

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Authorize grant agreement awarding \$76,546 to Neighborhoods West Northwest Review Board to provide outreach, technical assistance, and community involvement for watershed projects in Portland's westside sub-watersheds (Ordinance)

Contact name: Colleen Mitchell

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Presenter name: N/A

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The Westside Watershed Resource Center (WWRC) has been providing technical assistance and outreach services for watershed programs and projects and building community in partnership with the Bureau of Environmental Services since 1999. This ordinance approves a continuation of this successful partnership.

The work of the WWRC advances watershed goals identified in the Portland Watershed Management Plan (PWMP) and helps the City meet its obligations under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permit. Specific regulatory stormwater pollution prevention measures this program supports include:

- Natural Systems: Protect and restore natural areas and vegetation that help prevent pollutants from entering into the 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 allows the City to implement cost effective on-the-ground community watershed health projects on private and public properties and includes efficient tracking of program outcomes for regulatory reporting and grant-writing to leverage funds from multiple sources.

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 2022 are \$76,546 to be allocated from the Sewer Systems Operating budget; Cost Object ESDP000023 GL 529000.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The Westside Watershed Resource Center (WWRC) is a community asset to Westside Portland, a part of our City that experiences stormwater management challenges such as 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 WWRC staff member provides watershed health opportunities through stormwater management technical assistance, education/workshops, grant writing and grant management support for community-led watershed 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, the Stephens Creek Stormwater System Plan, and other Willamette Subwatershed Plans.

The WRC has consistently been focused on equity and on expanding the bureau's public outreach efforts to traditionally underserved communities with education, resources, projects, technical assistance, volunteer opportunities and stewardship, in addition to capacity building. The FY 22 work plan integrates equity into all activities of the WWRC. This includes continuing to support the Jackson Middle School's Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) program, Stephens Creek Crossing Home Forward housing complex, Neighborhood House summer camp and after school programs, and reaching out to various religious and cultural groups throughout the Westside of Portland.

Partner groups for the upcoming year include:

Jackson Middle School SUN Program, Stephens Creek Crossing Home Forward, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, West Willamette Restoration Partnership, Columbia Land Trust, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Oregon Zoo, Friends of Fanno Creek Headwaters, Friends of Marquam Nature Park, Friends of Terwilliger Parkway, Neighbors West- Northwest, SW and NW Neighborhood Associations, Sunstone Montessori, Friends of April Hill Park, Metro Nature in Neighborhood grants, Backyard Habitat, Colibri Chiropractic Clinic, Wisdom of the Elders, Portland Parks & Recreation, Friends of Tryon Creek, First United Methodist Church, and others.

There is significant community support for this program, and recognition that it is a valuable resource for Westside Portland community members.

100% Renewable Goal:

N/A

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