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ECONOMIC GROWTH

HOUSE FILE 560  
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Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing a public areas, recreation, and key spaces  
2 program and fund, making appropriations, and providing a  
3 contingent effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF-560

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 456A.38 PUBLIC AREAS,  
2 RECREATION, AND KEY SPACES PROGRAM AND FUND -- APPROPRIATION.

3 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise  
4 requires:

5 a. "Committee" means the project review and selection  
6 committee established in subsection 3.

7 b. "Dilapidated" means decayed, deteriorated, or fallen  
8 into partial disuse through neglect or misuse.

9 c. "Fund" means the public areas, recreation, and key  
10 spaces fund created in subsection 4.

11 d. "Program" means the public areas, recreation, and key  
12 spaces program established in subsection 2.

13 2. The department shall establish and administer a public  
14 areas, recreation, and key spaces program for purposes of  
15 providing financial assistance to communities, cities,  
16 counties, organizations, and associations for the location and  
17 construction of recreational parks in areas determined to be  
18 dilapidated and to provide financial assistance for  
19 researching or conducting feasibility studies to determine if  
20 an area is suitable for the location of a recreational park.  
21 Any county or city park must meet the requirements for state  
22 park establishment. Financial assistance under the program  
23 shall take the form of local matching grants.

24 3. The department shall establish a project review and  
25 selection committee consisting of six members selected by the  
26 director. Membership shall consist of two representatives of  
27 cities, two representatives of counties, and two  
28 representatives of organizations. The committee shall review  
29 and evaluate project applications submitted under the program  
30 and develop funding recommendations for submission to the  
31 department. In reviewing applications, the committee shall  
32 consider the public demand or need for recreational parks, the  
33 quality of the site or project, the urgency of the proposed  
34 project, any multiple benefits including economic development  
35 benefits, conformance with local, regional, or statewide

1 plans, geographic distribution of financial assistance awards,  
2 and the quality of the partnership between public and private  
3 interests. The department shall approve, deny, or defer each  
4 recommendation by the committee. In approving a  
5 recommendation, the department may modify recommendations of  
6 the committee. The department shall notify the grow Iowa  
7 values board regarding any award of financial assistance under  
8 the program.

9 4. A public areas, recreation, and key spaces fund is  
10 created in the state treasury under the control of the  
11 department consisting of any moneys appropriated by the  
12 general assembly and any other moneys available to and  
13 obtained or accepted by the department for placement in the  
14 fund. The fund shall be used to provided financial assistance  
15 under the program as provided in subsection 2. Moneys in the  
16 fund are not subject to section 8.33. Notwithstanding section  
17 12C.7, interest or earnings on moneys in the fund shall be  
18 credited to the fund.

19 5. For the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2005, and  
20 ending June 30, 2010, there is appropriated from the grow Iowa  
21 values fund to the department one million dollars each fiscal  
22 year for deposit in the public areas, recreation, and key  
23 spaces fund created in subsection 4.

24 6. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
25 17A for purposes of administering the program.

26 Sec. 2. CONTINGENT EFFECTIVENESS. This Act takes effect  
27 upon the enactment of legislation creating the grow Iowa  
28 values fund and board by the general assembly during the 2005  
29 legislative session.

30 EXPLANATION

31 This bill establishes a public areas, recreation, and key  
32 spaces program and fund.

33 The bill requires the department of natural resources to  
34 establish and administer a public areas, recreation, and key  
35 spaces program for purposes of providing financial assistance

1 to communities, cities, counties, organizations, and  
2 associations for the location and construction of recreational  
3 parks in areas determined to be dilapidated and to provide  
4 financial assistance for researching or conducting feasibility  
5 studies to determine if an area is suitable for the location  
6 of a recreational park. The bill provides that any county or  
7 city park must meet the requirements for state park  
8 establishment. The bill provides that financial assistance  
9 under the program shall take the form of local matching  
10 grants.

11 The bill requires the department to establish a project  
12 review and selection committee consisting of six members  
13 selected by the director of the department of natural  
14 resources for purposes of reviewing and evaluating project  
15 applications and developing funding recommendations for  
16 submission to the department. The bill provides criteria for  
17 the committee to consider in evaluating the applications. The  
18 bill requires the department to approve, deny, or defer each  
19 recommendation by the committee and allows the department to  
20 modify recommendations of the committee. The bill requires  
21 the department to notify the grow Iowa values board regarding  
22 any award of financial assistance under the program.

23 The bill creates a public areas, recreation, and key spaces  
24 fund in the state treasury under the control of the department  
25 consisting of any moneys appropriated by the general assembly  
26 and any other moneys available to and obtained or accepted by  
27 the department for placement in the fund. For the fiscal  
28 period beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2010, the  
29 bill appropriates \$1 million each fiscal year from the grow  
30 Iowa values fund to the department for deposit in the public  
31 areas, recreation, and key spaces fund.

32 The bill takes effect upon enactment of legislation  
33 creating a grow Iowa values fund and board during the 2005  
34 legislative session.

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