

# MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** September 7, 2023

**TO:** Environmental Services Commission

**FROM:** Eric LaFrance, Engineering Planning Manager  
Gary Schimek, Contract Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** Watershed Management Plan Update

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## **ACTION REQUIRED**

No action required; this is an information briefing only.

## **BACKGROUND**

On October 20, 2020, Utilities staff briefed the Environmental Services Commission on the following elements of work that provide major data sources for development of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

- Open Streams Condition Assessment
- Watershed Assessment Reports
- Watershed Prioritization and Improvement Toolkit
- Watershed Improvement Strategies
- Public Engagement Strategies

In addition, staff presented the project framework of the WMP including the relationships between all of the above elements.

On November 2, 2021, Utilities staff provided a progress report on the WMP development, including completion of two watershed assessment reports, significant progress on the WMP toolkit, and preliminary results from the first phase of public engagement. Potential future policies that would be brought to the Environmental Services Commission for review were identified and were related to in-stream restoration projects, stormwater management priorities, and incorporating a social justice lens into project selection.

This informational briefing will provide an overview of the overall WMP process and an update on the status of the WMP since the last ESC briefing in November 2021. The key work elements since the last ESC briefing includes the completion of the Watershed Improvement Strategies, the development of the scope of work and schedule for the second phase of public engagement, and the development of the scope of work and schedule for the final technical, financial, and policy elements of the WMP.

## **Discussion**

The Watershed Improvement Strategies report identified 39 potential investments across the entire City related to stormwater flow control, water quality pollution reduction, and aquatic habitat and in-stream restoration. These investments may be implemented by the City of Bellevue, regional partners such as King County and WSDOT, non-profit organizations, the development community, and Bellevue citizens.

The foundational element of the second phase of public engagement will include general and targeted outreach/education to our community about the WMP through both the development and launch of a website and the printing and mailing of postcards. The dual approach of the website and postcards will be used to solicit interest from our entire community to participate in a survey to inform the development of the draft and final WMP.

### **POLICY ISSUES**

The WMP will identify future policies related to watershed and stormwater management for the City of Bellevue. These policies will be brought to the Environmental Services Commission for review next year.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The WMP is funded in the Storm and Surface Water Planning Program (D-112) in the approved 2023-2029 Utilities Capital Investment Program. The plan, when completed and adopted, will inform future capital and operational budget proposals for the storm and surface water fund.