

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide a Washington Conservation Corps crew to perform forest and nature trail maintenance and enhancement services, in an amount not to exceed \$148,800, plus all applicable taxes.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, 452-5377

Geoff Bradley, Natural Resource Manager, 452-2740

Rick Bailey, Forest Management Program Supervisor, 452-6031

Parks & Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes the execution of a contract with the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE), which will provide the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Natural Resource (NR) Division with a Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew for a 30-week term to provide maintenance and enhancement services for 2,000 acres of forested open space and 92+ miles of nature trails.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10139

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The NR Division provides site management services for approximately 2,000 acres of undeveloped forested open space properties including 92+ miles of nature trails. Proactive management of these public assets contributes to Bellevue's reputation as a "city in a park" and helps meet Council's environmental goals of protecting and enhancing native tree canopy, fish and wildlife habitat, stormwater management, public safety, land use buffers, and water quality. Management activities of these assets include forest/ecological restoration, tree risk management, and trail construction and maintenance. The NR Division accomplishes these maintenance activities through a combination of in-house labor and contracted services.

Annually, the DOE provides a unique opportunity to participate in a cost sharing partnership that provides eligible municipalities and tribes with a six person AmeriCorps staffed WCC crew to perform natural resource maintenance and enhancement activities. These activities include invasive vegetation suppression and removal, native plant species installation and maintenance, wetland creation and enhancement, wildlife structure enhancement, and nature trail construction and maintenance. Under this partnership, the DOE will provide recruiting, training, and administration of the WCC crew while contributing 25 percent of the total crew cost. Parks & Community Services, as the partnering agency, will provide project specific guidance and 75 percent of the total crew cost. The NR Division went through a competitive application process and was selected by DOE to host a WCC crew for a 30-week term during the 2022-2023 crew year. This partnership is mutually beneficial to both the DOE and the NR Division as it provides for the stewardship of our valuable natural resources at a reduced cost and

provides meaningful service opportunities for AmeriCorps volunteers comprised of young adults and military veterans.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Bellevue City Code 4.28 provides for the fair and equitable treatment of all persons involved in the purchasing process. Council approval is required to award a contract where the cost exceeds \$90,000.

Implementation of this project is consistent with the following Comprehensive Plan policies:

- Environment Element, EN-63: Preserve and maintain fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas and wetlands in a natural state and restore similar areas that have become degraded.
- Environment Element, EN-70: Improve wildlife habitat especially in patches and linkages by enhancing vegetation composition and structure and incorporating indigenous plant species compatible with the site.
- Parks, Recreation & Open Space Element, PA-31: Manage Bellevue's forest resources, including street trees, formal plantings, and self-sustained natural stands to ensure their long-term vitality.

Fiscal Impact

Awarding this contract will obligate the City to pay an amount up to \$148,800, plus all applicable taxes. Sufficient funds exist in the 2021-2027 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Parks Renovation and Refurbishment Plan (CIP Project No. P-R-11) to fully fund this contract.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide a Washington Conservation Corps crew to perform forest and nature trail maintenance and enhancement services, in an amount not to exceed \$148,800, plus all applicable taxes.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

A. CIP No. P-R-11 Renovation and Refurbishment of Parks Facilities
Proposed Resolution No. 10139

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Department of Ecology NR Contract