

IMPACT STATEMENT

189053

Legislation title: Authorize grant agreement awarding up to \$73,000 in FY 18/19 to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. to provide outreach, technical assistance and community involvement for watershed projects in Portland's westside sub-watersheds. (Ordinance)

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Presenter name: N/A

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The SW Watershed Resource Center (WRC) at SW Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) has been providing technical assistance and outreach services for watershed programs and projects and building community since 1999. Their work addresses elements in the Portland Watershed Management Plan (PWMP) and helps the City meet its obligations under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit for the Fanno and SW Willamette Watersheds as follows:

- Natural Systems: Protect and enhance natural areas and vegetation that help prevent pollutants from entering into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).
- Public Involvement: Implement public information, education, involvement, and stewardship activities that will raise awareness, foster community stewardship, and promote pollution prevention and stormwater management.

The scope of work of this agreement includes efficient tracking of program outcomes for regulatory reporting and grant-writing to leverage funds from multiple sources. Further, it allows for cost effective on-the-ground community watershed health projects on private and public properties. This ordinance approves a continuation of this successful partnership.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

This item is in the BES operating budget and is described in the attached grant agreement, scope of work and budget. Maximum total costs for Fiscal Year 2018/19 are \$73,000 to be allocated from the West Willamette Watershed budget; Cost Object ESWS000009.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The WRC is a community asset. A resource person is sited at the SWNI office in SW Portland, embedded in a part of our City that is experiencing multiple serious stormwater challenges including steep slopes; open, eroded, and mostly privately-owned drainage ways; and an incomplete City stormwater system. The stormwater challenges on Portland's Westside are often complex, fall under several jurisdictions, and present serious issues to property owners and residents. The WRC staff member provides technical assistance, education/workshops, grant writing and grant management to community-led projects. The projects include drainage improvements, erosion control, vegetation management, stream enhancements and other local watershed actions, stewardship activities and implementation of various planning efforts, including the Fanno and Tryon Creeks Watershed Management Plan and the Stephens Creek Stormwater System Plan.

The WRC has consistently been focused on equity and on expanding the reach of the bureau to traditionally underserved communities with education, resources, projects, technical assistance, volunteer opportunities and stewardship, in addition to capacity building. The FY 18/19 work plan places an additional focus on equity and inclusion and is integrated into all activities of the WRC. This

includes working with the Jackson Middle School SUN program, Slavin Court Home Forward housing complex, and reaching out to various religious and cultural groups in the area. This year, the WRC will also expand further into NW Portland with educational and capacity building opportunities, and resources to help address stormwater challenges.

Partner groups for the upcoming year include:

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, SWNI, West Willamette Restoration Partnership, Columbia Land Trust, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Marquam Nature Park, Friends of Terwilliger Parkway, West Portland Park Neighborhood Association, Sunstone Montessori, Friends of April Hill Park, Maplewood Neighborhood Association, SW Residential League (SWHRL), Metro Nature in Neighborhood grants, Neighbors West NW (NWNW), Jackson Middle School SUN Program, Backyard Habitat, Rieke Elementary, Slavin Court Home Forward, Wisdom of the Elders, Portland Parks & Recreation, the SW Corridor Project Planning Team, Friends of Tryon Creek, Center for Diversity and the Environment, and others.

There is significant community support for this program, and recognition that it is a valuable resource for SW Portland community members ranging from schools to places of worship, homeowners to renters, community groups to city bureaus. Moving forward, we will provide some services to residents of NW Portland as well, and explore ways to add capacity in that region down the line.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.

☒ **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount