



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST (CCR)**

**TO:** Mayor & City Council  
**FROM:** Council Member Chris Beale and Senior Management Fellow Bucoda Warren  
**COPIES TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney; Executive Leadership Team; File  
**SUBJECT:** **Support the Installation of a Rain Garden at One or More Schools in Tacoma**  
**DATE:** January 29, 2019

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**ITEM/ISSUE PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

**I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda at the earliest available meeting of the Study Session:**

I respectfully request City Council concurrence to direct the City Manager to allocate \$10,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund to support the installation of a rain garden at one or more schools in Tacoma to support Orca health in the Puget Sound.

**BRIEF BACKGROUND:**

Orcas Love Raingardens (OLR) is a collaborative partnership between the City of Tacoma, Metro Parks Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, Pierce Conservation District, Defenders of Wildlife, and Washington Environmental Council. The program is designed to oversee and support the installation and continued maintenance of raingardens and other forms of GI at public schools and parks in Tacoma. This partnership works to save the Resident Orcas of the Puget Sound through the building of rain gardens and other green infrastructure. OLR also strives to use these projects to educate Tacoma Public School students and their families about the role of green infrastructure in protecting orcas.

OLR has installed a half dozen rain gardens across schools focusing on those that lack opportunity while committing to their values of equity, diversity, inclusion, and ensuring social, racial, and environmental justice concerns are recognized. This funding would support the addition of one or more rain gardens and show the City's commitment to protecting orcas.

Environmental Services supports OLR's vision that all Tacoma Public Schools students and their families will have access to educational, interactive raingardens and will have opportunities to learn about the role of Green Infrastructure in protecting orcas. Environmental Services also provides technical support and some in-kind services for design. Staff has assisted in a couple of planting of the raingardens at schools. The permeable pavement project coming to the IDEA school in south Tacoma is an example of this work.

Specific OLR duties include:

- Conducting outreach to schools interested in OLR and coordinating with teachers and staff on installing and/or maintain school raingardens.
- Assist in securing funding and coordinating volunteers to install new raingardens at schools.
- Check in on the maintenance needs of new raingardens for no more than 5 years after their installation. Partners will assist with securing funding and coordinating volunteers to complete necessary maintenance.

- Provide free educational resources and opportunities to teachers participating in the program, including curriculum guides, expert presentations, and field trips. Teachers will have the freedom to select any resources that are relevant to their existing lesson plans (i.e. the use of these resources is not required for school participation in the program).

Projects identified for 2019 by OLR include restoring raingardens at Baker and Fern Hill schools, and building a new raingarden at Skyline school.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT PATH:**

**Request for policy development and legislation**

**This item is best aligned with the purview of the following Council Standing Committee** (refer to Council Standing Committee Process Manual):

- Community Vitality and Safety                       Economic Development  
 Government Performance and Finance    Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability

**Request for Resolution**

**Is there a specific deadline for this request?** *(Note: All Council Consideration Requests will be expedited as soon as possible) 2/5/2019*

**Please provide a brief explanation of deadline.** Next Study Session.

**FUNDING REQUESTED:**

**Council Contingency Fund Request** \*Please provide the Council Contingency Fund Biennial Budget Document if this request is for the use of this fund.

Does the request require some other type of funding?  One-time                       Ongoing

\$10,000

Pursuant to TMC 1.06.256 and 1.06.257 procurement of the services through this CCR are deemed to be in the best interests of the City and the competitive solicitation process should be waived. *(Check if competitive waiver is requested)*

**In you have a question related to the Council Consideration Request, please contact Bucoda Warren at (253) 594.7925 or Bucoda.Warren@CityofTacoma.org.**



**SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Council Member Chris Beale**

**SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)**

*(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)*

1.  \_\_\_\_\_

POS # 1

2.  \_\_\_\_\_

POS# 4