

**CITY OF STEVENSON, WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION 2019 – 347 [A]**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BALLOT PROPOSITION
FOR CREATION OF A METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF STEVENSON**

WHEREAS the City acknowledges the need for recreational, health and educational benefits for residents of Skamania County; and

WHEREAS Skamania County and the Stevenson Carson School District have had a long-term partnership in building, operating and maintaining the Steven Carson School District's Pool in Stevenson; and

WHEREAS the reduction in funding from the Federal Government from management of the national forest and/or secure rural schools has resulted in budget cuts to both School and County whereby funding the pool is no longer feasible for either the school or the County; and

WHEREAS the pool is a valuable resource for the residents of Stevenson and there is considerable interest in ensuring that this resource is financed and not solely dependent on the inconsistent and variable annual budgets of the City, School district or the county; and

WHEREAS all other agencies currently operating in the county have other missions and priorities outside of operating a pool which they struggle to adequately fund; and

WHEREAS RCW 35.61 provides a method by which a community may fund local recreational facilities including parks, pools, community centers, etc., by creating a district specifically dedicated to that purpose; and

WHEREAS RCW 35.61.020 allows the City proposing such a district to limit the purpose of that district and also to limit the taxing power of that district so that the district cannot expand beyond the limited purpose it was created for, nor raise taxes beyond the maximum rate proposed by the city and/or county without a vote of the people; and

WHEREAS the City is aware of many concerns from community members about the creation of such a metropolitan park district to manage and fund the pool; and

WHEREAS the reduction of the boundaries of a district to the Urban Growth Boundary of the City of Stevenson, including the City limits, to mitigate the concerns of those opposed to the boundaries of the Stevenson Carson School District less the city of North Bonneville initially proposed places an undue burden on the residents of Stevenson to operate and maintain a pool for the community; and

WHEREAS the City has supported the pool annually since it reopened from \$20,000 to \$40,000 depending on their request; and

WHEREAS the City believes that as a community asset, the resources to support the pool should come from a variety of sources in the community, of which the city will contribute from the taxes raised by the district; and

WHEREAS the City specifically believes the pool is the priority recipient of funding collected by said district, it is not intending to limit the purpose of said district to the pool. Should the pool cease operation, the City intends to allocate the taxes collected to projects that will be identified in a Parks Plan for the development and maintenance of publicly-provided parks and recreation facilities and programs within City limits. As used in this clause, publicly-provided includes facilities and programs provided by the City of Stevenson, Port of Skamania County, Skamania County, and Stevenson Carson School District; and

WHEREAS the commissioners of the district will be City Council members as described in RCW 35.61.050(3).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Stevenson hereby authorizes a ballot proposition for creation of a Metropolitan Park District, to be known as the Stevenson Park District, following the boundaries of the City of Stevenson, with the limited power to tax up to, but not exceeding \$0.50/\$1000 of assessed value unless approved by voters, be submitted to the voters of the area proposed to be included.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Stevenson this 21st day of November, 2019.

Scott Anderson, Mayor of the City of Stevenson

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Leana Kinley, City Clerk

Kenneth B Woodrich, PC
City Attorney