

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution authorizing submittal of four grant applications to the State of Washington’s Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for Parks & Community Services property acquisition and development projects.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION Adoption of a Resolution authorizing submission of four grant applications totaling \$4,250,000 for Lake Sammamish property acquisitions for a future park on Lake Sammamish, reimbursement for a Coal Creek property acquisition, and a dock replacement project at Phantom Lake.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10609

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is a state agency that provides funding to protect and improve Washington’s natural and outdoor recreation resources. Since the 1960s, Bellevue Parks & Community Services (PCS) has regularly applied for and received grant funding for park property acquisition and development to further leverage city investment. Parks & Community Services seeks authorization to pursue four grant applications related to three project sites detailed below.

RCO Program	Property / purpose	Amount
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	Lake Sammamish one reimbursement and one new acquisition	\$2,000,000
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	Lake Sammamish one reimbursement and one new acquisition	\$1,000,000
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	Coal Creek / Lakemont property acquisition reimbursement	\$1,000,000
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	Phantom Lake dock replacement	\$250,000

Lake Sammamish

Public access to the waterfront is consistently identified as a top priority in resident surveys for the Parks and Open Space System Plan. Today, Bellevue’s public access to the water is primarily located on Lake Washington. Currently, there is no public access to Lake Sammamish for recreation or other

needs within city limits. Parks & Community Services has been steadily acquiring properties along Lake Sammamish for future development of a waterfront park, the city's first on Lake Sammamish.

Two grant applications under RCO's Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Program seek a total of \$3 million to support two Lake Sammamish property acquisitions. One acquisition was completed in 2024 under City Council Resolution No. 10448 for the property located at 1802 W. Lake Sammamish Pkwy SE. If received, grant funds will partially reimburse the city's investment. In addition, staff have identified a potential new property acquisition on Lake Sammamish that would add additional shoreline area for the future beachfront park. If received, this grant would leverage the city's investment in that potential new acquisition.

Coal Creek

On December 10, 2024, City Council approved an acquisition under Resolution No. 10461 for a property in the Coal Creek Lakemont neighborhood. PCS Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds and a King County Conservation Futures grant were used for the purchase. A \$1 million grant request would provide additional reimbursement to the city for a portion of this acquisition.

Phantom Lake

The existing public dock at Phantom Lake currently doesn't provide high-quality or equitable access and needs replacement. Parks & Community Services intends to replace the existing structure with a new floating dock to improve accessibility for the general public to the water, including launching of non-motorized watercraft. A grant request in the amount of \$250,000 would help offset the costs for replacement of the dock.

Process

RCO requires the council's authorization to submit grant applications to the agency. This Resolution only authorizes staff to proceed with the grant application; it does not commit the city to accept the grant award or authorize staff to proceed with additional acquisitions or projects. Should the city receive any award from RCO, staff will return to seek approval for accepting the grant. Furthermore, any additional property acquisition will require a separate City Council action.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

When possible, the city utilizes multiple funding sources to acquire land and improve the parks, recreation, trails, and open space system. City policy encourages the city to seek additional funding sources and leverage local funds.

City of Bellevue Comprehensive Plan: Parks, Recreation & Open Space:

PA-2. Obtain land throughout the community to meet present and future parks and open space needs, with emphasis on providing park land concurrent with growth and density of urban neighborhoods, in alignment with the Parks and Open Space System Plan.

PA-7. Obtain, for preservation, natural areas that are sensitive to development or represent a valuable ecological resource to the community.

PA-8. Acquire and develop waterfront property to increase public access to Bellevue's lakes.

PA-10. Develop partnerships with other public agencies, non-profits and the private sector to provide and fund parks, open space, and cultural and recreation facilities in the city.

PA-11. Actively seek funding from a variety of sources to help implement a park acquisition and development program using tools such as levies, grants, impact fees, special taxing districts or other methods.

PA-41: Evaluate existing parks and facilities, and renovate, where appropriate, to maximize efficient maintenance and operating practices, improve safety and accessibility for all users, and to reduce, where feasible, the impacts on adjacent properties.

Fiscal Impact

This action authorizes the grant applications up to \$4,250,000. There is no fiscal impact associated with submitting these grant applications. If awarded, the city is required to provide matching funds. Previously awarded King County Conservation Futures grants qualify as a match for the property acquisitions, while the existing Parks Renovation fund may be used for the Phantom Lake dock replacement match. Based upon funding availability, award amount and other factors, the city will decide whether to proceed with accepting the award in a separate future City Council action.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing submittal of four grant applications to the State of Washington’s Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for Parks & Community Services property acquisition and development projects.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

A. RCO Resolution for Authorization Form
Proposed Resolution No. 10609

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A