



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Shauna Hansen, P.E., Watershed Planning Group, Science and Engineering
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services Department
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution - Interlocal Agreement with Pierce Conservation District to Manage the
"Depave" and "Orcas Love Raingardens" Programs - June 21, 2022
DATE: May 25, 2022

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SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement with Pierce Conservation District, in the amount of \$75,000, budgeted from ES Stormwater, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Funds, to manage the Depave and Orcas Love Raingardens programs in partnership with the Tacoma Public School District.

BACKGROUND:

This Department's Recommendation is Based On: Replacing and updating the existing Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Pierce Conservation District (PCD) for continued implementation of the Depave and Orcas Love Raingardens (OLR) programs with emphasis on the community's desire for these two programs. The updated ILA includes a revised budget, reduced by \$10,000, which was from a one-time City Council Contingency Fund designation, and adding clarifying language under the responsibilities sections of the ILA.

Depave is a PCD program promoting the removal of unnecessary pavement and overly compacted lawn from urban areas to create community green spaces and mitigate stormwater runoff. Through community partnerships and volunteer engagement, Depave strives to overcome the social and environmental impacts of pavement with the use of action-oriented educational events, community stewardship, and advocacy to empower Tacoma neighbors to take action to reduce stormwater and climate impacts and to improve neighborhoods.

The Orcas Love Raingardens program is a collaborative partnership between the City and PCD serving to coordinate with the Tacoma Public School District to install rain gardens providing stormwater quality and infiltration benefits to the City and hands-on opportunities for students to plant and care for rain gardens at their school. This partnership will further promote water quality education by providing students and their family access to educational, interactive rain gardens with opportunities to learn about the role of Green Infrastructure in protecting orcas and green jobs training in GSI maintenance.

Currently, the City does not provide Depave and OLR program services directly to the community, and PCD is better prepared to cost effectively deliver projects and manage these programs. Staff recommend continuing to utilize PCD to manage the programs. PCD is cost effective in managing the programs, effectively coordinate with volunteers, and leveraging other community partners and funding to complete the projects.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The OLR program sites include support for bond schools throughout Tacoma that add rain gardens to their campuses through capital projects, as well as several rain garden retrofit projects prioritizing schools in low opportunity areas that are not scheduled for bond improvements (e.g., First Creek Middle School and Blix Elementary School.) PCD staff worked closely with school principals and teachers to identify opportunities at schools throughout Tacoma, with a focus on low and very low opportunity areas.

Depave projects are identified through a community outreach process. Historically, Depave projects were nominated by local community groups or businesses. In 2021, PCD piloted a new Green Stormwater Mini-grant program through which they solicited small-scale Depave project proposals on residential and commercial properties and provided hands-on site visits and meetings with each applicant to help scope out Depave opportunities. The mini-grant evaluation scoring provides extra points for projects located in low and very low opportunity neighborhoods.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

Supporting the OLR and Depave programs expands neighborhood greening efforts in low opportunity areas of Tacoma which comes with many benefits relating to air quality improvement, reducing urban heat islands and stormwater runoff, traffic calming, and improving mental health and overall quality of life. Both of the programs prioritize working in lower opportunity areas of Tacoma and Pierce County. Because PCD is providing project design and coordination and the City is providing in-kind services at no cost to the participants, the green infrastructure projects are made available for drastically reducing the investments of community members' time and money.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

- Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.
- Increase the availability of industry-specific education programs to support identified growth sectors.

Education: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

- Increase the number of quality out of school time learning opportunities distributed equitably across the City.
- Demonstrate community support for education by increasing support for school levies and bonds; volunteering and mentoring youth.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

- Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering.
- Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Livability: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

- Helps the health of the natural environment (e.g., reduction in carbon, increased green spaces, sustainability, clean air, water, and soil, and reduce noise pollution).
- Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents.



Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

As the City continues to work with PCD to support construction of more rain gardens to enhance outdoor learning opportunities and green jobs training in local schools, as well as create more depaved green spaces in neighborhoods through community volunteer events, the green infrastructure projects will provide physical neighborhood improvements which help increase livability and community health as well as supplement education and volunteer engagement opportunities in the low opportunity neighborhoods where these projects are located.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Continue with existing ILA.	No need for council action.	Existing ILA does not adequately address program coordination needs or gaps that were identified through the implementation of the Depave and OLR programs.
2. No ILA with PCD, but contract out the work to a consultant and a contractor or hire additional staff.	N/A	Not an efficient or cost effective option.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

The 2019 ILA goal/performance measure is to: install one to two or more new rain gardens at Tacoma schools annually once a new program coordinator is installed, support ongoing classroom use of the rain gardens and assist with ongoing maintenance for the first five years of all OLR built rain gardens with student or community volunteers. The proposed ILA goal/performance measure is to depave and plant up to 4,500 square feet or more of paved areas annually and support initial maintenance of these spaces for the first three years.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Environmental Services recommends authorizing the execution of an ILA with PCD, in the amount of \$75,000, budgeted from ES Stormwater, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Funds, to manage the Depave and OLR programs in partnership with the Tacoma Public School District.



FISCAL IMPACT:

The following annual budget amounts are designated to pay for staff time and materials provided by the City to support the Depave and OLR programs, such as: design review, TAGRO products and delivery, solid waste drop boxes and pavement recycling services, and pavement preparation. The entire list of City-sponsored activities is listed in the responsibilities section of the ILA,

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 4301 ES Stormwater Fund	80026101	Various	\$42,500
2. 4300 ES Wastewater Fund	527000	5210500	\$22,500
3. 4200 ES Solid Waste Fund	80026102	5416050	\$10,000
TOTAL			\$75,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense? ES Utility Rates

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?

YES
The revenues are available in the 2022 budget to support ES in-kind services referenced in the ILA. The 2023-2024 budget and future biennial budget requests will continue to include the Depave and OLR program costs.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

YES

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

No
The City contributions in the ILA are supported by existing City personnel FTEs.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Interlocal Agreement with Pierce Conservation District