



**MEMO TO:** Planning and Public Works Committee

**FROM:** Tom Hardy

**DATE:** August 13, 2019

**SUBJECT:** 2019-20 Washington Conservation Corps Agreement

**I. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Authorize Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Redmond the Agreement for the WASHINGTON CONSERVATION CORPS (WCC) between The State of Washington, Department of Ecology and the City of Redmond

**II. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS**

David Juarez, Director of Public Works	425-556-2733
Gary Schimek, Interim City Engineer	425-556-2721
Tom Hardy, Stream & Habitat Planner, Public Works	425-556-2762

**III. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the contract with the Washington Department of Ecology Conservation Corps (WCC) is to maintain stream and habitat restoration sites around the City. Maintenance is a follow-up activity that is crucial to the success of restoration and mitigation associated with capital improvement projects - approximately 100 acres distributed around the city; see Attachment A for a map of currently maintained sites. Maintenance is typically required by permit approvals for the first five to ten years after project completion, and then ongoing maintenance is necessary for long term success. The value of site maintenance goes far beyond permit compliance in that it protects and improves the public investment in these habitat enhancements, promoting healthy and attractive restoration areas. Maintenance of restoration sites involves control of invasive weeds, litter patrol, replacement planting, and other activities important to overall project success. This regular site maintenance enhances already completed projects, building on the initial investment, as well as improving the aesthetics of sites. The level of maintenance for each location on the site restoration map varies widely. Older more established sites may only require a brief check for weeds every six to twelve months, while recently planted sites are worked intensively three or four times per year.

The Washington Department of Ecology's WCC program crews accomplish a variety of natural resource-related activities for local jurisdictions and non-profit organizations, and are awarded to jurisdictions via competitive application. WCC staff are typically

interning college-age students learning restoration techniques and gaining job skills. A crew consists of six staff that works a 40-hour work week.

The City of Redmond has utilized full or part-time WCC crews since 2004, including a full-time crew for 2018-19. For the upcoming 2019-2020 season, the City was granted the opportunity to hire a Federal AmeriCorps-subsidized one-year crew. The subsidized crew will save the City \$62,867 compared to an un-subsidized one-year crew. The ongoing relationship with WCC and the opportunity to hire a subsidized crew is partly because Redmond provides interesting and diverse work for the crews. Hiring a one-year WCC crew is the most cost-effective and efficient way to maintain the existing and new restoration sites. The WCC crew specializes in restoration site maintenance. Some crew hours will be charged to other capital projects, as appropriate.

A one-year WCC crew for Redmond will cost \$188,600 (41-weeks throughout the 2019-20 season). Using the WCC crew during 2019-20 will allow the City to continue the progress that's been made on project maintenance during 2018-19. The contract is shown in Attachment B.

The work consists primarily of removing invasive plants from City of Redmond capital improvement project sites. Installation of replacement plantings also occupies a significant portion of the crew's time. In addition, the crew provides assistance with volunteer events, native plant replacement, habitat assessment, small stream maintenance projects, site monitoring and de-fishing on stream projects and maintenance activities. The WCC work is consistent with Redmond's Community Strategic Plan.

**Council Actions / Communication**

<b>Date (MM/DD/YYYY)</b>	<b>Action / Committee Presentation</b>
08/13/2019	Planning and Public Works Committee
09/03/2019	Council Meeting to accept Agreement

**IV. IMPACT**

A. **Service/Delivery**: This agreement will provide adequate funding for vital maintenance activities on completed restoration projects within the City, protecting and enhancing the substantial initial investment in these projects.

B. **Fiscal**: Costs to utilize a six-person crew for 41 weeks are shown below.

**Estimated Project Costs**

Washington Conservation Corps Crew \$188,600

**Project Funding**

Stormwater Operations \$188,600

**V. ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Council could choose not to approve the agreement. However, this action would curtail important site maintenance activities, and delay permit-required maintenance.

**VI. TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Agreement Approval  
Work Begins

September 2019  
October 2019

**VII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Agreement WCC 1908  
Attachment B: Map of Restoration Work Sites

[Redacted]

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**Date**

[Redacted]

Approved for Agenda \_\_\_\_\_

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**Date**