



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 5675
April 7, 2020
Consent Calendar**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5675: King County WaterWorks Grant Acceptance	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Accept King County WaterWorks Grant funds.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Parks and Recreation
STAFF:	Kim Frappier, Natural Resources Specialist
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Grant Agreement
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	1. Prepare for the impacts of growth and change with a continued consideration on environmental sustainability.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ 29,220
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ 0.00
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 29,220

SUMMARY

In November 2019, the Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department (“MIPR”) was awarded a grant through the King County WaterWorks Grant Program for ecological restoration activities at the Luther Burbank Park South Wetland. The WaterWorks Grant Program invests in projects that protect water quality, control pollution, and build community partnerships. The Luther Burbank South Wetland Restoration Project was one of 69 environmental projects approved by the King County Council to be funded.

The WaterWorks Grant award is \$29,220 with a match provided by both MIPR and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust (“MTSG”), the project partner. The match will include MIPR project management and seasonal crew time for noxious weed management valued at \$3,600, as well as 400 volunteer hours from community forest stewardship events, valued at \$8,000. Managing this project falls within the scope of the Natural Resources Specialist’s current duties as a 0.75 FTE and will not require additional City staffing.

The WaterWorks Grant allocation builds MIPR’s capacity to implement restoration on open space land with high ecological value. It also affords MIPR a unique education and engagement opportunity that builds on the City’s successful partnership with MTSG. The grant will specifically fund the purchase and installation of native trees and shrubs, volunteer event management services, and professional contractor crew time to implement more technically demanding restoration tasks not suitable for volunteers. These activities align with recommendations outlined in the 2004 Mercer Island Open Space Vegetation Plan and the 10-Year

Update (2015).

The South Wetland and buffer encompass 2.6 acres of wetland features and includes a mosaic of vegetation types that provide valuable stormwater retention and water quality functions. This area also serves as critical habitat for the North American beaver, migratory birds, waterfowl, and amphibians.

As with most urbanized wetlands, the site is heavily impacted by adjacent development and invasive plant species that have compromised its health and resilience. The wetland and its buffers serve key functions in the capture, storage, and filtration of runoff from the adjacent built environment before being slowly discharged into Lake Washington. Protecting and restoring this critical area is of high ecological value to the Mercer Island community as well as the greater Lake Washington watershed.

Grant Project Goals and Performance Measures include:

I. Restore and Enhance the South Wetland:

- 10,000 square feet of invasive plants removed within the wetland buffer by volunteers,
- 25,000 square feet of invasive plants removed and/or treated within wetland buffer by professional field crews,
- 1,250 native trees and shrubs installed, and
- 2.6 acres of monitoring and treatment of garden loosestrife, yellow flag iris, and knotweed species throughout the wetland interior and shoreline.

II. Tree Canopy Protection:

- Ivy rings on approximately 15 trees,
- 1.5 acres of invasive tree treatment, and
- Beaver protection installed on 20 high value canopy trees and newly installed tree saplings

III. Engage a Diverse Community of Volunteers in Restoration Efforts:

- Four volunteer restoration events hosted (four hours each),
- 160 volunteers who will contribute at least 400 total volunteer hours, and
- Outreach conducted to schools, businesses, community organizations, and religious communities across Mercer Island

The \$29,220 grant funded appropriation request is for the remainder of the 2019-2020 biennium. Unspent funds will be budgeted in the 2021-2022 biennium. The majority of the work on this project will be completed in 2021, though the WaterWorks Grant funding cycle concludes in September 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager to accept the King County WaterWorks Grant and appropriate \$29,220 in grant funds for 2020.