



**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Elizabeth Matteri, Natural Resources Analyst, Associate, Science and Engineering  
John Burk, P.E., Division Manager, Science and Engineering  
Geoffrey M. Smyth, P.E., Interim Director, Environmental Services  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution – Interlocal Agreement with Pierce Conservation District to implement green stormwater infrastructure and low impact development projects, co-manage the open space volunteer program and, to maintain and grow Tacoma’s urban tree canopy - December 17, 2024  
**DATE:** November 14, 2024

Initial  
GMS

**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement with Pierce Conservation District (PCD), in the amount up to \$611,878, budgeted from Stormwater Fund, to assist with the implementation of green stormwater infrastructure and low impact development projects, co-manage the open space volunteer program, and to help grow Tacoma’s urban tree canopy, for a two-year period beginning January 1, 2025.

**BACKGROUND:**

This Department’s recommendation is based on compliance with the Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit and City goals stated in the City’s Climate Action Plan, Stormwater Management Plan, and the Urban Watershed Protection Plan to ultimately relieve pressures on our stormwater infrastructure and our urban natural areas. This agreement will streamline the City’s reach and ability to preserve and improve the natural environment by implementing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) and low impact development (LID) projects, stewarding open spaces, reconnecting communities to nature, providing trees and preserving tree canopy to improve ecosystem function and reduce heat island effects. Additionally, this agreement will enhance and expand the City’s existing collaborations with Pierce Conservation District allowing for increased efficiency.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

The programs under this interlocal agreement are community focused. The Green Stormwater Mini-Grants, Depave, and Make-a-Splash Grants programs engage community members in GSI/LID projects that protect, clean, and restore surface water and promote stormwater education. The City’s 515 acres of open natural areas provide numerous public benefits including: management of stormwater quantity and quality, community health and well-being, urban wildlife habitat, climate resiliency, and heat island reduction. The Open Space volunteer and outreach programs under this agreement will focus on community engagement, education, and stewardship related to City open spaces, particularly in south and east Tacoma, and includes Green Tacoma Day. The habitat steward and Washington Conservation Corps training included in the agreement will promote education and work force development for community members and youth. Finally, the urban tree programs supported by this agreement provide trees to the Tacoma community for planting with the goal to increase tree canopy and all the co-benefits associate with shade and green spaces.



**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

The programs under this agreement contribute to the health and well-being of the environment and Tacoma residents. This will be achieved through improved: air and water quality, stormwater interception and infiltration, tree canopy, and access to green spaces. As population density and climate change impacts increase, including increased extreme heat events, the work accomplished under these programs will help moderate those impacts throughout Tacoma, including low-income and underserved communities.

**Education:** *Equity Index Score:* High Opportunity

Increase the number of quality out of school time learning opportunities distributed equitably across the city.

**Civic Engagement:** *Equity Index Score:* High Opportunity

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

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 High Opportunity

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), for all Tacoma residents.

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

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

The GSI and LID stormwater programs will allow for direct and positive impacts to the health of the City’s surface water through community direction and input for the types of projects and their locations. The Open Space volunteer program will create regularly occurring work parties, primarily in open spaces in low-income and underserved areas of the City, positively impacting the environment through restoration work, and community health and well-being. In addition to the environmental benefits, the tree programs under this agreement will benefit neighborhoods and individual community members through noise and traffic reduction, reduced heat island effects, and interception of stormwater. For many of these programs’ community outreach, education, and feedback are directly built into their missions; teaching community about the environment and giving them access to information, materials and tools to make informed decisions that will directly and positively influence their families, neighborhoods, and the community at large.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Do not approve agreement with Pierce Conservation District.	Programs will continue at limited capacity.	Limited ability to expand the programs under the agreement, limiting community, stormwater, and environmental benefits.
2. Seek multiple agreements or	Programs will be able to continue at limited capacity.	Increased labor to manage various agreements/contracts.



contracts for the various programs with alternative labor.		Limited ability to expand the programs under the agreement, limiting community, stormwater, and environmental benefits.
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**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

PCD will report on progress quarterly and at biannual meetings with the City program leads. Progress will include, but is not limited to: grant awards received, volunteer work parties, education and outreach materials, trees sold or given to the community. Achievements will be shared with Environmental Services management and through the City’s website.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of this legislation in order to more effectively run the included programs, which will lead to greater environmental and community benefit. Council approval is needed by December 31, 2024.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

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Fund Number & Name	COST (CC/WBS/ORDER)	OBJECT	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. ES Stormwater Fund 4301	Various		5310100	\$611,878
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$611,878</b>

**What Funding is being used to support the expense?** ES Stormwater Fund 4301

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

YES  
All program costs are budgeted for the 2025-2026 biennium. If the contract is extended beyond 2026, additional funding will be requested.

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

No

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

YES  
This contract is anticipated to renew biennially.

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

No  
Agreement administration will be absorbed with current personnel.



City of Tacoma

## City Council Action Memorandum

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Agreement