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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 share the new interactive website for a large downtown study, the Vision Zero Action Plan Draft, provide information about summer programming, share information about the Mayor's Ride and more.

As always, thank you for joining the Neighborhood Update!

Sign Up to Receive This Newsletter Each Month

CONSTRUCTION AROUND THE CITY



Vision Zero Safety Action Plan Closer to Reality

Adopted in 2018, Move DSM was the City's first Master Plan dedicated to Transportation. This plan was followed by a complete streets policy update and a new CIP project development process to reflect the goals and objectives. Vision Zero is the next step in focusing on Traffic and Transportation.

Starting in 2022, the City of Des Moines and Toole Design, the nation's leading planning, engineering, and landscape architecture firm, has been working to create an action plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and further enhance the safety of our transportation system for our growing community. The second draft of the Vision Zero Action Plan is now complete and ready for review by the public.

Residents interested in providing feedback on the Action Plan can visit the SocialPinPoint site before May 4. After that, the City will adopt a final Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan and move toward Vision Zero implementation.

[Review the Draft Action Plan Here](#)

Requesting Feedback On Downtown Study



Since November, the Engineering Department and consultants have been conducting a study through the two main corridors downtown, Grand Avenue and Locust Street. The study aims to determine the feasibility of converting both corridors from one-way to two-way roads.

An essential part of this process is getting feedback from residents and businesses to understand what is needed downtown to make transportation safer for everyone.

If you have concerns or see opportunities for improvement, please take five minutes to use the interactive map to provide feedback below!

Interactive Map



2023 Spring and Summer Program Guide Loaded With New Activities



Spring is here, which means summer is around the corner, and kids will be out of school soon. If you're starting to plan how to occupy their time, the Parks and Recreation Department has your back.

"Our staff worked hard to come up with new programming opportunities for the residents of Des Moines," Des Moines Parks and Recreation Director Ben Page said. "We've got new classes, lessons, and special events that are more accessible than ever to the community."

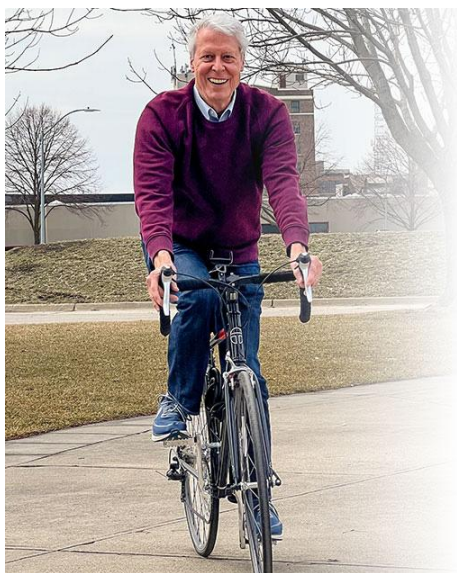
In addition to the new events created for the 2023 outdoor season, some events, like Free Flicks, are getting a revamp. This year's free flicks will be shown on a new, portable LED screen that will allow the movies to be started while it is light out. This year's lineup of free films will also include two aquatic centers for the first time and all movies will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Another area residents will see increased opportunities in 2023 is swim lessons which offer increased capacity after a record 3,456 lessons were provided in 2022. This year, the Parks and Recreation Department is offering up to 5,300 lessons in which families that qualify for GRASP or YRSP scholarships can sign up for \$5 swim lessons.

New Events in 2023

Aqua Zumba (Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.)
 Movies at the Pool - Disney's Luca (August 4)
 Movies at the Pool - Disney's Finding Nemo (June 9)
 Grow Fly Mother's Day (May 13)
 Notable Women of Early Des Moines - Cemetery Tours
 Woof Walk (May 6)
 SCUBA Certification Class (June 3 or July 15)

Mayor's Annual Ride Happening This Saturday



Ride with the Mayor!

Saturday, April 22 @ 10 a.m.

Principal Park to Gray's Lake to Easter Lake



On Saturday, April 22, Des Moines Parks and Recreation is hosting the 2023 Mayor's Annual Ride!

The 19-mile bike ride will start at Principal Park (1 Line Drive) and will go from Lake to Lake - traveling from Gray's Lake to Easter Lake prior to ending back at the stadium.

More than an opportunity to ride our trails with the Mayor, the funds raised by this event go to building "Fix-It Stations" and other projects throughout our trail system.

Fix-It Stations provide an increased and enhanced service to our trail users; these highly supportive, all-steel bike repair service tools are designed with thick steel bodies and innovative hanger arms and are equipped with the necessary tools to assist in on-trail repairs.

All participants are automatically entered to win a Bike World Giant Contend 3 bike (estimated value of \$590) or a Bike World Liv Alight 3 bike (estimated value of \$590).

Sign Up Today!

ADDITIONAL NEWS



City of Des Moines Earns Tree City USA Award



The City of Des Moines was honored with the 2022 Tree City USA Growth Award. The award was presented by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources at the 32nd Annual Community Forestry Awards Luncheon in Ankeny.

"The Tree City USA award is a symbol for communities who have made a commitment to the management of public trees," says state forester Jeff Goerndt. "Your community has provided an outstanding example for other Iowa communities by enhancing our forest resources and demonstrating the great value of trees in providing multiple benefits for future generations."

Des Moines was one of 20 Iowa communities to qualify for Tree City USA Growth status. To receive the award, a city must, at a minimum, provide education and public relations; partnerships; planning and management; and tree planting and maintenance in their communities.

The City Council this spring allocated \$2.5 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for tree planting through 2026.

The Monthly Update From Your Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

Neighborhood Leaders,

Grant Writing/Sponsorships/Advertising

The final Leadership Workshop Session of spring is on May 4, 5:30–7:30 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. Watch your email and this newsletter 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 HTamminga@dmgov.org or call (515) 283-4775.

**Dia del Nino: Save
the Date with DMPL!**

**Download the
Spring edition of
ENGAGE**

**InvestDSM
Announces Major
Development for
Highland Park
Historic Business
District**



Swim Lesson Sign Up Is Now Open

In 2022, a record 3,456 swimming and diving lessons were provided at Des Moines' five aquatics facilities, and this year, there's room for more.

Parks and Recreation will offer a chance for up to 5,300 lessons this summer, which would be a 52% increase in lessons! There are also swim lesson scholarships available, so click below are get signed up!

[Sign Up For Swim Lessons Here](#)

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.

City of Des Moines | DSM.city



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