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## NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

City News for Neighborhood Association Leaders and Residents  
March 2023 | [View as Webpage](#)



In this edition of the Neighborhood Update, we cover the first major construction project of the year, Ingersoll Run. It's a critical project to continue treating the water City of Des Moines uses every day.

Then we spend time with Parks and Recreation, highlighting a record-breaking year in 2022 and major fundraising updates for the Reichardt Community Recreation Center.

Finally, we cover information on Forestry, Animal Licenses, and the Des Moines Public Library.

As always, thank you for joining the Neighborhood Update!

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# CONSTRUCTION AROUND THE CITY



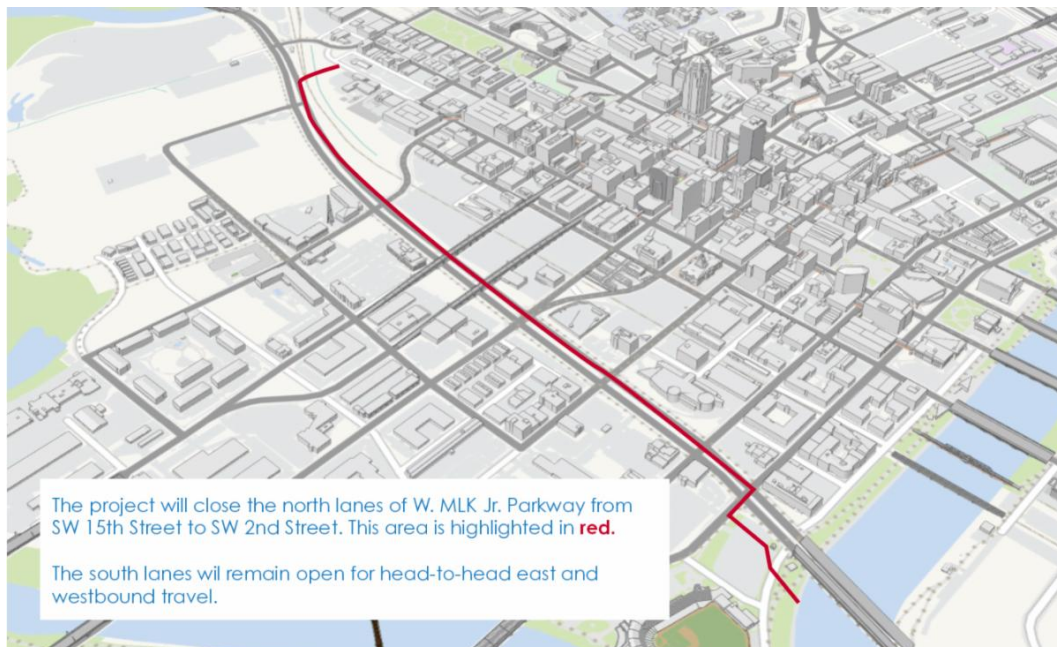
## Ingersoll Sewer Work Begins Next Week

The Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority (WRA) will begin another segment of the Ingersoll Run Outlet Sewer Project on Monday, April 3, with completion projected for December 2024.

The WRA's Ingersoll Run Project will eliminate the combined sanitary sewer overflow from the area west of W. MLK Jr. Parkway, rerouting sanitary sewer flow to the WRA's treatment facility before the water is released into the Des Moines River.

"This project is one of the final steps in a significant, long-term effort to reduce pollutants in our rivers," WRA Director Scott Hutchens said. "Closing roads is never ideal, but this is an important piece of infrastructure whose long-term environmental benefits will far outweigh the short-term inconvenience."

Mandated by the EPA, this project is focused on continuing to improve our water quality by treating the wastewater that goes into our rivers. This segment of the project will close the north lanes of W. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway from SW 15th Street to SW 2nd Street to install a new sanitary sewer line. The south lanes will remain open for head-to-head east and westbound travel.



"You may not see construction going on every day, but there is work being done," Facilities Engineer Melissa Schlickbernd said. "Crews will be performing

archeological investigations that are required of this project."

A unique challenge to the construction timeline of this segment is its proximity to an archeological site. The area near Principal Park was the location of Fort Des Moines (the second of three military installations sharing the name) in the 1840s. The City of Des Moines was later established near this site at the confluence of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers.

The WRA and the City of Des Moines are aware of the disruption to overall travel this project creates, and appreciate the patience of residents and local businesses.

The Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority is made-up of 17 metro area municipalities, counties, and sewer districts. Together, their mission is to protect public health and enhance the environment by recycling wastewater.

Details of the Ingersoll Run Project can be found on the [WRA Website](#) and all three segments of the project can be viewed on the City's Engineering project map at [DSM.City/Projects](#). Updates will be provided publicly throughout the project.



## Reichardt Community Recreation Center Receives Another Round of Major Donations



Thanks to a second round of major donations, The Reichardt Community Recreation Center project is closing in on its fundraising targets.

This week, City Council accepted \$1.65 million in donations, including two additional naming agreements for the project that will be located at the current site of the Grubb Family YMCA. This new round of donations brings the project to 87% of its \$6 million fundraising goal.

"We are thrilled to announce these donations that are so critical to providing the amenities that this neighborhood requested and deserves," Des Moines Parks and Recreation Director Ben Page said. "This is a major signal that our community is stepping up and helping turn the vision of the Reichardt Community Recreation Center into a reality. Fundraising is nearly across the finish line thanks to the support and generosity of these community members."

The project plan for the Reichardt Community Recreation Center was developed over the course of six public meetings and more than 200 community conversations that helped shape the plan to construct a new community recreation center and park on the site located in the vicinity of 1611 11th Street and 1600 9th Street.

The City has committed \$12 million over four years to the estimated \$18 million project, which is anticipated to open in 2026. Fundraising for the project now totals \$5.22 million of its \$6 million goal, including the four new donations below (additions to the donation list designated in bold):

- **\$1,000,000 – Mid-American Energy**
  - **A community space shall be designated the “MidAmerican Energy Idea Lab”**
- **\$500,000 – Polk County**
  - **The fitness room shall be designated the “Polk County Fitness Room”**
- **\$100,000 – The Gartner Family**
- **\$50,000 – Knapp Properties**
- \$1,200,000 – The Reichardt Family
  - The building's exterior façade shall be designated the “Reichardt Community Recreation Center”
- \$1,000,000 – Patty and Jim Cownie
  - The basketball court and gymnasium shall be designated the “Patty and Jim Cownie Family Courts and Gymnasium”
- \$500,000 – Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines Catalyst Circle Grant
- \$500,000 – The Ruan Foundation
  - The elevated walking track shall be designated as “The Ruan Foundation Track”
- \$250,000 – Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines
  - The largest community room area shall be designated as the “Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines Community Room”
- \$100,000 – W.T. and Edna M Dahl Trust
- \$20,000 – Lohse Family Foundation

## The Parks and Recreation Department Highlights Record-Setting Year

## 2022 Parks and Recreation Annual Report



2022 was a year to break records for the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department.

From setting swimming lesson records to record participation in youth athletics, 2022 saw major upward trends in Parks and Recreation numbers and marked a big recovery from COVID-affected years in 2020 and 2021.

"2022 felt like a big welcome back," Parks and Recreation Director Ben Page said. "Our staff was energized by all the activities and people we got to engage with over the course of the year. We are fortunate to have such a talented team of professionals in our department, and our success is not achieved alone. It comes from the admirable dedication of our partners, donors, and volunteers. We remain grateful for the continued support of our Parks and Recreation Board, the Friends of Des Moines Parks, the City Manager, as well as the Mayor and City Council, all of which help us achieve our goals each year."

One area of noted increase was the department's equity-driven efforts which saw improved results in 2022. A third of the department's record 3,546 swim lessons provided in 2022 was provided for \$5 through the Youth Sports and Recreational Program Scholarship program, a 45% increase in scholarships given from 2021. Registrations for 2023 swim lessons open on Saturday, April 1, at [DSM.city/SwimLessonSignUp](https://DSM.city/SwimLessonSignUp).

The expanded Summer Camp program, which is provided free of charge to Des Moines residents, also saw a record 200 campers during the summer of 2022 as plans call for an expansion from four sites to five for the summer of 2023. Sign up for this summer begins on Monday, April 3.

Youth athletic registration numbers saw a strong increase and the Friends of Des Moines Parks' "Every Kid Gets A Ball" program gave away a record 2,080 sports balls to youth sports participants in soccer, volleyball, baseball, basketball and football leagues.

Parks and Recreation by the numbers:

- 3,546: Record number of swimming and diving lessons provided in 2022 (8% increase from 2021)

- 33% of those swim lessons (1,171) were provided for \$5 with scholarships (45% increase from 2021)
- 2,080 record number of free sports balls given away to youth sports participants through "Every Kid Gets A Ball" and the Friends of Des Moines Parks
- 4,400 volunteers (53% increase) who donated over 28,800 hours to our parks (valued over \$903,000)
- 985 park shelter rentals (57% increase)
- 269,275 plants and 473 trees planted throughout the City
- 4,138,134 estimated trail trips throughout the 69 paved miles of the recreational trail system
- 14,402 cemetery monuments cleaned, including 7,960 monuments leveled and reset since 2017

## ADDITIONAL NEWS



### Forestry's 'Treasure' Hunt Offers Residents a Skywalk Adventure



The City's Forestry Division launched its first-ever Treasure Hunt contest this month in the downtown Des Moines skywalk system.

Participants will traverse the skywalk in search of six Treasures — tree-related art pieces installed by the Forestry team. Each Treasure site can be photographed and submitted as an entry into a raffle for a 5-to-7-foot tree to be planted on the winner's property.

City officials feel the contest offers residents a new way of experiencing the skywalk while raising awareness of the Forestry Division's programs.

"The Treasures Hunt is an excellent way for residents to be active and enjoy the skywalk," said City Forester Shane McQuillan. "Workers on their lunch break or even families exploring downtown will be able to add a bit of fun to their day."

The Treasures Hunt runs until April 30. Finding all six Treasures is not required, but each entry can increase the chances of winning.

On May 15, the City will announce the winner of the Treasures Hunt contest. They will then select a tree from Forestry's recommended species list to be planted by City employees on their property. This tree differs from the seedlings given away during the Tiny Trees program. The tree given away during this contest will be a larger, well-established tree from the City Forestry Division.

The contest flyer containing a map of the Treasures locations, the entry form, and the official contest rules are all available at [DSM.City/TreasuresHunt](https://www.desmoines.gov/DSM.City/TreasuresHunt).

## The Monthly Update From Your Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

Neighborhood Leaders,

### Feature Your Neighborhood Association

The Ideas in Action section of the Neighborhood Association Toolkit illustrates best practices and uplifts practical and innovative programs implemented by Des Moines' neighborhoods. Feature your neighborhood association! Email [HCTamminga@dmgov.org](mailto:HCTamminga@dmgov.org) and share programs, initiatives, and best practices that contribute to the success of your neighborhood.

Need inspiration? Read current contributions from the following neighborhood associations: Drake, ACCENT, Lower Beaver, River Bend, and Southwestern Hills. Ideas in Action begins on page 62 of the [Neighborhood Association Toolkit](#).

### Grant Writing/Sponsorships/Advertising

The final Leadership Workshop Session of spring is on May 4, 5:30–7:00 p.m., at the Des Moines Central Library, 1000 Grand Avenue. This session focuses on grant writing, sponsorship ideas, and building advertising packages.

[Register online today!](#)

Planning has started for the fall Leadership Workshop Sessions. You can watch for an email and this space for future programming details.

Thank you for continuing to make a difference in your neighborhoods and in the City of Des Moines.

Heather Tamminga  
Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

You may contact Heather at [HCTamminga@dmgov.org](mailto:HCTamminga@dmgov.org) or call (515) 283-4775.

**\$50 Late Fee For  
2023 Pet Licenses  
Begins April 1**

**Public Works  
Facing High  
Volume of Requests  
During 'Pothole  
Season'**

**Trivia Smackdown  
with the DMPL  
Foundation**

**AviD Presents R.F.  
Kuang at the Des  
Moines Library**



### **Aquatics and Summer Camp Recruitment**

The Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department is still recruiting for positions at its aquatics facilities and Summer Camp Program. These programs need staffing to keep facilities open for the residents of your neighborhood, so share the news!

This year, these positions will have pay increases and increased benefits like holiday pay, free uniforms and free training.

**[View open positions and apply now!](#)**

Thank you for subscribing to our Neighborhood Update!

We'd love to hear what you think about this newsletter. What kinds of information are you interested in, or what would be helpful for your neighborhood? Send your suggestions to [communications@dmgov.org](mailto:communications@dmgov.org).

City of Des Moines | [DSM.city](http://DSM.city)



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