

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Resolution authorizing submittal of two grant applications to the State of Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The first application requests up to \$1.18 million to assist with the cost of constructing a multi-use trail at Mercer Slough Nature Park to connect the Mountains to Sound and Eastrail regional trails. The second application requests up to \$1.85 million to assist with potential property acquisition on Lake Sammamish.

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Parks & Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes submission of two grant applications that will assist in filling key gaps in the City's park system and trail network. The proposed multi-use trail connection will link two flagship regional trails while also filling a gap in the Mercer Slough Nature Park trail system and the Citywide Lake to Lake Trail. The Lake Sammamish property acquisition proposed for grant funding is part of a larger set of acquisitions that will expand and connect two existing park properties, the 90-acre Weowna Park and 1.2 acres of City-owned property on Lake Sammamish, setting the stage for a future park on Lake Sammamish.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 9795

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is a state agency that provides leadership and funding to protect and improve Washington's natural and outdoor recreation resources, now and for future generations.

The first RCO grant application requests assistance in developing a trail connector to link the 42-mile Eastrail with the 100-mile Mountains to Sound Trail. While the Eastrail master plan calls for an elevated structure to connect the trails, the structure is not likely to be built for many years due to cost and complexity of construction. Near-term access between the Eastrail and Mountains to Sound Trail can be provided along the eastern edge of Mercer Slough Nature Park, bordering 118th Avenue SE. This multi-use trail will connect the Mountains to Sound Trail to SE 32nd Street, where King County is constructing a ramp to access the Eastrail at the 32nd Street Trestle. The proposed trail would also fill a gap in the local Mercer Slough Nature Park Periphery Loop trail system.

The second RCO grant application requests assistance with property acquisition to support the development of a future public park, the City's first on Lake Sammamish. The acquisition will unlock 390 linear feet of public waterfront access where none currently exists. The acquisition will be combined with adjacent parcel acquisitions secured by Parks & Community Services that together will

connect the waterfront parcels to Weowna Park and the Lake to Lake Trail.

RCO requires Council authorization in order to submit grant applications to the agency. This Resolution authorizes only the grant applications, it does not authorize or commit the City to proceed with either project. The decision to proceed with either project will be made in the future as part of the CIP Budget process or separate City Council action.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

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

- PA-2. Obtain land throughout the community to meet present and future parks and open space needs.
- PA-4. Connect Bellevue's parks and trails to the regional system of nearby state, King County and neighboring city parks, greenways, trails and facilities.
- PA-6. Acquire and develop waterfront property to increase public access to Bellevue's lakes.
- PA-9. Actively seek funding from a variety of sources to help implement a park acquisition and development program.
- PA-12. Develop pedestrian and bicycle linkages between neighborhoods and major natural areas, recreation facilities, schools and commercial centers.
- PA-13. Collaborate with King County, Sound Transit and neighboring jurisdictions in the planning and development of the regional Eastside Rail Corridor trail system.

Fiscal Impact

This action will only authorize the grant applications. There is no fiscal impact associated with submitting these grant applications. If awarded, the City is required to provide matching funds. In response to the COVID-19 crisis and attendant impacts on jurisdictional budgets, RCO has reduced the required local match for each grant from 50 percent to 25 percent for this grant round only. Based upon funding availability, award amount and other factors, the City will decide whether to proceed with each project in a separate future City Council action.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing submittal of two grant applications to the State of Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The first application requests up to \$1.18 million to assist with the cost of constructing a multi-use trail at Mercer Slough Nature Park to connect the Mountains to Sound and Eastrail regional trails. The second application requests up to \$1.85 million to assist with potential property acquisition on Lake Sammamish.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

A. RCO Resolution for Authorization Form
Proposed Resolution No. 9795

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A