



## Staff Report

May 16, 2022 Council Workshop Meeting

Backyard Habitat Certification Program Renewal

Presenter: Steve Wall, Public Works Director

Time Estimate: 5 minutes

Phone	Email
360.817.7899	swall@cityofcamas.us

**BACKGROUND:** This is a renewal of an existing program that started in 2019. The Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington continues to work with Portland Audubon and Columbia Land Trust to bring the Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP) to Clark County.

**SUMMARY:** The intent of the BHCP is to provide technical assistance, financial incentives, encouragement, and recognition to people that want to create natural, low-maintenance gardens that support people, wildlife, and the planet. This program will help reduce the urban footprint and meet the City's Stormwater NPDES Permit requirements for stewardship.

The Watershed Alliance visited a number of sites in the City of Camas this last year and there are still many eager participants on the waiting list.

### **EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:**

What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?

- The BHCP will help reduce the urban footprint.

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

- The data includes the number of homes that has started the BHCP, achieved certification and number of people who are still on the waiting list. The data tells us what part of Clark County have reduction in urban footprint.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

- The Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington have done promotions and tabling events to engage the community to participate.

Who will benefit from, or be burdened by this agenda item?

- The City and Clark County as a whole should benefit from this project.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

- The Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington provides technical assistance and is a great resource for homeowners when questions arise.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.

- N/A

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibilities for people with disabilities?

- N/A

What potential hurdles exist in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?

- The biggest hurdles are getting homeowners to participate and having adequate funding to provide the technical assistance.

How will you ensure accountabilities, communicate, and evaluate results?

- The Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington provides biannual reports that show County and City data, as well as educational and outreach events that were done.

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?

- This project will help the City meet the Stormwater NPDES Permit requirements for stewardship and education.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** \$11,836 expenditure from the Stormwater Capacity Grant received from the Department of Ecology. There will be no direct budget impact to the Stormwater Fund.

**RECOMMENDATION:** This item is for Council's information only. Staff recommends this item be placed on the June 6, 2022 Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.