

Windom Water Trail

Goal: Increase recreational options within the City of Windom.

Strategy: Provide safe and convenient launch areas for kayaks and canoes at Dynamite Park, Island Park, and Mayflower Park.

Officially designate the Windom Water Trail

Existing Conditions:

The Des Moines River meanders through the City of Windom and provides scenic views and places for outdoor recreation. There are three City Parks along the Des Moines River in Windom that include: Dynamite Park, Island Park, and Mayflower Park. These city parks would provide excellent kayaking and canoe access to the Des Moines River. The length and convenience of the Windom Water Trail would encourage use.

Figure #29 Windom Water Trail



Figure #30

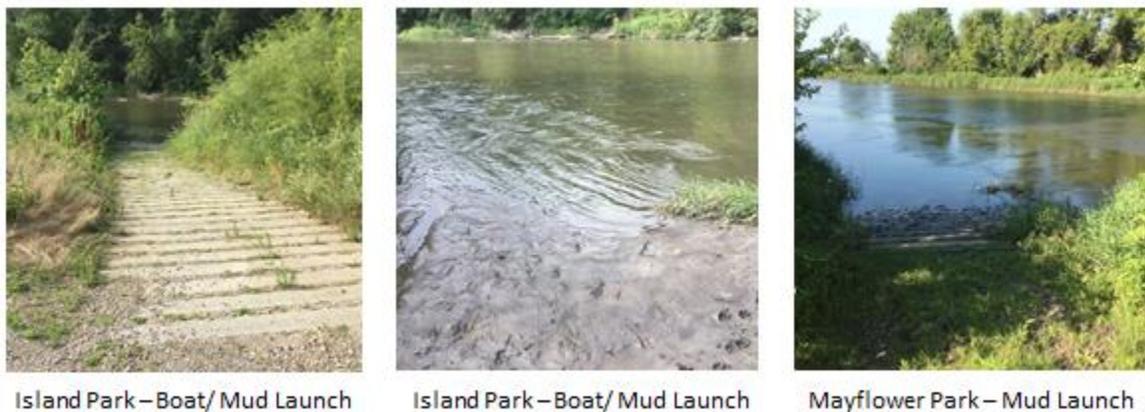
Proposed Water Trail Launch Sites – Windom



There are two existing launches along the Des Moines River in Windom, but these launches need to be improved. There is a boat launch/ mud launch at Island Park and a mud launch at Mayflower Park. Both of these launches are not convenient. By improving the kayak and canoe launches, we will encourage outdoor activity along the Des Moines River. An improved launch will be convenient, safe, and easy to use. With improved facilities, we are planning for increased use and attracting users not only from Windom by the surrounding communities.

Figure #31

Existing Water Launch Points – Windom



There currently is no kayak and canoe launch at Dynamite Park. There were two boat/ mud launches at Island Park, but the upriver launch was removed. This existing launch is functional, but it is muddy and not convenient. There is also an existing launch at Mayflower Park. This existing launch is also muddy and not convenient.

Below is an example of a safe and convenient kayak and canoe launch. The wood deck allows users to easily slide their kayak or canoe in or out of the water and to stay out of the mud when launching. The

section of wood decking by the water can also be adjusted for water level and removed during the winter to reduce the risk of ice damaging the launch.

Figure #32 **Low Impact Kayak & Canoe Launch Examples**



A low impact, “soft” kayak and canoe launch is created to not only make it more convenient and safe to launch, but to reduce the risk of erosion. The existing launches in Windom are mostly mud, so use can increase erosion when people are sliding up and down the bank of the river. There is limited use now, since the launches are not convenient to use.