

RESOLUTION 1221

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A CONSERVATION FUTURES GRANT APPLICATION TO PIERCE COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the City of Gig Harbor has identified parcels 0221061000, 0221061113, 0221061070, 0221061071, 0221062100, and 0221061044 located north of the Gig Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant as parcels of uniquely undeveloped and healthy streamside forest through which North Creek (aka Donkey Creek) passes; and

WHEREAS, this property has been surveyed by the Wild Fish Conservancy and has been identified as 23-acres of land having critical Salmon habitat. Juvenile coho salmon (*O. kisutch*) and coastal cutthroat trout (*O. clarkia*) were documented in abundance within the stream reach during the 2018 survey, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has also documented both Chum salmon (*O. keta*) and ESA-listed Puget Sound steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*) within this reach of North Creek; and

WHEREAS, properties along Burnham Drive and within the North Creek watershed have experienced substantial development over the last 10 years. This land is at significant risk of development. A housing development would almost certainly mean the further degradation of this uniquely healthy salmon habitat, the loss of a great number of trees and a dramatic change in the look of this corner of our downtown view basin; and

WHEREAS, the owners of the parcel are interested in selling this parcel and the City and the owners have signed a purchase and sale agreement contingent on an appraisal and environmental review of the property; and

WHEREAS, Pierce County Conservation Futures Grants require a minimum 10% matching funds of the estimated purchase price. The City will provide at least 10% of the funding to purchase this property; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gig Harbor is an eligible agency to receive properties acquired with a Pierce County Conservation Futures Grant. The acquired property would be included in the City's parks open space inventory and maintained in its natural state as a conservation, historical, and cultural preserve with low impact trail access; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gig Harbor is working with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians to secure additional resources to fund the acquisition of these parcels; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gig Harbor has the ability to receive, own, and maintain this property as in conservation due to the anticipated low level of required maintenance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor:

Section 1. The Mayor is authorized submit a Conservation Futures Grant application to Pierce County property. The Mayor is authorized to sign an affidavit on behalf of the City as the Receiving Agency, acknowledging that the City will accept the property interest acquired and protect and steward the conservation features of the parcel in perpetuity.

Section 2. The City hereby certifies that it shall provide a matching share of project funding , which will be provided by a city budget appropriation.

Section 3. If the grant is awarded and the sale of the parcel is executed, the City hereby accepts property into its parks inventory. Any development of the property will be authorized and budgeted by future Council action.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor at a regular meeting thereof, held this 8th day of November, 2021.



Kit Kuhn
Mayor

Attest:



Joshua Stecker
Interim City Clerk