



Staff Report

March 15, 2021 Council Workshop

Backyard Habitat Certification Program Agreement Amendment

Presenter: Steve Wall, Public Works Director

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SUMMARY: The City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Columbia Land Trust in June 2020 to participate in the "Backyard Habitat Certification Program". As discussed with Council in 2020, the Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington has teamed up with Portland Audubon and Columbia Land Trust to bring the Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP) to Clark County. 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 is a win-win as it helps reduce the urban footprint, provide expertise and assistance to urban gardeners, and helps meet the City's Stormwater NPDES Permit requirements.

This has been a successful project since we began participating in 2019. 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. The 2020 MOU includes provisions to allow the Public Works Director to execute amendments and staff is proposing that the City extend the MOU and participate in the program for an additional year.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

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

- Extension of a Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Backyard Habitat Certification Program for an additional year.

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

- N/A

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

- The Backyard Habitat Certification Program has been advertised through a variety of sources throughout the Portland-Vancouver Metro area.

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

- Citizens that participate will benefit from the expertise and guidance provided by the program. The environment will benefit from the additional habitat provided, and the City will ultimately benefit through the program's connection to the City's stormwater requirements mandated through the State permit.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

- N/A

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)?

- N/A

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

- City staff will coordinate directly with Columbia Land Trust and personnel administering the Backyard Habitat Certification Program to receive reports and evaluate results.

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

- This item directly benefits and helps the City meet the Stormwater National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

BUDGET IMPACT: There will be no direct budget impact to the Stormwater Fund. Staff is proposing to use money from the \$50,000 Stormwater Capacity Grant received from the Department of Ecology in 2019 to fund the \$5,746 expenditure. However, these funds must be expensed prior to March 31, 2021 to be eligible for Grant reimbursement.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is for Council's information only. This item has also been placed on the March 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Consent Agenda for Council's consideration.