



MEMO TO: Planning and Public Works Committee

FROM: Tom Hardy, Stream & Habitat Planner

DATE: September 11, 2018

SUBJECT: Washington Conservation Corps Agreement 2018-19

I. PURPOSE ☐ For Info Only ☐ Potential Agenda Item ☒ Scheduled for Council Action

II. RECOMMENDATION

Authorize Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Redmond the Agreement for Restoration Site Maintenance with Washington Conservation Corps between The State of Washington, Department of Ecology and the City of Redmond

III. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works, (425) 556-2733

Gary Schimek, Environmental and Utility Services Division Manager, (425) 556-2742

Tom Hardy, Stream and Habitat Planner, (425) 556-2762

IV. 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 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 runs volunteer events, does native plant replacement, habitat assessment, small stream maintenance projects, site monitoring and de-fishing on stream projects and maintenance activities

The City of Redmond has utilized full or part-time WCC crews since 2004, including a full-time crew and a four-week travel ("spike") crew for 2017-18. For the upcoming 2018-2019 season, the City was granted the opportunity to hire a Federal AmeriCorps-subsidized one-year crew. The subsidized crew will save the City \$57,750 compared to an unsubsidized one-year crew. The on-going relationship with WCC and the opportunity to hire a subsidized crew is partly because Redmond provides interesting and diverse work for the crews. With the completion of the 12-acre Bear Creek restoration project, staff determined that hiring a one-year WCC crew is the most cost-effective and efficient way to maintain the existing and new restoration sites. Some crew hours will be charged to other capital projects, as appropriate.

A one-year WCC crew for Redmond will cost \$173,250 for 41-weeks throughout the 2018-19 season. Using the WCC crew over the next year will allow the City to continue the progress that's been made on project maintenance during 2017-18. The contract is shown in Attachment B.

A. Analysis (Please include process to-date and any service delivery or fiscal considerations.)

Process to Date

The City has had agreements annually with WCC since 2004, this is for the 2018-19 agreement.

Service Delivery or Fiscal Impacts

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.

V. TIME CONSTRAINTS

Agreement Approval

September 2018

Work Begins

October 2018

VI. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Department of Ecology Agreement
2. Project Maintenance Map