

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 4, 2021

TO: Environmental Services Commission

FROM: Brian Landau, Engineering Planning Manager
Jerry Shuster, Senior Stormwater Engineer

SUBJECT: Watershed Management Plan Update

ACTION REQUIRED

None. This is an information briefing only.

BACKGROUND

On October 20, 2020, Utilities staff briefed the Environmental Services Commission on the Open Streams Condition Assessment, which provides a major source of data for development of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP). In addition, staff presented the project framework of the WMP including the relationships between the Open Streams Condition Assessment, the watershed assessments reports, watershed prioritization, watershed improvement toolkit, watershed improvement plans, and public engagement strategy.

This informational briefing will provide an update on the status of the WMP development, including accomplishments over the past 12 months, including completion of two assessment reports, significant progress on the WMP toolkit, and preliminary results from the first phase of public engagement.

Discussion

Over the past several months, staff received community input through an on-line survey and this input focused on the following question:

- What do you value the most about the streams, lakes and wetlands in Bellevue?

Community members were asked to select up to 5 choices from the following table.

Crucial to local ecosystem	Important to health
Wildlife habitat	Public access/Use
Connect with nature	Recreation
Natural beauty	Connect to ancestors and indigenous peoples of the land
Connect with religion/spirituality	Other (Specify)

In addition to sharing the results of this survey, staff would like to obtain the Commission's input on this question at the November 4th meeting.

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 and may include recommended policies for approaching in-stream restoration projects, stormwater management priorities, and incorporating a social justice lens into project selection.

FISCAL IMPACT

The WMP is funded in the Storm and Surface Water Planning Program (D-112) in the approved 2021-2027 Utilities Capital Investment Program. The plan, when completed and adopted, will inform future capital and operational budget proposals for the stormwater fund.