

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Parks and Recreation	Jeffrey Bishop	Justin Hellier

** 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 (SPR); authorizing the acquisition of real property at Taylor Creek Headwaters; authorizing acceptance of a 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 vacant residential lot containing 14,155 square foot, or 0.325 acre located at 6109 S Fountain St. 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 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. SPR has been acquiring property within the city's greenspaces since the late 1960s. The proposed legislation authorizes SPR to acquire the property at 6109 S Fountain St in south Seattle. The acquisition of this property would expand and connect existing City-owned properties that border a broader natural area owned by King County. The property is on the south perimeter of the Taylor Creek West Fork headwater wetland.

The Taylor Creek West Fork headwater wetland is the last surviving urban headwater wetland in a salmon-bearing watershed in Seattle. While this parcel does not directly contain riparian habitat along a salmon-bearing stream, it does sit at the headwaters of Taylor Creek, one of Seattle's streams that have documented salmon spawning. Preserving this natural area will enhance the water quality of Taylor Creek. This property represents a unique opportunity to expand existing natural area corridors and preserve future conservation and recreation opportunities.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? ___ Yes X No

The subject property will be acquired for \$110,000 with existing appropriation within the Building for the Future BCL (BC-PR-20000) to be partially reimbursed by King County Futures Levy Funding.

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?

While greenspace maintenance is not at the same level as a neighborhood park, the addition of this property adjoining existing City-owned parcel will slightly increase future maintenance cost to maintain the greenspace.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?

The property owner is willing to sell the property to the City and, in doing so, is foregoing his development plans for the property. If the City does not acquire the property at this time, the owner may continue with planned development.

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. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No

d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

Yes – see Summary Attachment A – Map of Taylor Creek Headwater Addition

e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?

The acquisition of this site will expand public open park space in an underserved area. This site is outside the Rainier Beach Residential Urban Village with a gap in walkability, income, and poverty. This area lacks open space and park density as 85% of King County has higher open space and park density than this area. In addition, the acquisition of this property will add protection to Taylor Creek, which is an important resource for all of southeast Seattle and the entire city.

f. Climate Change Implications

1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?

The acquisition of this parcel will not increase carbon emissions in any material way. Rather, it is likely that preserving this open space, and the subsequent natural restoration of the site will increase carbon sequestration, leading to long-term carbon emissions reduction.

2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.

The action will increase Seattle's resiliency to climate change in a material way. The acquisition of this property to save open space will help sequester carbon and reduce heat island effects. This property is within the basin draining to the headwater wetland thus acquiring this property will reduce urban stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, protect aquatic, wetland and riparian habitats, and support upland and riparian trees/forests and associated wildlife (birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, etc.). Having more forest upstream in the Taylor Creek watershed will help to contribute to downstream flows as we deal with hotter and drier summers.

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

Summary Attachments:

Summary Attachment A – Map of Taylor Creek Headwater Addition