



## BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

**AB 5914**  
**July 20, 2021**  
**Consent Agenda**

### AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 5914: Parks Deferred Maintenance Plan and Appropriation Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Appropriate \$200,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Funds to address the backlog of Parks Maintenance work.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Public Works		
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Alaine Sommargren, Deputy Public Works Director		
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	n/a		
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	2. Articulate, confirm, and communicate a vision for effective and efficient city services. Stabilize the organization, optimize resources, and develop a long-term plan for fiscal sustainability.		

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ \$200,000.00
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ \$200,000.00

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this discussion item is to seek City Council authorization to appropriate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Funds to address the backlog of deferred parks maintenance work.

### BACKGROUND

At the April 27, 2021, City Council Planning Session (see [AB 5857](#)), the Council provided initial input on the City's use of allocated ARPA funds. There was support from the City Council to fund Parks Maintenance "catch-up" work to address the maintenance backlog throughout the parks system that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic ("Pandemic"). The impacts on the parks system from the Pandemic were widespread and included the following:

- Park maintenance work was significantly restricted in 2020 due to the State's 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' order limiting the type of work that could be performed. Full-time staff returned to full-job duties in mid-summer 2020, after the rapid spring vegetation growth period.
- Seasonal staff positions were eliminated as a budget saving measure in 2020 and the Parks Operation Manager position was also temporarily suspended.
- Use of parks and open spaces was very high in 2020 due to the closure of other indoor recreational and entertainment facilities.

The Parks Maintenance team has begun work on addressing select planter beds to bring them back to pre-pandemic conditions. The amount of work that is required to address these overgrown areas, while also focusing on maintaining the health and safety of park facilities on a daily basis, far exceeds the team's capacity.

### **DEFERRED MAINTENANCE WORK**

During the month of June, staff inventoried all planter beds in need of significant rehabilitation and assessed the necessary landscaping tasks for each area. Taken together, these planter beds cover 17.9 acres, 16 acres of which are located in Aubrey Davis Park.

Given the scale of the park maintenance catch-up work, staff prepared a Request for Bids ("RFB") to contract for this work. In mid-June, the RFB was sent to over 200 companies identified on MRSC's Small Works Roster as contractors interested in performing landscape maintenance and/or landscape construction. Because very few companies have the capacity to handle the large amount of work included in this RFB, the scope of work was split into six separate schedules, which could be awarded separately. **Unfortunately, no bids were received by the deadline on July 2.**

Staff is currently working to retool the RFB and procure services for high priority areas. Additionally, given the backlog of work, staff overtime will be used to help address some of these highly visible areas (e.g. Aubrey Davis Park in the Town Center) while contracts are procured for the remaining work.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACTS AND BUDGETARY ACTIONS**

On June 23, 2021, the City received \$3.6 M in ARPA funding from the Washington State Office of Financial Management. This first tranche of funds represents half of the \$7.2 M in estimated ARPA funding designated to the City, with the second half due by June 30, 2022.

During the mid-biennial budget process this fall, staff will provide the City Council with a review of eligible uses of ARPA funds along with a tool to select and prioritize allocation of these funds. Using ARPA funds to catch-up on infrastructure maintenance in Mercer Island parks is a qualified eligible use according to Section 603(c)(1)(C) of the Act.

Given the pressing need to begin parks maintenance catch-up work, staff recommends that the City Council appropriate \$200,000 from the first tranche of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds to fund parks maintenance work in high priority areas. Any further requests to catch-up on deferred park maintenance work will be taken as part of the budget proposal prioritization process with the City Council this fall.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Appropriate \$200,000 from the first tranche of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds for parks maintenance catch-up work.