyn Staples |
| Kimberly Hansen | Keith Summerville |
| Andrea Jansa | Paul Tauke |
| Teresa Jenson | Jennifer Welch |



RETIREMENTS

Name	Start Date	End Date	Tenure
George Aswegan	10/19/1999	7/16/2013	13 yrs 9 mo.
Robert Barker	7/7/1980	1/23/2013	32 yrs 6 mo.
George Davis	6/13/1988	4/29/2013	24 yrs 10 mo.
John Iwanicki	8/25/1997	4/27/2013	15 yrs 8 mo.
John Terpkosh	1/1/1996	9/1/2013	17 yrs 8 mo.
Kevin Thompson	7/9/2001	9/1/2013	12 yrs 2 mo.
Martin Dobson	10/25/1999	12/27/2013	14 yrs 2 mo.



- ← Bill Riley Trail
- ↑ Walnut Creek Trail 1.9
- ↑ Walnut Creek Trail 2.1
- ← Gray's Lake Park 2.7
🚲 18 minutes
- ← Walnut Creek Trail 4.9
🚲 33 minutes
- ← Walnut Creek Trail 2.1
🚲 14 minutes
- Greenwood-Ashworth Parks 0.4
🚲 3 minutes
- Center Nature Trails 0.4
🚲 3 minutes
- DM Art Center 1.0
🚲 7 minutes

Intersection of Bill Riley & Walnut Creek Trails

Places

Nature surrounds us, from parks and backyards to streets and alleyways. Next time you go out for a walk, tread gently and remember that we are both inhabitants and stewards of nature in our neighbourhoods.

- David Suzuki

Places

PARKS

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the management of 76 parks across Des Moines. Besides the special features found in some of the signature parks (Ewing, Union, Greenwood, Gray's Lake and Pappajohn Sculpture Park) patrons can enjoy a variety of amenities such as, basketball courts, BMX track, boat and bicycle rentals, disc golf, enclosed and open-air shelters, equipment rental and concessions, horseshoe pits, ice skating, nature trails, picnic areas with tables and grills, playgrounds, ponds and fishing, sledding hills, soap box derby track, soccer fields, softball fields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, wading pools, skateboarding, dog parks and more.

Gray's Lake Park is the city's best-known and most-visited recreation area. The park has unique qualities and features that prove to be popular regardless of time of day or season of the year. The iconic 1,400-foot-long Kruidenier Trail Pedestrian Bridge over the lake is the park's most distinguishing feature. Even more dramatic at night, the bridge comes to life as a rainbow of colors light up its 16-foot-wide pathway and reflects off the dichroic glass panel railings. The 1.9-mile walk around Gray's Lake is known as "doing the loop;" for some residents it is a daily ritual that even trail repairs and flooding won't interrupt.



Ewing Dog Park

Dog Parks

Des Moines opened its third dog park, Reno Memorial Dog Park, in August of 2013. The name Reno, was chosen in memory of the long-serving, decorated police dog who served as a member of the Des Moines Police Department's K9 unit from 2003 to 2011.

Over 1800 permits were sold for use at Des Moines' off-leash dog park facilities. Annual permits are required and are available for purchase for just \$20 at the City Clerk's office in City Hall. The permit is good for all locations:

- **Ewing Dog Park** - 8.5 acres of fenced area for all dogs, one acre fenced area for dogs 20 lbs or less
- **Reno Memorial Dog Park** - 3.5 acres of fenced area for all dogs
- **Riverwalk Dog Park** - 4.0 acres of fenced area for all dogs

Dog park ambassadors are always needed at each park. In 2013, 41 volunteers helped to keep the parks safe by ensuring all patrons have their permit visible while using the facility, informing users of the facility rules and requirements and much more. If you are interested in becoming a dog park ambassador, please email parksvolunteer@dmgov.org.



From public green spaces and multi-use trails to aquatic centers, community centers, and diverse recreation programs, the services provided by the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department are part and parcel to quality of life in our neighborhoods. The facilities and programs provided by our Parks and Recreation Department play vital roles in keeping our neighborhoods vibrant, safe, and livable. Well-managed and maintained parks and recreation facilities make our neighborhoods more desirable, yield economic benefits, and boost social capital. Parks, trails, and recreation programs contribute immeasurably to Des Moines' quality of life, and should not be taken for granted.

- Jason Pulliam, President
Merle Hay Neighborhood Association

COMMUNITY CENTERS

Des Moines has two multi-use community centers, located on opposite sides of the city to serve residents. Our two community centers served users as a neighborhood hub. They provide a place to learn, play, socialize, collaborate and belong.

Pioneer Columbus Community Center – Just minutes from downtown – the center serves as a neighborhood hub for people of all ages to learn, play and socialize.

Robert L. Scott Four Mile Community Center – Serving the east-side, Four Mile Community Center has an active weight room, a strong aerobics program, a well-attended senior walking club and is the hub of our youth basketball program.

Both community centers provide congregate meal sites for seniors ages 60 and over, warming and/or cooling centers during inclement weather, and also host a number of Camp Fire and neighborhood meetings throughout the year. These facilities also host numerous youth and adult league sports throughout the year.



Pioneer Columbus Community Center



Robert L. Scott Four Mile Community Center

Places

Amenities from the centers include:

Pioneer-Columbus Community Center Amenities

- 2 indoor gyms: basketball, volleyball, takraw, pickleball, kickball, dodgeball, walking
- Weight room with free weights and cable machines, cable TV, stereo
- Cardio area with 2 ellipticals, treadmill, stair stepper, exercise bike
- Game room with 2 billiards, table tennis, foosball, air hockey
- Rental spaces: 2 gyms
 - 75 person multi-purpose room and kitchen
 - 50 person open space
 - 35 person open space
 - 20 person conference room
 - 15 person conference room
 - 5 miscellaneous offices
- ADA accessible restrooms
- ADA accessible parking
- Elevator
- Water fountains
- Indoor playground (Seasonal Imagination Playschool)
- 3 tier stage
- Outdoor playground
- Wading pool
- Outdoor basketball court
- Paved walking path
- Large open area of green space
- Gardens and flower beds

AQUATICS

There are five pools and aquatic centers available for residents from May until September:

- Ashworth Memorial Swimming Pool
- Birdland Swimming Pool
- Nahas Family Aquatic Center
- Northwest Family Aquatic Center
- Teachout Family Aquatic Center

Aquatics Attendance:

Ashworth	18,329
Birdland	14,427
Nahas	24,799
Northwest.....	29,737
Teachout.....	25,772



Doggie Dive at Northwest Aquatic Center

Season swim passes are available for individuals and families. During the month of April, purchase a swim pass and save \$5 up to \$20. Private party rentals are an option at all our aquatic facilities, making them a unique option for your next birthday party or special event. Doggie Dives are held the last day of the pool season and are a great opportunity for dogs and their owners to celebrate the last day of the pool season.

Four Mile Community Center Amenities

- 1 Indoor Gym: basketball, volleyball, takraw, pickleball, kickball, dodgeball, walking
- Cardio/weight room: free weights and cable machines, 2 treadmills, 2 exercise bikes, cable TV
- Game room with table tennis and foosball
- Family room with fireplace, piano, sofa, 2 oversized chairs, cable TV
- Rental spaces - 1 gym
 - 50 person sit down eating/multi-purpose room and kitchen (multipurpose/family/game room can fit 75 - not all sitting),
 - 15 person conference room with cable TV
 - 2 miscellaneous offices
- ADA accessible restrooms
- ADA accessible parking
- Water fountains

- Open air shelter house
- Skate park
- Softball back stop
- Large open area of green space
- Gardens and flower beds



Four Mile Creek Skate Park

WATER FACILITIES

Wading Pool and Spray Ground Attendance:

Ashby.....	17,886
Ashfield.....	771
Bates.....	655
Burke.....	1,597
Chesterfield	2,102
Crivaro.....	14,457
Drake.....	4,063
Grandview.....	1,899
Greenwood.....	2,538
Jordan.....	1,512
Martin Luther King Jr.	8,354
Sayers.....	1,389
Sheridan.....	1,315
Stone.....	3,056
Tower.....	1,677
Union.....	15,418

There are currently 12 traditional wading pools, four splash pools, four spraygrounds and two fountains operating in parks across Des Moines, free of charge. Three new facilities opened in 2013 at McHenry, Columbus and Good Parks.

Our wading pool season extends from the first full week in June through mid-August of each year. The days and hours of operation vary by facility. The wading pools are dispersed throughout the city and offer supervised water play specifically aimed at children ages 10 and under. It is a great opportunity for children to meet other children, have fun and build water confidence. Parental supervision is required.

CEMETERIES

Fiscal Year 2013 was a turning point for Des Moines Municipal Cemetery operations. Following several years of increasing levels of taxpayer subsidy, in FY 2011 the operating deficit peaked at \$838,801, or 49% of the cost of operations. Staff had reduced the subsidy to \$282,580, or 21%, by the end of Fiscal Year 2013, far surpassing the budgeted reductions of 35% in FY 2013 and 33% in FY 2014.

Space sales during the 18 months between January 2012 and July 2013 increased by 23% as compared to the previous 18 months and contributed to revenue of more than \$1,060,000 in the recently-completed fiscal year. Fee changes updated existing pricing to bring it in line with the competition and demand in the marketplace, and also established pricing for new cemetery areas, products and services. Columbarium cremain niches that had been built and additional land areas that had been platted in preceding months were set to open at Glendale and Elm Grove Cemeteries as soon as the pricing was approved in April this year; these were the first new options of this nature to be made available since 2004 in these cemeteries. Product options were expanded and variable pricing was introduced to address consumer

preferences and the ever-increasing demand for single-lot and cremain spaces. It is anticipated that revenues will continue to increase as the effects of these changes play out over time.

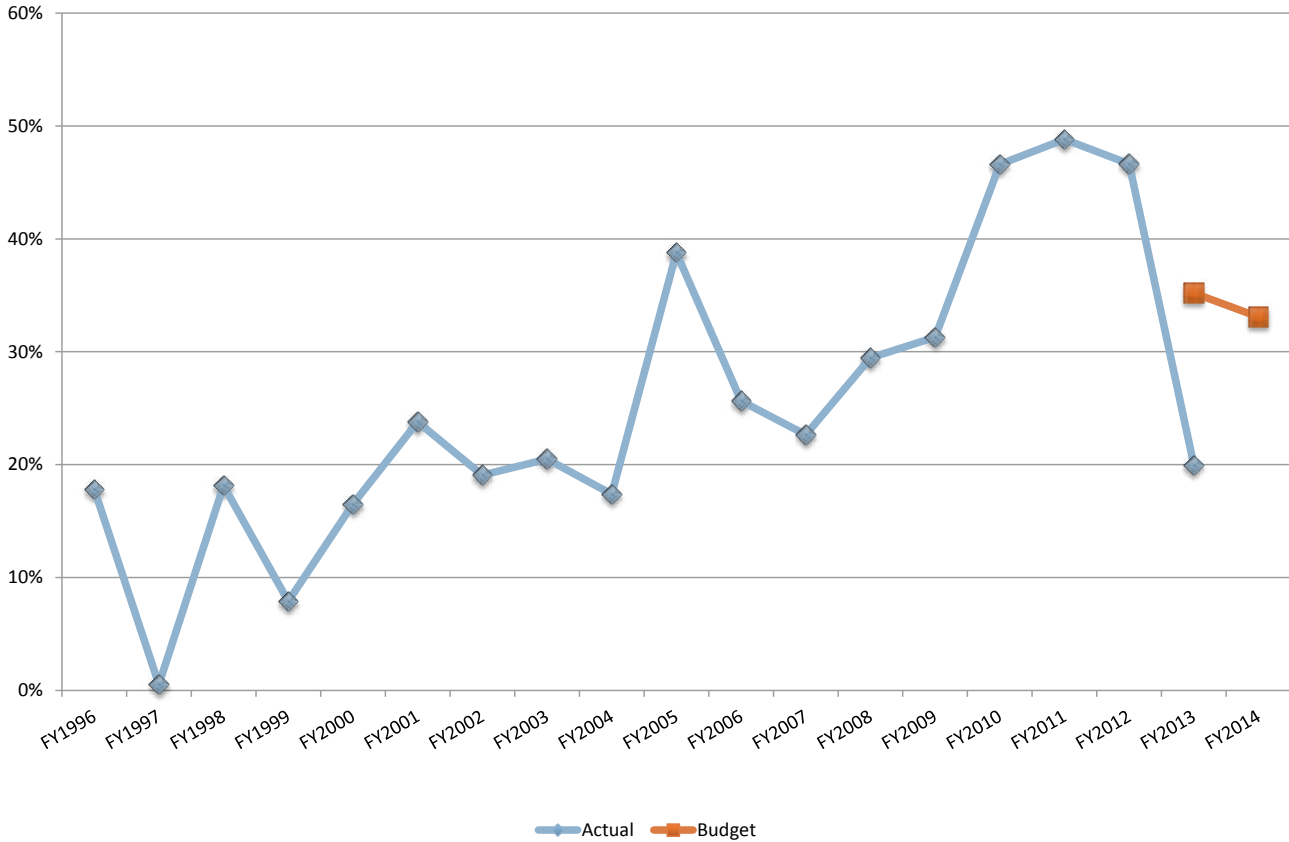
Promotional activities were undertaken, the volunteer corps was expanded by 150%, more than 160 dead and dying trees were removed, 140 young trees were planted as were new floral areas and planters, and new block identification/customer service signage was put in place in all cemeteries. During that same period of time, field and administrative operations were downsized by moving all sales for the cemeteries to the Glendale office site and centralizing ground crews and equipment at the Glendale maintenance facility. Additional operating efficiencies were put in place and customer service hours increased.

The municipal cemetery operation can now best be described as lean and efficient. Revenue is projected to increase and operating expenses will continue to be honed to further reduce the taxpayer subsidy; however, diverse, affordable options for taxpayers at all economic levels continues to be a goal of the Park and Recreation Department's municipal cemeteries.



CEMETERY OPERATING SUBSIDY

FY1993 - FY2014



TRAILS

We invite you to experience all that this extensive trail system has to offer. You'll find it to be your way of connecting with places, nature, friends and culture. With connections to over 550 miles of existing central Iowa trails (45 within Des Moines) and many more planned, you can run, walk, in-line skate or bicycle. Whether you are out for an afternoon of exercise, commuting to work or enjoying the scenery on a family outing, the trails are yours to enjoy and protect.

Trails aren't just for exercise; numerous riders also utilize the trail system for their daily commute. By reducing the number of cars on the road, those who bike to work also cut

down on pollution and fuel use. The result is cleaner air and healthier lungs for everyone.

Des Moines continues to participate in the annual National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project, which provides a standardized methodology for counting and surveying bicyclists and pedestrians. The table below shows a summary of the results for this year, which demonstrate the continued popularity of our trails.

Trail Only Total*	2,766,890
Average trail trips per trail per year..	251,535
(*Estimated count from 10 sites.)	

SPORTS COMPLEXES

James W. Cownie Soccer Park

Cownie Soccer Park is the home field for Grandview College, AIB College, Drake University and local high schools including: Roosevelt, Lincoln, East, Carlisle and Des Moines Christian. This renowned facility hosts many of the states most prestigious soccer events including the boys and girls high school state soccer tournaments, Menace Midwest Invitational, Just For Girls Spring Tournament and more. In addition the complex hosts US Youth Soccer national tournaments including Region II Championships and The Presidents Cup Tournament.

Cownie amenities include 12 irrigated turf fields, four of which are lit and have scoreboards. Field nine at the complex is considered championship level and consists of 2,000 seat bleachers, a press box and a video platform. The facility also has a 1,200 vehicle parking lot system, concession stand, playground and maintenance facility.

In 2013, Cownie Soccer Park was selected to host the US Youth Soccer Region II Championships. From June 22-26, over 3,500 players on teams from 14 states brought an estimated 12,000 spectators with them. This was the third time that Des Moines hosted the tournament and the first time ever that a team from Iowa advanced to nationals. This tournament is estimated to have generated an eight million dollar impact to our economy.



Greater Des Moines Softball Complex

This complex is the premier facility in the area for adult softball play. Each year this site hosts district and state Amateur Softball Association tournaments. In past years national tournaments such as the North American Fastpitch Association, World Championships and the Senior Slow Pitch World Series have been held at the facility. In addition, Des Moines Parks and Recreation's adult softball leagues, consisting of nearly 400 teams, schedules nearly 2,500 league games yearly at this location.

The complex has four irrigated turf fields, all of which are lit. All fields have scoreboards and bleacher seating. Other complex amenities include: a new playground, concession stand, maintenance facility and parking lot to accommodate up to 200 vehicles.



“All great communities enjoy wonderful park and recreation facilities. These venues also create millions of dollars in economic impact each year by hosting national, regional and state championship sporting events. Thank you to the City of Des Moines and Des Moines Parks and Rec. for your continued visions and leadership.

- Greg Edwards, President & CEO
Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau
and Des Moines Area Sports Commission

James W. Cownie Baseball Park

This park is one of the top baseball facilities in the area and hosts many local and national United States Specialty Sports Association tournaments. Each summer, this site hosts South Des Moines Little League games with over 500 youth playing nearly 300 games.

The complex consists of eight irrigated turf youth fields, two of which are lit. All fields have scoreboards and covered bleacher seating. Other complex amenities include a playground, batting cages, concession stand, new maintenance building and parking lots to accommodate up to 250 vehicles.

BUILDINGS

In addition to the repair and maintenance of all parks facilities, the management of municipal buildings is the responsibility of the skilled trades team. In addition to maintaining 501,623 square feet of office space, the staff of 27 also completed the following highlighted projects in 2013:

- Maintenance of 27 buildings
- Installation of new boilers in Police Station
- Installation of new cooling tower at Police Station
- Completed large remodel in property section and old St Louis cell area at Police Station
- Installation of new HVAC and new ceilings at Cownie Soccer concession and restrooms
- Completed remodel of several areas in City Hall
- Installation of new HVAC in gun room at Police Academy
- Installation of new uninterruptible power supply at Police Station



SHELTERS

In 2013, rentals totaled 1,527, and provided users with the perfect location for birthdays, family reunions, baby showers, neighborhood meetings, meal sites and much more. Dispersed throughout the city our department provides nine enclosed shelters and 30 open air shelters available for reservation as well as 11 "first come, first serve" shelters. Renovations were completed on the Ding Darling enclosed shelter (previously known as Birdland Shelter) in June and the facility has remained one of the most heavily utilized in the park system. Other new shelters are located at McHenry and Good Parks.



Customer Survey Comments:

"The ease of renting and cleanliness of the shelter gave us the confidence that we would have a great time because past rentals have always been just perfect!"

"It was lovely being in the park I grew up in and to be with my friends and family to share an afternoon together. I love the cabin in the woods feel. "

"The park was very nice; the shelter was clean. It was close to downtown and many at the gathering really liked the location."

GREENHOUSE

Des Moines Parks and Recreation owns and operates a 15,000 square foot greenhouse located at 2501 SE Maury. The vast majority of the labor necessary for plant production is provided by hundreds of volunteers who donate thousands of hours to produce the annuals. Statistics for 2013 include:

- Over 100,000 annuals were grown for the Neighborhood Flower Program
- A total of 56,000 plants grown for parks, city facilities and recreational complexes
- Over 121,000 plants were grown for Fleur Drive medians and Water Works Park
- Over 67,000 plants grown for the downtown streetscapes, containers and planting beds
- Greenhouse Volunteer Transplanting in the Tropics Program – over 200 volunteers donated over 2,200 hours and transplanted 345,000 annual plants



RIVERWALK

Completed in 2013, The Principal Riverwalk is a 1.2 mile looping trail along the Des Moines River, that features lighted, landscaped public spaces, world-class public art and unique pedestrian bridges and pathways that connect to over 300 miles of Central Iowa trails. The project was a gift to the City of Des Moines in honor of the 125th anniversary of the Principal Financial Group. The Riverwalk is a collection of unique downtown amenities.

- Iowa Women of Achievement Bridge
- Brenton Skating Plaza
- Long Look Garden
- Union Railroad Bridge
- Meredith Trail
- Hansen Triangle
- The Hub Spot
- Promenade and multi-use trail

Many of these spots are available for private rentals for special events through the Parks and Recreation Administration Office.





GOLF COURSES

This year, golfers enjoyed a combined 88,523 rounds of golf at A.H. Blank, Bright Grandview and Waveland Golf Courses. All three City of Des Moines public golf courses have affordable rates and vary in course design, ranging from tree placement and sand traps to green size, which offers golfers a different experience each round.

A.H. Blank Golf Course, located at SW 9th & County Line Road, first opened in 1971 as a nine hole course, it then expanded to 18 in 1985. This course can be challenging as water and sand come into play on many of the holes, especially the front nine. Throughout the 6,700 yard course there are 31 sand traps and 10 water holes. Blank's clubhouse features a full service deli, pro shop and banquet room. The course also has a driving range.

Bright Grandview Golf Course, located at 2401 East 29th Street, was built in 1902, making it one of the oldest courses in the county. The layout of the course is relatively flat, making trees the biggest challenge. Bright Grandview has a total yardage of 5,422 yards. Bright Grandview's clubhouse, new in 2012, has a full bar and grill, pro shop and banquet room.

Waveland Golf Course, located at 4908 University Avenue, is the oldest municipal golf course west of the Mississippi River. Built in 1901, the entire course,



which measures just over 6,500 yards, is on wooded hillsides surrounded by mature trees. Golfers say this is the most difficult of the City's three public golf courses. Waveland's clubhouse is a vintage 1940's red brick building, complete with a pro shop, banquet hall, full bar, concession counter and excellent food. Waveland also has a putting green available for anyone to practice on.

Commonalities of all three courses include Fat Joe's Pizza, GPS systems in all carts (except Bright Grandview) and free sledding during the winter months. Besides being used for the usual corporate outings, tournaments and every day rounds of golf, all three golf courses can be rented for your wedding, birthday party or holiday get together. For more information about any Des Moines public golf courses, visit www.dmparks.org.



Yoga in the Park, Gray's Lake

Programs

“ If bread is the first necessity of life,
recreation is a close second.

- Edward Bellamy ”

Programs

Recreation program participation and special event attendance exceeded expectations for 2013, including several new additions such as the Des Moines Bags league, Halloween Hike and Zumba by the Lake.

NUMBERS

Aquatics Attendance:

Ashworth	18,329
Birdland	14,427
Nahas	24,799
Northwest	29,737
Teachout	25,772

Swim Lesson Attendance:

Ashworth	265
Birdland	280
Nahas	598
Northwest	516
Teachout	460
ELL at Ruby Van Meter	108
ELL at Nahas	61
ELL at Northwest	34

Certification Course Registrations:

Lifeguard/First Aid/CPR/AED	6
Water Safety Instructor	14
Lifeguard Instructor	11

Wading Pool and Spray Ground Attendance:

Ashby	17,886
Ashfield	771
Bates	655
Burke	1,597
Chesterfield	2,102
Crivaro	14,457
Drake	4,063
Grandview	1,899
Greenwood	2,538
Jordan	1,512
MLK	8,354
Sayers	1,389
Sheridan	1,315
Stone	3,056
Tower	1,677
Union	15,418
Wading Pool Rentals	72

Marina:

Marina Dock Slips	55
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Park Shelters:

Shelter Rentals	1,527
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Facility Rentals:

Parks / Field Rentals	2,247
Gray's Lake	123
Open Shelters	601
Enclosed Shelters	926
Simon Estes	20
Park Gardens	35
Western Gateway Park	9
Sylvan Theater	30
Wading Pool	72
Community Center Rentals (Pioneer)	74
Community Center Rentals (Four Mile)	21

P&R Sponsored Program Attendance:

Evelyn K. Davis Park Program	10,509
Four Mile Community Center	76,910
Pioneer Columbus Community Center	111,699
Community Center Rentals (Pioneer)	2,300
Community Center Rentals (Four Mile)	1,050
Taekwondo (Pioneer)	5,280
Taekwondo (Four Mile)	1,248
Aerobics (Four Mile)	2,080
Yoga classes - Just for Girls (Pioneer)	96
Halloween Hike (Four Mile)	250
Jingle Bells - Seasonal Parties (Pioneer)	375
Jingle Bells - Seasonal Parties (Four Mile)	450
Carousel of Colors (Union Park)	350
Campfire Day Camp (Pioneer)	3,500
Campfire Day Camp (Four Mile)	240
Kite Festivals (Grays Lake)	130
Children's Snow Carnival (Brenton Skate Plaza) ..	115
Imagination Playschool (Pioneer)	1,278
Youth Community Recreation (Pioneer)	816
Youth Community Recreation (Four Mile)	1,050



“ I bring my granddaughter for socialization with other children and for all the fun we have at imagination playschool.

- Kathleen Sandoval and granddaughter Esmeralda 18 months ”

Banana Splits (Pioneer)	210
Friday Night Date Night (Pioneer)	40
Kick Off to a Sizzlin' Summer (Pioneer)	110
Howleaster (Riverwalk Dog Park)	62
Bark In The Park (Four Mile & Riverwalk Dog Park)	28
Lilac Festival.....	125
Wine and Roses.....	80
Unwined	2,000
Yoga in the Park.....	260 weekly avg.
Zumba by the Lake.....	85 weekly avg.
Moon Floats	57 boats
Clowns at the Carousel.....	2,000
Mayor's Annual Ride	900
Father Daughter Dance.....	750
Valentine's Day Eagle Watch	25
Birding Basics	143

Free Flicks

Witmer Park 5/31 "North by Northwest"	80
Art Center 6/6 "My Dog Skip"	125
Simon Estes 6/13 "The Goonies"	115
Evergreen Park 6/20 "The Lorax"	200
Jordan Park 6/27 "Madagascar 3"	130
Ashby Park 6/30 "Homeward Bound"	100
EK Davis Park 7/6 "Despicable Me"	75
Art Center 7/11 "The Philadelphia Story"	325
MLK Park 7/18 "Escape from Planet Earth"	140
Delaware Elementary 7/25	
"Rise of the Guardians"	60
Art Center 8/1 "Breakfast at Tiffany's"	350
Cownie Soccer Complex (Drive-in) 8/2	
"American Graffiti"	85 Vehicles
Woodland Park 8/8 "Back to the Future"	100
Ewing Park 8/10 "Space Jam"	300
Birdland Park 8/15 "Oz the Great and Powerful" ..	75
Hoyt Sherman Place 8/17 "Spaceballs"	75
Bright Grandview Golf Course 8/29	
"Field of Dreams"	13
Art Center 9/5 "Vertigo"	200

Volunteer Program hours	16,067
# of Volunteers.....	3,731
Value of Volunteer Time	\$355,723
<i>(as assigned by Independent Sector)</i>	

Total Gardeners	211
Ashfield	11
Franklin	126
Downtown	53
Woodlawn	21
Total Garden Plots	314
Ashfield	22
Franklin	180
Downtown	72
Woodlawn	40

Dog permits sold

Adult Pickleball.....	1,580
Adult Takraw.....	72
Winter Tennis.....	15
Quick Start Tennis.....	158
Youth Tennis.....	331
Team Tennis	14
NJTL Summer Tennis Youth in the Park.....	550
Pee Wee Soccer – Indoor & Outdoor	270
Adult Bags Leagues.....	46
Adult Bags Tournament.....	24

Basketball - 11/14/10 - 3/27/11

Adult Teams.....	16
Adult Tournament	16
Pee Wee	225
Youth Teams	460

Flag Football (9/7/10 - 11/5/11)

Adult	408
Adult State Tournament	204
Youth Flag Football.....	32

NUMBERS continued on next page...

Programs

NUMBERS continued from previous page...

Softball – Summer & Fall (4/3/10 - 3/7/11)

Adult	6,443
Adult League Tournament.....	5
Adult ASA District/State Tournaments	24
Adult Sno-ball Tournament (Winter Games)	52
Youth Tournaments (New in 2012).....	75

Conservation Programs:

Bow Hunters.....	76
Deer Harvested	184
Prescribed Burns.....	200 acres (70 acres this season)

Environmental Education:

(started in Spring 2013)

Environmental Ed Classes	16
Environmental Ed Class Attendees.....	343
iEARTH Camp.....	53 students, 25 days of camp

Brenton Skating Plaza:

Attendance.....	36,902
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Leased Programs:*

Soap Box Derby	550
DSM Rowing Club	190
Drake Crew.....	34
Cyclocross	320
Disc Golf.....	600
Hy Vee Triathlon	4,000
Mud Run.....	2,031
BMX.....	250

*partnership-based programs



I had a plot this past summer at the Downtown community garden and it changed my life. After years of apartment dwelling, and sad attempts at growing tomatoes upside down on our postage stamp size patio, I learned that Des Moines had a community garden program. I got my name on the wait list and soon learned there was a plot available to me. I began a ritual of jogging and walking to the garden to take care of my plants. I met some really great people, what's up Rachel! And my wife and I enjoyed the fruits of our labor and made some killer salsa. I want to thank the gals at Parks for organizing the garden and the City for the amenities it provided, it was a truly great experience. I would totally recommend trying a community garden plot if you find you don't have the space for one at home, it is a major commitment, but one that is so worth it.

- John Bush, Des Moines Gardener

EARTH DAY TRASH BASH

Over 1,400 volunteers, braved chilly weather on April 19 to gather for a kick-off lunch with Big City Burgers and Greens (Iowa's first fully compostable restaurant) before heading out to more than 80 project sites throughout the Greater Des Moines metro for a fun-filled afternoon. In 2013 alone, volunteers removed almost 67,000 pounds of brush, trash, tires and debris from our parks. They pulled garlic mustard and cut down honeysuckle to help bring back our native woodland plants, hold our soils and improve our water quality. They walked the streets, ravines and creeks picking up trash and planted flowers to beautify our community making Des Moines a little bit "greener".

The Big Buttowski award for most cigarette butts collected went to Principal Financial Group who picked up 21 pounds out of the 37 pounds collected citywide. A huge effort since about 18% of all litter, including cigarette butts, traveling primarily through storm water systems, ends up in local streams, rivers and waterways. With 28 community sponsors donating over \$31,000 in 2013, 20 door prize donors and eight coordinating agencies and municipalities, Earth Day Trash Bash has really become a community event benefiting the entire metro area. Since 2008, Trash Bash has had almost 6,000 volunteers remove almost 131,000 pounds of trash, invasive species, brush and recyclables from Des Moines, West Des Moines, Windsor Heights, Clive and Polk County lands.

URBAN BOW HUNT PROGRAM

The City of Des Moines Urban Bow Hunt Program season started in September 2012 and ended on January 27, 2013 with a harvest of 184 deer by 76 hunters. This totals a six year harvest of 1091 deer within the City under this program. Of the 1091 deer 82% were female which over time have effectively prevented over 2,500 additional deer inside city limits according to reproduction models. The goal of this program is to reduce the population, not to eliminate urban deer. This will reduce the negative attributes that an overpopulation of deer causes, such as accidents. This also ensures that citizens can enjoy the infrequent sighting of a deer while being able to enjoy flowers and gardens which a high population of deer would not allow. The urban bow hunt connects property owners who wish to reduce the deer numbers with hunters who are willing to harvest the deer in a safe effective manner. Hunters are required to adhere to a long list of rules, attend a safety course and an annual proficiency test. If you would like more information on the program, please call 237-1386.

AQUATICS

This summer saw another record breaking number of participants in the Learn To Swim Program. Our parent/child offerings were expanded and all time slots filled within the first hour of registration. We were able to enroll additional students from the waiting list. We also filled two classes of adult swim lessons. Evening swim lessons were also expanded and many of the classes were filled to capacity. In all, we had 2,227 participants in the swim lesson program.

This year's partnership with the Des Moines Public School's English Language Learners (ELL) Summer School was very well received. Over 200 free swim lessons were provided to students in K-5 who have been in the country less than two years. These are the students who are at higher-risk for drowning in lakes and rivers because they are not used to bodies of water with currents, or deeper water swimming pools.

This was the first year of online registration. Post-swim lesson evaluations overwhelmingly showed that it was a convenient process and was preferred over registering in person. Over 75% of registrations were completed online.

Programs

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Environmental education programs kicked off in June with iEarth camps, a partnership program with the Science Center of Iowa. This series of camps were offered to youth ages pre K through 9th grade and explored different topics in the sciences and environment from insects to canoeing on the Raccoon River.

Parks and Recreation again partnered with the Science Center of Iowa on star viewing programs in Ewing Park. The largest of which was the second annual Star Party in August, featuring guest speakers, a movie, crafts, bounce house fun and overnight camping. Parks and Recreation

worked with the Blank Park Zoo and Wakonda Country Club on family overnight camping events and the Salisbury House for the Mysteries of the Castle special event. The inaugural Halloween Hike was held at Four Mile Community Center with great success. The Roosevelt High School A.P. Environmental Science class was involved with invasive species mapping and water quality projects at Greenwood Park. The autumn involved seasonal events such as Monarch tagging and leaf hikes.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

For the first time in department history, participants could register online for recreation programs through our partner Active Network. The initiative rolled out in May, starting with swimming lessons and by the end of the year 24 programs were online. Almost 6,000 accounts have been created and a total of 2,132 individuals and 231 teams utilized the system.

9/11 TRIBUTE TRAIL

To honor those lost in the terrorist attacks on 9/11 in 2001, Des Moines Parks and Recreation once again partnered with Clear Channel Media and Entertainment and the United States Air Force to create a "Tribute Trail" at Gray's Lake. Clear Channel and Air Force staffers placed 3,213 individual flags – one for each person lost on that day. The flags were placed 10 feet off the trail on the west side of the lake, next to Fleur Drive from the north dock to the south shelter area. The Tribute Trail created a stunning display and moving memorial that gave park visitors a chance to pay their respects.



PARK AND RECREATION MONTH EVENT

In July, we invited the Friends of Des Moines Parks, the Iowa Cubs, Greater Des Moines Soap Box Derby and the Heritage Carousel to join us and celebrate National Park and Recreation Month on the Court Avenue Bridge. This is one of the largest events we put on, with an estimated 4,500 people attending. Participants had fun playing games and winning prizes while learning more about the activities and programs our department offers the community throughout the year such as bocce ball, soccer, tennis, pony rides and much more. In addition to our previous booths and activities we added two mini golf holes (designed to look like the Bright Grandview Golf Course clubhouse and Gray's Lake), make a bird feeder activity and "Yoga at the Hub Spot" for 2013. Keep an eye on our website, Facebook and Twitter this spring for the 2014 celebration dates.

RAGBRAI

In 2013, RAGBRAI made an overnight stop in Des Moines for the first time in 16 years. The annual bike ride brought over 20,000 cyclists and support teams into the metro area. Throughout the days leading up to the event, the Parks and Recreation Department had to keep trails clean and ready for thousands of users. RAGBRAI participants and non-participants utilized the trail system to travel to and from Water Works Park (over-night camping spot) to the downtown area for various special events and concerts.

IPRA CONFERENCE

Des Moines Parks and Recreation was proud to serve as the host agency for the spring Iowa Park and Recreation (IPRA) conference. This two day event was attended by 147 industry professionals, featured 29 educational sessions and two off-site facility tours. A planning team was instrumental in every facet of the conference and many members of the department served as session presenters on a variety of topics ranging from new programs in recreation, graffiti removal, community gardens to tree removal.



“IPRA last hosted its annual conference at the Capitol City in 2004. Delegate participation was nearly the same even in the face of tight municipal budgets with 151 in 2004 and 147 this past spring. Much of the skyline, park facilities, and visitor opportunities have witnessed dramatic changes. The Principal Riverwalk combined with Wells Fargo Arena, Hy-Vee Hall at Iowa Events Center, Brenton Skating Plaza, and the beautiful bridge across the Des Moines River further reinforced our delegate’s impression. The IPRA Board of Directors and members are appreciative of the time, energy and enthusiasm in addition to professionalism shared by the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department. We look forward to once again visiting our largest agency in the state.

- Steven E. Jordison, Executive Director
Iowa Park and Recreation Association

Programs



YOGA IN THE PARK

This program hosted over 4,000 people on Saturday mornings from May 25 through September 28 by providing free weekly yoga sessions. Yoga in the Park gives people the opportunity to maximize stress release by practicing yoga on the southeast lawn of Gray's Lake. Each week presented a different local volunteer instructor allowing for a different yoga experience each week. A special Yoga in the Park session was held at the Hub Spot this year on July 13th for our National Park and Recreation Month Celebration. "Yoga at the Hub" participants were able to enjoy yoga overlooking the Des Moines River and then go over to the Court Avenue Bridge for our Bridge Event to play games and learn about activities that our department offers. Yoga in the Park continues to be a very successful program with strong attendance numbers again this year.



I have very much enjoyed Yoga in the Park and have been going since it started in 2008. This event is held in a beautiful location with awesome teachers from central Iowa. Gray's Lake on a Saturday morning is a vibrant, fun place to be and I always reflect on how hip Des Moines is. Thank you for providing this yoga opportunity to DM!!

- Terri Moore Johnson

FREE FLICKS

This program offers free outdoor movies from May through September at parks and facilities throughout the metro area that over 2,000 people attended. Free Flicks reconnects communities by bringing people together to watch a movie on a 25 foot inflatable screen with theater quality sound. Our department teamed up with local neighborhood groups to host 16 different movies that consisted of recent releases to classics. This year's Free Flicks program held a special Drive-in movie at Cownie Soccer Park. Over 85 vehicles came to watch "American Graffiti" at this year's drive-in event. Free Flicks continues to be a great way to connect and entertain communities through classic and current films played in our beautiful parks.



Both equipment and staff are professional grade. This type of investment in our neighborhood programming is worth every penny. A great opportunity to get neighbors together for a fun event. Our crowd has grown every year.

- Ryan P. Howell, President
Sherman Hill Association

Free Flicks provided a great opportunity to not only bring community members together, but also community partners. This event sparked interest from local churches and volunteer groups to provide additional resources at the event, and created a diverse, family-friendly atmosphere for neighborhood residents to enjoy a free outdoor event. Thank you for continuing to provide this beneficial community activity.

- Steve Havemann, Vice President
Beaverdale Neighborhood Association



Union Railroad Bridge

Projects

“Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.”

- Henry Ford

Projects

MAJOR PROJECTS COMPLETED WITH SUPPORT FROM DONORS & GRANTS

- Resurfaced 2 basketball courts at EK Davis Park
 - \$15,000 - Sprite Spark Parks
- Completed the Des Moines River Trail
 - \$426,526 - Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program
 - \$300,000 - Iowa Department of Natural Resources Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP)
 - \$113,542 - Vision Iowa River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism Program
 - \$150,000 - Sehgal Family Foundation
 - \$73,474 - Iowa Department of Transportation State Recreational Trail Program
 - \$25,000 - Polk County Community Development Program
 - \$5,000 - Iowa Foundation for Education, Environment and the Arts.
 - \$5,000 - William C. Knapp Charitable Foundation
 - \$1,000 - Over the Hill Soccer League
 - \$6,600 - hundreds of businesses, individuals, and families
- Designed and constructed repairs to Greenwood Pond detention basins
 - \$300,000 - Iowa Department of Natural Resources Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP)
- Installed Gray's Lake EZ Dock boat launch
 - \$15,000 - Friends of Des Moines Parks
- Completed Columbus Park sprayground and playground
 - est. \$50,000 - Rebuilding Together
- Constructed walking loop at Sheridan Park
 - est. \$20,000 - Paved by Polk County
- Ewing Park Trails, Phase 2
 - \$11,800 - Wellmark Foundation through 3 point Play given to Friends of Des Moines Parks
 - \$5,000 - Prairie Meadows given to Central Iowa Trail Association



Ewing Park

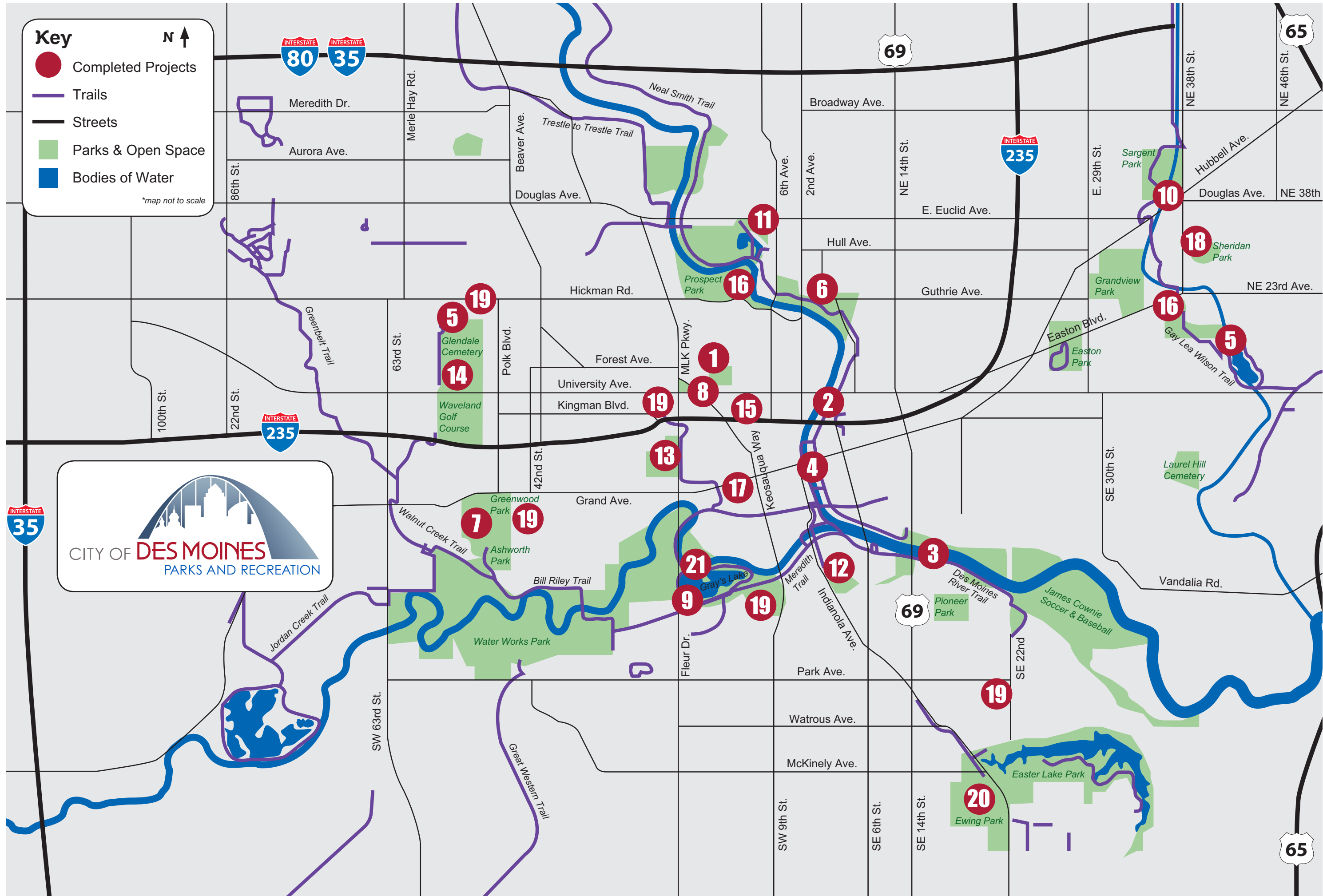


EZ Launch Accessible Transfer System at Gray's Lake Park

Key N ↑

- Completed Projects
- Trails
- Streets
- Parks & Open Space
- Bodies of Water

*map not to scale



Completed Projects:

- 1 Evelyn K. Davis Park**
Resurfaced two basketball courts
- 2 John Pat Dorrian Trail**
Rebuilt and relocated a section of the trail from University Avenue to Interstate 235 as part the Des Moines Botanical Garden renovations
- 3 Des Moines River Trail**
Constructed a 2.3 mile multi-use trail from the Meredith Trail at the confluence of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers to Cownie Baseball Park, with neighborhood connections at SE 6th St, SE 8th St, and SE 14th St.
- 4 Principal Riverwalk**
Finished construction of lighted, landscaped public spaces, world-class public art and unique pedestrian bridges and pathways that connect to 550 miles of Central Iowa Trails
- 5 Central Iowa Trail Signage**
Completed installation of two information hubs, one information panel and five direction standards along the city's trail system
- 6 'Ding' Darling Shelter House**
Completed renovation of this historic 1937 shelter house. As part of the renovation, the shelter house was named after Jay N. 'Ding' Darling, one of the city and the country's most beloved conservationists
- 7 Greenwood Pond**
Completed installation of detention basins upstream from the pond, which will reduce the silt and other pollutants from entering the pond and improve water quality entering the pond
- 8 Good Park**
Constructed new picnic shelter, spray ground and rain garden
- 9 Gray's Lake Park**
Installed a new accessible canoe and kayak boat launch for persons with disabilities
- 10 Reno Memorial Dog Park**
Completed construction of a new 3.2 acre dog park
- 11 McHenry Park**
Constructed a new overlook shelter, spray ground and rain garden
- 12 Columbus Park**
Constructed a new spray ground, playground and rain garden
- 13 Woodland Cemetery**
Constructed a new arch over the entrance to the cemetery
- 14 Glendale Cemetery**
Completed construction of the Lake View Columbarium
- 15 Cheatom Park**
Constructed a new basketball court in the park and made repairs to existing sidewalks
- 16 Accessibility Improvements**
Completed construction of improvements at Prospect Park and Four Mile Community Center to make the facilities more accessible to those with disabilities
- 17 Pappajohn Sculpture Park**
Assisted the Des Moines Art Center with the installation of a new piece of art
- 18 Sheridan Park**
Constructed a walking loop in the park and completed resurfacing of the tennis courts
- 19 Sport Court Improvements**
Improvements to tennis courts at Drake, Tower, Greenwood, and MacRae Parks as well as improvements to Evergreen Park takraw court
- 20 Ewing Park**
Completed construction of two miles of nature and mountain bike trails. Total miles of trail in the park now exceed four miles
- 21 Gray's Lake Park**
Completed construction of a boulder retaining wall at the northwest corner of the park to protect the park road and associated utilities under the road

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY



Des Moines Parks and Recreation's open space system is almost 125 years old and many of the parks have been preserved for more than 100 years. As the department has changed to a more sustainable land management philosophy, there was a need to understand the park system's natural resources. In 2011, the City of Des Moines initiated a project with Dr. Tom Rosburg to conduct a natural resource inventory of the entire 3,800 acres managed by Parks and Recreation. Dr. Rosburg is one of the Midwest's preeminent plant ecologists. During his 25 year career, he has conducted work as an ecologist, naturalist and photographer in all of Iowa's 99 counties.

Over the last two years, Dr. Rosburg has surveyed the City's park land and performed the following key services:

- Mapping major plant communities, describing the composition and structure and identifying the successional stage of the land as it is today.
- Locating major invasive species infestations.
- Determining areas of high biological or ecological diversity.
- Identifying new opportunities for passive recreation and/or environmental education.
- Evaluating routinely-mowed land for the potential of redevelopment into a more natural state, thereby reducing mowing costs.

- Preparing a report of the study's findings, including recommendations for restoration areas.

When this project began, one of the major goals was to educate park users about the unique and special landscapes in our parks. Now that Dr. Rosburg has completed his work, the department is excited to share the findings. Major discoveries include:

- The park system contains significant ecological value and quality. Over 650 total species of plants have been found in the park system, including over 450 species native to Central Iowa.
- The park system has significant oak woodland and savanna ecosystems that should be restored and protected.
- Invasive species are the greatest threat to the function and value of the entire park system.

Throughout the next year, the Department will be highlighting different aspects of the inventory and how it is being utilized to better manage our parks in a more ecologically sound manner.

For more information on this project and to read the executive summary of the report, please visit our website: www.dmparks.org. Be sure to click on the Plant and Wildlife Management link. You can also receive updates by following us on Facebook and Twitter.



I appreciate Des Moines Parks and Recreation staff because they are becoming more knowledgeable about native plants and animals that share our public green space and are more thoughtfully managing city parks. Healthy green spaces provide me with room to move freely and explore.

- Robin Fortney



station

Partners

“The highest of distinctions is service to others.

- King George IV (1762-1830)”

Partners

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In 2013, we had 3,731 volunteers donating 16,067 hours of service (valued at over \$350,000). They removed over 67,000 pounds of litter, brush, tires and debris from our parks on Earth Day alone. They help grow over 350,000 annuals, distribute hundreds of toys to families in need, record our City's history, survey trail users, distribute flowers to neighborhoods, build playgrounds and more.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM STATISTICS

Calendar Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
# of Volunteers	144	565	1,991	1,376	2,234	2,437	3,731
Volunteer Hours	715	5,732	14,151	9,504	14,781	13,835	16,067
Value Received	\$13,949	\$116,073	\$286,557	\$203,005	\$322,087	\$302,336	\$355,723



I enjoy volunteering for Des Moines Parks and Recreation because it allows me to teach what I know (birding) to others, which in turn promotes enthusiasm for preserving as much green space as possible in an urban environment.

- John Bissell, Birding Basics Leader

Hopefully by volunteering I can make a difference in recreation areas in Iowa. Keeping litter and garbage picked up in the parks and streams and removing invasive species helps preserve those areas in their natural state to attract visitors. And it's FUN!

- Connie Struve



“Building a great city like Des Moines takes collaboration from many sectors; but the backbone, heart and drive of a world-class city are volunteers who are on the front lines, making amenities, events and programs come to life and add a vibrant quality of life. Principal Financial Group® has over a thousand employees who participate in community events throughout the year. We're proud of all that the Principal Volunteer Network and the City of Des Moines have accomplished this year.

- Mary O'Keefe Senior Vice President
and Chief Marketing Officer
Principal Financial Group®

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Adopt a Plot Program

Although the city maintains the grounds of its seven cemeteries, individual families and friends are responsible for the overall care of the graves and monuments of their loved ones. However, for many who have been deceased for decades or even centuries in these historic cemeteries, fewer and fewer family members come back to care for their graves each year. Parks and Recreation is hoping you'll consider "adopting a plot" for these graves, as hundreds of other people do. Volunteers of all ages donate their time as cemetery stewards each year, as individuals or members of families and organizations, to help take care of the city's municipal cemeteries, while enjoying the fascinating history and beauty they provide.

Volunteers can choose to become a steward of a specific section of the cemetery of their choice - Woodland/St. Ambrose, Glendale, Laurel Hill, Sims, Oak Grove, or Elm Grove. Work might include picking up small branches, cutting back dead flowers and brush, maintaining



headstones and reporting disrepair, or picking up litter. No experience is necessary, training and supplies are provided. You can volunteer once or as many hours as you like, on a flexible one-time, weekly or monthly basis - whatever works best for you - year-round or just between the months of April and October.

This is a great way for families, church groups, clubs or individuals to experience the outdoors and the beauty of the seasons in a park setting while preserving the condition of these historic city landmarks. To learn more about becoming a cemetery steward or other cemetery volunteer opportunities, call 248-6320 or email cem@dmgov.org.

Partners

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Other Ways to Volunteer

- Transplanting in the tropics
- Dog park ambassador
- Trash Bash
- Special events
- Group specific opportunities

For more information about our volunteer program please visit dmparks.org, email parksvolunteer@dmgov.org or call 248-6380.



Sponsorship

Des Moines Parks and Recreation has numerous sponsorship options available. Packages can be customized at any level including:

- Recreation and sports programs
- Environmental education offerings
- Special events
- Playgrounds

Contact our marketing team at 237-1386 or parks@dmgov.org to learn about how your group can collaborate with us.

JOIN FRIENDS OF DES MOINES PARKS



Friends of Des Moines Parks is the not-for-profit foundation supporting Des Moines parks, greenways and recreational programs for the benefit of all neighborhoods and citizens. The City's private sector partner has long invested tax-exempt donations for programs like swim lessons for low income and ELL students, the Trash Bash down town cleanup, Yoga in the Park and others. In 2013, the Friends' park projects included a handicap accessible boat launch at Gray's Lake, trail development and lilac restoration at Ewing Park, Star Party support, garden restoration at Union Park, park shelter house improvements and more. Are you a Friend? Visit www.friendsofdmparks.org to learn how you can protect and strengthen solutions to our communities' social, economic and environmental challenges.

Join the Friends to protect what you love. When you become a Friend, you help to preserve, protect, improve, and promote the use of Des Moines parks, greenways and recreational programs for the benefit of all neighborhoods and citizens.

REMEMBER

The citizens of Des Moines are always looking for opportunities to memorialize a loved one, sponsor a program or commemorate an event. Des Moines Parks and Recreation can now meet these needs and improve the municipal golf courses by selling engravable benches for the tee box area at each of the municipal golf courses.

Dog lovers can remember their favorite canine with a plaque at one of the three Des Moines dog parks. These 8" plaques have two standard lines of text with a maximum of 16 characters and or spaces each. An optional additional line can say "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of".

For information about either one of these programs, please contact us at 237-1386 or parks@dmgov.org.



Ewing Dog Park

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

In a time of reduced tax support, we are fortunate to have forged strong community partnerships. In addition to the assistance we have received from the non-profit Friends of Des Moines Parks, we are developing a network of partners that have enabled us to move several projects forward this year.



Columbus Park

REBUILDING TOGETHER GREATER DES MOINES

The Columbus Park playground was a project of Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines, with Meredith Corporation employees who volunteered to install the equipment on a workday.

The Columbus Park playground, a \$50,000 value donated by Meredith, includes multiple climbing elements and slides with Meredith's choice of a ship theme. To partner in this effort, the Parks and Recreation Department agreed to remove old play equipment in the park and provide the required engineered-wood-fiber safety surfacing. Polk County was also an integral part of this project by providing site preparation and the concrete curbing to encircle the playground.

In addition to the playground build, volunteers also:

- Repainted the Columbus Park picnic gazebo and added landscaping to the park
- Worked to improve five homes in the Columbus/McKinley neighborhood, including making minor repairs to roofs and exteriors, painting, landscaping and building a wheelchair ramp
- Worked with the Bellizzi MacRae American Legion Post at 1813 SE 1st Street, to make improvements to their facility

Partners

WELLMARK BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD AND CENTRAL IOWA TRAIL ASSOCIATION (CITA)

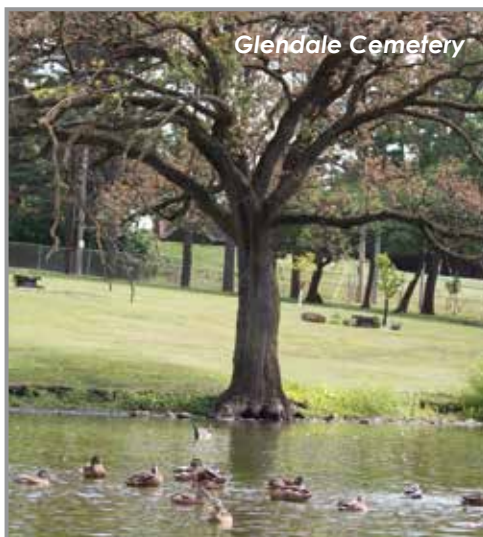
Thanks to a generous donation from Wellmark's 3-Point Play Program and countless volunteer hours by the Central Iowa Trail Association (CITA), there are new ways to enjoy the Des Moines park system. Ewing Park now has over two miles of soft surface nature trails. These trails are constructed of compacted dirt and are designed to fit in with and be sensitive to the surrounding environment, providing for a more intimate experience with nature.

These two miles of trails are the first phase of nearly eight miles of nature trails planned for the park. Additional funding from the Wellmark Foundation and support from CITA will allow for much of the system to be completed over the next two summers.



DES MOINES FOUNDERS GARDEN CLUB

Des Moines Founders Garden Club planted 25 disease resistant elm trees in the nursery at the City Greenhouse to be planted in the fall of 2014. They also planted 10,000 daffodils at Glendale Cemetery.



POLK COUNTY

Neighborhood discussions on how to improve Sheridan Park brought together leaders from the City of Des Moines and Polk County. Upon finalization of the plan, Polk County agreed to contribute all of the concrete for a new walking path around the perimeter of the park. Utilizing their concrete contractor, the county installed an 800 foot long concrete walking path 6 foot wide, valued at approximately \$20,000.

