

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	CBO Contact/Phone:
Parks & Recreation	Chip Nevins/233-3879	Anna Hurst/733-9317

** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle Parks and Recreation; authorizing the acquisition of real property commonly known as 1902 NE 98th Street; authorizing acceptance and recording of the deed for open space, park, and recreation purposes; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary and Background of the Legislation: This proposed legislation authorizes Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) to acquire the property located at 1902 NE 98th Street by negotiation. The legislation also allows for the acceptance of the deed to the subject property for open space, park, and recreation purposes.

On August 5, 2014, Seattle voters approved the formation of the Seattle Park District, to provide stable funding for operations, maintenance, development and acquisition of parks and recreation facilities and programs.

The Seattle Park District provides funding to acquire park lands, including acquisition of greenspace properties; Seattle Parks and Recreation has been acquiring property within the City’s green spaces since the late 1960s. The proposed legislation authorizes SPR to acquire a 29,620 square-foot property, with a 1,940-s.f. house on it, located adjacent to the south branch of Thornton Creek. SPR will demolish the house.

The property is the last private parcel in this stretch along the South Fork of Thornton Creek. SPR tried to acquire this property from a different owner over a decade ago and was unsuccessful. The current owner found out about the City’s interest and contacted the City when they were ready to sell.

Significant restoration has already been accomplished through a partnership with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), but the invasive plants growing on the target property threaten the native plantings on the restored properties by spreading seeds. Acquisition of this property will allow the City to remove this invasive seed source.

This acquisition extends the goals of the 2000 Thornton Creek masterplan developed by SPU. SPR and SPU have partnered on several projects in the Thornton Creek watershed as part of their cooperative effort to protect and enhance water quality and associated natural resource values in the watershed. This property represents a unique opportunity to reconnect the floodplain along this section of Thornton Creek to provide additional salmon habitat and increase the flood retention ability of the watershed.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ___ Yes No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? ___ Yes No

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?

Once the acquisition is complete, SPR will incur additional costs to demolish the house as well as increased operating costs for maintenance of the property. The demolition costs are currently budgeted, and SPR may include a request for the new facility maintenance costs in a future budget process.

Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?

The property is for sale. If the City does not acquire it at this time, the property will be sold, and this opportunity will be lost.

3.d. Appropriations

Appropriations Notes: Funding from the Park Acquisition and Leverage Fund (Initiative 4.1) of the Park District will pay for this acquisition. The current budget for this project is \$900,000. The purchase price is \$800,000, with an additional budget of \$30,000 for staff time, title insurance and closing costs, and environmental testing and up to \$70,000 for demolition of the house. The funding for this acquisition was appropriated by Ordinance 125475.

3.e. Revenues/Reimbursements

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes: SPR has applied for King County Conservation Futures Tax funding (CFT) to reimburse half the cost of acquisition (not including demolition).

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department? No
- b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation? No.
- c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant? No.

- d. **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?** Not applicable.
- e. **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?** Yes, included in this legislation as Summary Attachment A – Map of Thornton Creek: 98th Street Acquisition.
- f. **Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?** The acquisition of the property will add protection to Thornton Creek, which is an important resource for all of NE Seattle.
- g. **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program’s desired goal(s).** Not applicable.

List attachments/exhibits below:

Summary Attachment A – Map of Thornton Creek: 98th Street Acquisition