



Central Iowa Paddlers

May 11, 2005

To: Iowa Recreational Trails Grant Selection Committee

From: Central Iowa Paddlers

Re: Application for Black Hawk County's Cedar River Water Trail grant funding

Dear selection committee,

Central Iowa Paddlers is a regional club offering information and recreational opportunities through weekly paddling updates and a periodic newsletter. Our emphasis is primarily on accessible rivers and lakes in central Iowa and we're especially encouraging of new and beginning paddlers.

We're encouraged ourselves by the partnerships between various organizations that can help spread enthusiasm for our sport and for Iowa's waterways. And we work to promote an ethic of safety and care of our natural resources.

We strongly support the development of water trails throughout Iowa as they fulfill the two major thrusts of our mission -- recreation and, through it, care for our natural resources.

This project is unique in that it highlights a use of the river not commonly considered when people think of Iowa -- whitewater kayaking. Whitewater kayaking is among the fastest growing sports in the country. We know from our partnerships that a strong group of whitewater enthusiasts has established itself right here in the state and we count among our own members many who would be guaranteed to use this resource.

This is a great idea as it holds the potential to draw a lot of attention from both paddlers and the general public to the joy that can be found on Iowa's rivers. The local economic impact of such a whitewater course is evidenced in communities across the country, from Colorado to Wausau, Wis. Such a course would be a boon to Cedar Falls and Waterloo. We strongly support this grant application.

Sincerely,

David Kraemer
2005 Chairman
Central Iowa Paddlers