

## City accepts \$70K for North Platte River plan



The North Platte River buzzes with activity along Morad Park on Wednesday afternoon in Casper. The city accepted a \$70,000 grant from the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust on Tuesday, which will help pay for a long-term study on the river's water flow. (Dan Cepeda/Star-Tribune)

By PETE NICKEAS  
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The city took the first step Tuesday night in its long-term planning for the North Platte River, authorizing the acceptance of \$70,000 to help pay for a study of the river's water flow.

The city also committed to a "master plan" in addition to the "hydrology plan" by accepting the grant from the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust.

The expected \$240,000 price tag for both plans will be paid for with the grant money, \$70,000 from the Platte River Revival and about \$100,000 from the city.

The city has until the summer of 2012 to complete both plans, but the grant agreement allows for some wiggle room if the city can't afford the studies right away.

Jolene Martinez, an administrative analyst with the city and Casper's point person for Keep Casper Beautiful, said many of the groups involved with the annual Platte River Revival clean-up day will also be involved with the master and hydrology plans.

The city will contract with an outside firm to draw both plans, so once the city council decides specifically what it wants, council members will seek bids. Martinez said she hopes to have it done before the end of October.

The river clean-up day is scheduled for Sept. 19.

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