

# Seattle City Council Transportation and Utilities Committee

## RainCity Agreements

*September 15, 2021*



## What does the RainCity Ordinance enable?

- The Ordinance enables SPU to utilize an additional contracting and project delivery mechanism for water pollution prevention programs/projects with substantive community co-benefits.
- It delegates existing authority to execute this type of agreement from City Council to SPU.
- The contracting mechanism a performance-based contract and the project delivery mechanism is a Community-based Public Private Partnership (CBP3).

## SPU is seeking this delegation of authority to:

- 💧 Work programmatically
- 💧 Deliver a range of community co-benefits at a portfolio scale
- 💧 Preserve efficient cost of delivery and transfer risk
- 💧 Accelerate drainage & wastewater system-wide improvements in high priority areas:
  - Decreased polluted runoff to our creeks, lakes, the Duwamish River and Puget Sound
  - Reduction in CSO, flooding, and SSO/back-up risk and incidence
  - Enhanced riparian areas

# History + Context

Choose JOY

APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH  
SUNDAY SERVICES  
9:00 A.M. COMMUNION  
10:00 A.M. WORSHIP  
AND THE ANTHEM SERVICE  
WEDNESDAY  
7:00 P.M. BIBLE STUDY  
FOR THE ANTHEM SERVICE  
WORSHIPERS  
401 East 10th Street

 This program is available  
at no charge.  
**I'm  
RainWise!**  




# Brief History of Green Infrastructure in Seattle

GSI characterized by

## Early Approaches

Soil amendment, tree planting, and native plants;

## Utility-led ROW Pilots + RainWise

- Series of progressively larger-scale right-of-way retrofits for both flow control and water quality
- Development of RainWise rebate program to incentive retrofits on parcels
- Stormwater Code includes GSI requirement for the first time (2009)

## From Pilots to Programs

- Council Resolution and Executive Order setting 2025 target: Manage 700M gallons annually
- RainWise Program matures and partners with King County for joint delivery
- 10-year Natural Drainage Program developed and new Council-driven Urban Village Program initiated

## 'Growing GSI' Program Expansion

- Nested within Shape Our Water
- Included in Strategic Business Plan
  - Remove Policy Barriers
  - Build Partnerships
  - Support Community
  - Expand Project Delivery Toolbox

2000



HighPoint



RainWise

2013



Natural Drainage Program (Venema)

2018



Developer Partnership (Troll Ave.)



Examples

1850

1900

1950

TODAY



# 'Growing GSI' Program Expansion Framework

## EXPAND DELIVERY TOOLBOX

Expand Feasible Locations for GSI

Enhance Life-Cycle Performance of GSI

Expand Delivery Modes

Streamline SPU-King Co. Procedures

Simplify Implementation and Replicability



## GROW PARTNERSHIPS

Joint Projects with SDOT

Co-Acquisition + Development with Parks

Schools + Affordable Housing

Beyond Code at Lowest-cost Moment: Redevelopment



## SUPPORT COMMUNITY

Advocate for Community Goals  
in Project Implementation

Develop Seattle-based GSI Workforce  
Particularly with BIPOC Communities

Share Power and Resources so Community  
Is Equipped to Lead (esp. BIPOC Communities)



## REMOVE BARRIERS

Policies and City-Family Processes

Regulatory Flexibility

Legislation

Knowledge Building + Decision Frameworks



# Expand Delivery of Voluntary GSI Retrofits

## TWO EXISTING DELIVERY MODES

RAINWISE REBATES  
SMALL PROJECTS ON PARCELS



LARGE DIRECT PARTNERSHIPS  
AT POINT OF REDEVELOPMENT



## NEW DELIVERY MODE

### ONE PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACT – ‘CBP3’



Plan + Design \$10M Portfolio of Projects

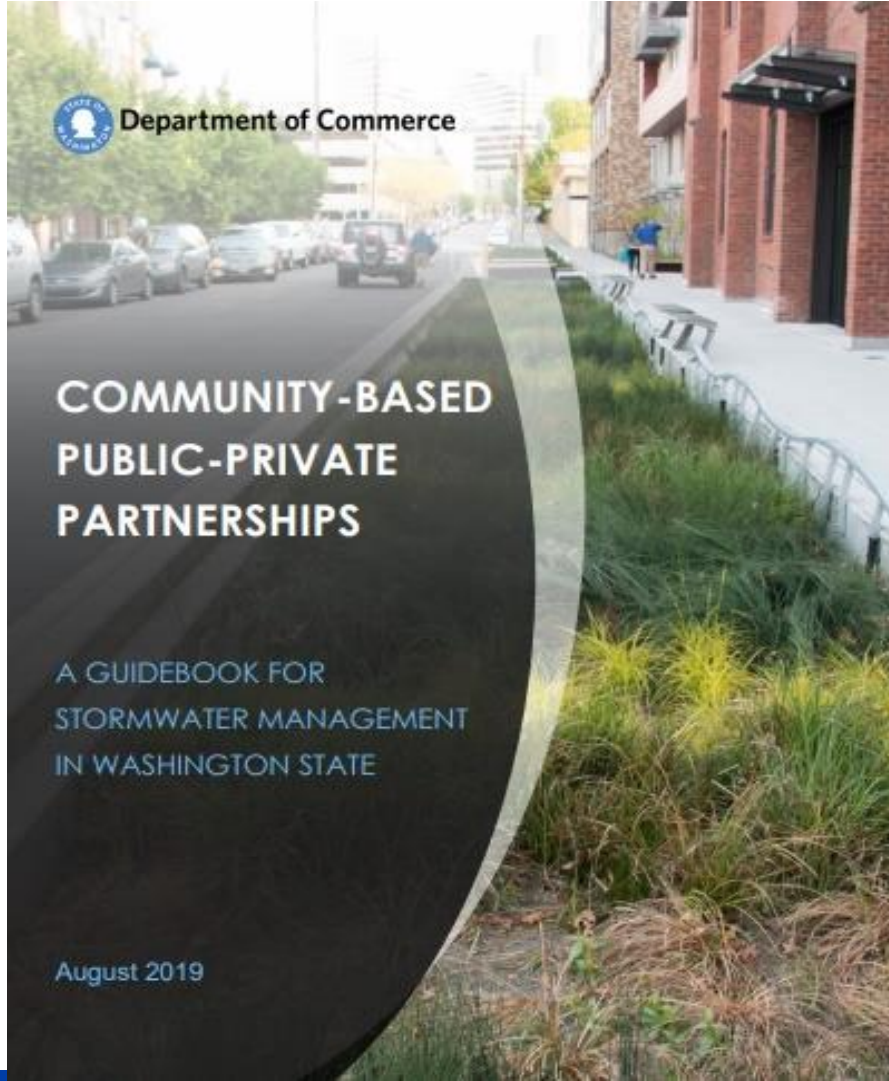


Construct/Implement Portfolio of Projects



Commission Full Set of Projects

# What is a Community-based Public Private Partnership?

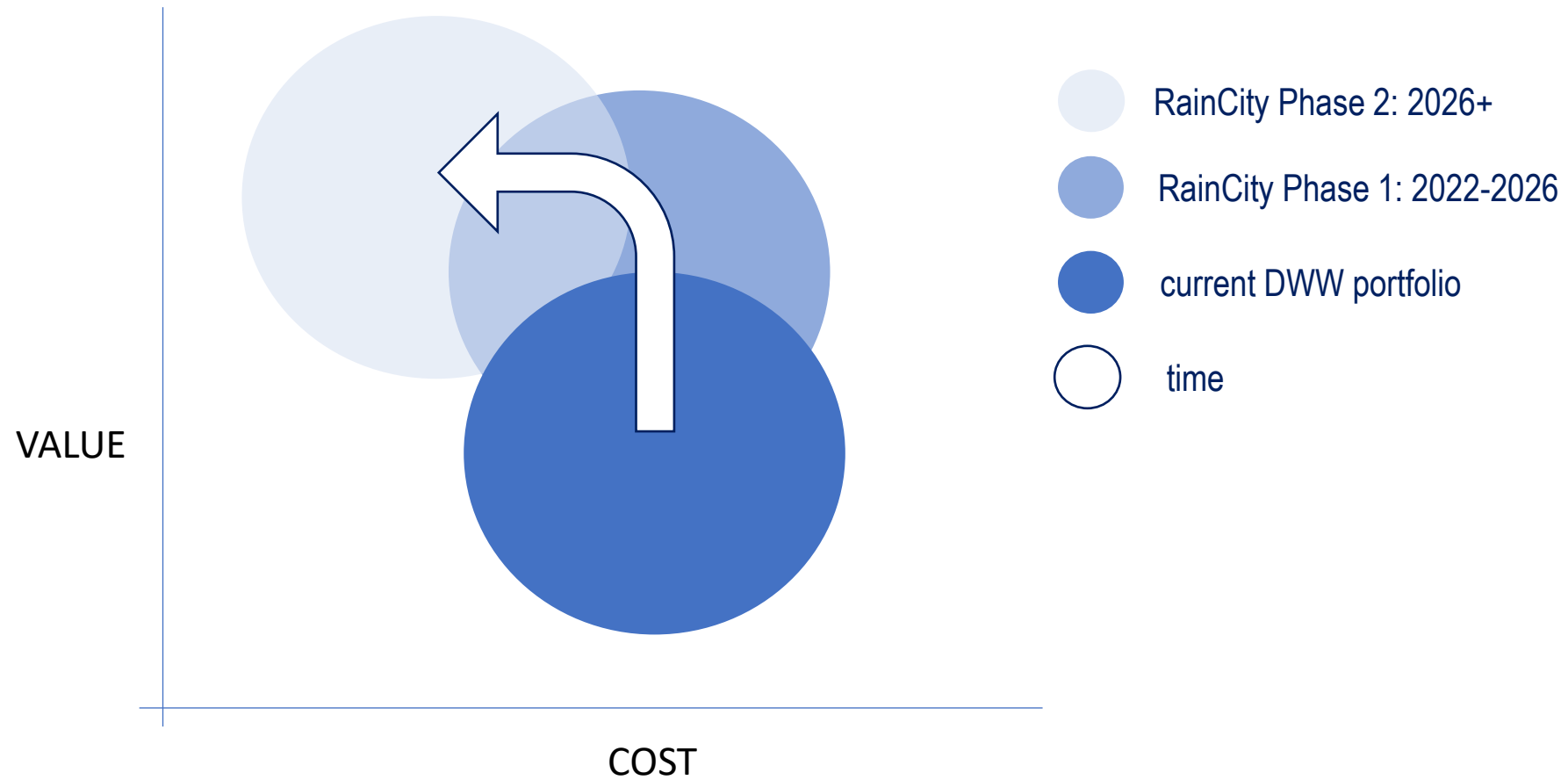


*“...A CBP3 is a form of alternative project or program delivery in which a government agency and private entity collaborate to improve both water quality and quality of life for a community via the implementation of green infrastructure projects.*

*A CBP3 is intended to achieve community benefits beyond stormwater improvements and permit compliance. Community benefits are achieved through the green infrastructure itself, as well as through the approach to the project or program implementation....”*



# Our RainCity Expectations



# What the RainCity Program Will Be Able To Fund

Bioretention



Rain Harvesting + Reuse



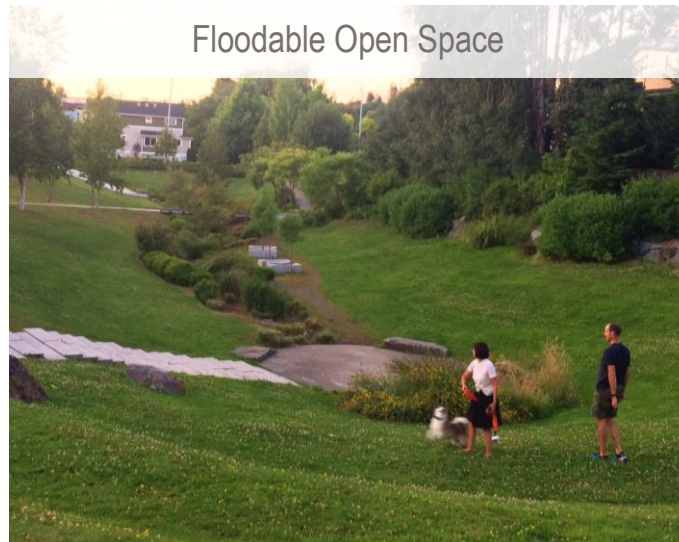
Pervious Pavements + Trees



Creek + River Edge Restoration



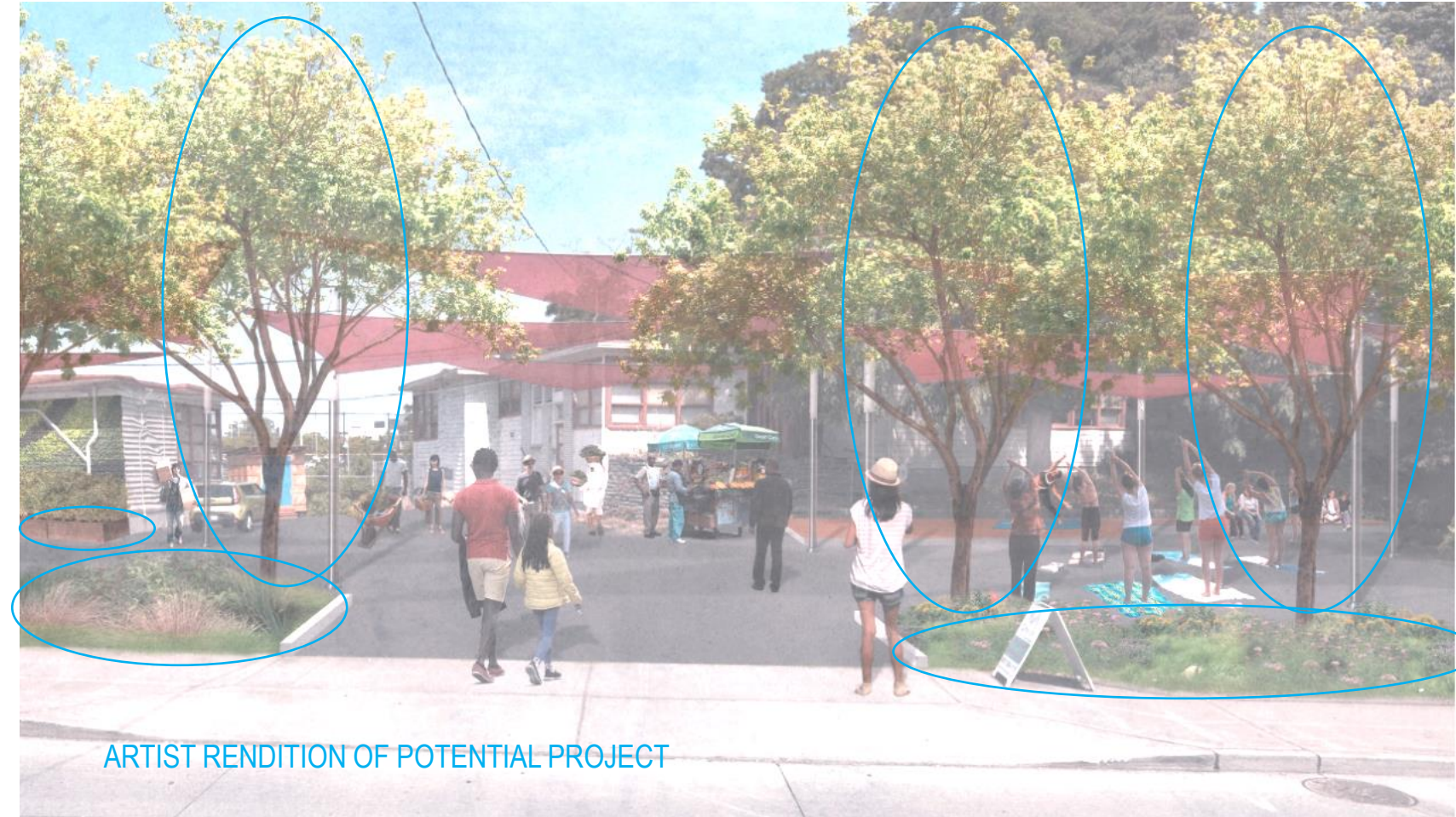
Floodable Open Space



Stormwater Cisterns



# Potential RainCity Project Example



# Ordinance

THIRTIETH OF THE WOODS  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE  
Choose JOY

APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH  
SUNDAY SERVICES  
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
MEMPHIS, TN

**I'm RainWise!**  
This property is eligible  
for a water rebate.



# Ordinance Summary

- ◆ Proposed ordinance delegates authority from Seattle City Council to the General Manager/CEO of Seattle Public Utilities to execute a contract type already permitted under Washington State law.
- ◆ With this authority SPU will proceed with its competitive solicitation and contracting process expediently for a private sector partner to provide pollution prevention/water quality outcomes as a service, at a programmatic/portfolio scale (vs. project by project).



# QUESTIONS & RESOURCES

[www.shapeourwater.org](http://www.shapeourwater.org)  
[www.700milliongallons.org](http://www.700milliongallons.org)

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RainCity Program Development Manager

Seattle Public Utilities

## 2020 Progress Report Green Stormwater Infrastructure



## The Road to 700 Million Gallons A Natural Approach to Stormwater Management



[700milliongallons.org](http://700milliongallons.org)

