



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** John Burk, P.E., Science and Engineering Division Manager, Environmental Services  
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Pierce County Parks Conservation Futures – Resolution Request for Grant Acceptance  
**DATE:** November 28, 2023

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### SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the execution of a grant agreement (or “agreement to fund”) with the Pierce County Conservation Futures Grant program in the amount up to \$264,070, plus eligible costs; accepting and depositing said sum into an escrow account and authorizing the expenditure of up to \$35,930 in matching funds, budgeted from the ES Stormwater Fund 4301, for a maximum total of \$300,000, plus eligible costs, to fund appraisal and purchase of 15.5 acres for the purpose of protecting natural habitat and providing stormwater benefit, and further authorizing the execution and closing of purchase and sale agreement and draft conservation agreement.

### BACKGROUND:

The Environmental Services Department’s recommendation is based on the City’s commitment to the Environmental Services’ rate funded passive open space program. This program manages approximately 500 acres of City owned natural areas for the public benefit of improving surface water quality and quantity. The mission of the passive open space program is to restore properties to functioning ecosystems through removal of invasive vegetation and installation of native plants. If approved, these acres will be enrolled in the passive open space program.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Acquiring these acres, with the monetary support of Pierce County’s Conservation Futures Grant program, will benefit the general public, specifically those in the Northeast Tacoma area. The area will be vegetatively restored with crew and volunteer efforts. The addition of these acres supports community and City vetted plans, policies and goals including: Climate Action Plan, One Tacoma: Comprehensive Plan, Tideflats Subarea Plan, Urban Forestry Management Plan, Tacoma Municipal Code 13.11, and the Open Space 20-year Strategic Plan.

### 2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

#### Equity and Accessibility:

Approval of this resolution will support City initiatives and goals benefitting all of Tacoma. The most direct effect will be to the residents and users of Northeast Tacoma by nature of its geographic location.

#### Livability: *Equity Index Score:* Very High Opportunity

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.



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

The preservation and restoration of the property and prevention of the property being developed will preserve the City’s natural aesthetic, retain air quality benefits, preserve natural buffer between port operations, preserve steep slope areas, and make marked gains towards meeting climate goals.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. No action	Development	Development, no preservation restoration

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

With an approval, public ownership will allow the area to be restored and preserved. Enrolling additional acres into the passive open space program to be stewarded by Environmental Services will allow for vegetation improvements and active maintenance and monitoring of this parcel.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Environmental Services recommends approval of this legislation. Approval will ensure restoration and preservation of 15.5 acres in Northeast Tacoma and help the City meet goals and implement plans as explained above. Approval must be received by December 19, 2023, in order to meet grant program guidelines.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

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Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 4301 Surface Water Fund	521900	4343041	\$35,930
2. Pierce County Conservation Futures Grant to Escrow	N/A	N/A	\$264,070
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$300,00

**What Funding is being used to support the expense?**

Majority of the funding to purchase comes from the Pierce County Conservation Futures Grant Program. The remaining funding comes from collected stormwater fees dedicated to the passive open space program.

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

YES

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

No



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**Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?**

YES

As a property enrolled in the passive open space program, the area will require restoration and maintenance that will be covered by existing passive open space funding and labor.

**Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?**

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Site map
- Pierce County Conservation Futures Grant Application
- Grant Approval Form
- Stewardship Agreement
- Agreement to Fund