

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Cascade Agenda City and Green City Partnership Programs
DEPARTMENT: Planning and Development Services
PRESENTED BY: Joe Tovar, Director, Planning and Development Services

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The City Council will consider whether or not the City of Shoreline should endorse the Cascade Agenda and avail the City of the related "Cascade Agenda City" and "Green City Partnership" programs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There would be no cost or financial impact to becoming a "Cascade City". Many of our current Council goals and implementing work plans are already in alignment with the aspirations and directions of the Cascade Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the City Council adopt the enclosed resolution which endorses the vision articulated in the Cascade Agenda and states that the City will pursue partnership with the Cascade Land Conservancy "Cascade Agenda City" and "Green City Partnership" programs. The resolution also directs the City Manager to appoint a staff member to act as the City's liaison with Cascade Agenda activities.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney 

INTRODUCTION

In March of this year, the City Council heard a presentation and reviewed materials regarding the Cascade Agenda, an ambitious long-term vision of focused conservation priorities, economic prosperity and enhanced livability for the region's communities. There are striking parallels between the principles and strategies called for in the Cascade Agenda and the City of Shoreline's adopted Council Goals for 2007-2008.

Several cities in the region, including Kirkland, Issaquah, Tacoma, and Seattle, have adopted resolutions endorsing the Cascade Agenda and committed to work with the Cascade Land Conservancy and others toward the fulfillment of the Agenda's objectives. The Shoreline City Council has asked the staff to examine whether the City of Shoreline should become a "Cascade Agenda City," what advantages there might be to do so, as well as what cost or other consequences there would be.

BACKGROUND

Gene Duvernoy and Alison Van Gorp of the Cascade Land Conservancy made a presentation to the Shoreline community on March 19, 2007 as part of the Shoreline 2010 Speaker Series. That presentation was hosted by the Shoreline City Council at the beginning of the regular meeting agenda. Their focus was the Cascade Agenda generally and the Cascade Agenda City Program specifically. That presentation was broadcast on the City's cable access channel and remains available as streaming video on the City's website via the link:

http://shoreline.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=44&publish_id=&event_id=

The Cascade Land Conservancy and its partners began "The Cascade Dialogues" over two years ago. The project engaged over 3,500 elected officials, scientists, business leaders, loggers, farmers, timber companies and private citizens in the Central Cascade counties of King, Snohomish, Pierce, and Kittitas. From that exhaustive effort came a report and call to action titled "The Cascade Agenda," the full text and a summary of which are available online at:

<http://www.cascadeagenda.com/ourstory/the-cascade-agenda>

Two programs have been launched by the Cascade Land Conservancy in order to advance the city components of the Cascade Agenda: the Cascade Agenda City and Green City Partnership Programs.

Cascade Agenda City Program

A one page summary of the Cascade Agenda City program is Exhibit A. It describes a Cascade Agenda City as one that "creates great public places, parks, trails and open spaces, livable and walkable neighborhoods, green buildings and infrastructure, affordable housing and economic development."

These strategies and objectives closely mirror those embodied in the first seven of the City Council's adopted Goals for 2007-2008 (Exhibit B). Indeed, several prominent Shoreline projects nearing completion (mile one of Aurora and the Interurban Trail) and underway (plans for spending the \$18M of parks bond funds, building a new City Hall, and the second two miles of Aurora) are tangible illustrations of a Cascade Agenda City.

Likewise, the City's commitment to public outreach, a comprehensive housing strategy, and environmental sustainability are precisely how cities should strive to implement the Cascade Agenda. A Cascade Agenda City designation would acknowledge that fact and provide a mechanism to increase public awareness of and support for the Council's adopted goals. It would also provide access to the conservation expertise of the Cascade Land Conservancy and its network of resources in the region.

Participation as a Cascade Agenda City would also provide an opportunity for our citizens to see the linkage between local actions and the achievement of broader regional goals in which all city residents have a stake and an interest. For example, the "Transfer of Development Rights" (TDR) concept is a keystone of the Cascade Agenda, and a recent focus of legislative attention in Olympia. TDR programs harness private market forces to promote conservation priorities in the rural and resource lands. This concept is now under evaluation as part of our work on the South Aurora triangle. Council ultimately will decide if it makes sense to predicate increased height or density in Shoreline at least in part on transferring development rights from the rural area.

A brief video about the Cascade Agenda City program, including an overview of its objectives and observations by some local elected officials from area cities is online at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhhbnDUM6W4> Also, presently under review is a design for a public sign to identify designated Cascade Agenda cities, similar to the way that some cities are identified as "Tree City USA" or "All American Cities," and the "Mountain to Sound Greenway" signs along Interstate 90 identify that regional corridor.



Green City Partnership Program

This program focuses on parks and open spaces, including such activities as "Ivy Out" days which Shoreline already does in coordination with the Cascade Land Conservancy. A one page summary of the program is attached as Exhibit C. The focus

of such partnerships can vary from city to city, the details of which would be set forth in any Memorandum of Agreement or contract between a city and CLC.

A focus on tree canopy is a large part of Green City partnerships that Cascade Land Conservancy has already entered with the City of Seattle and the City of Kirkland. This is already a focus of the work being done on four Shoreline city parks as part of Goal 6 – create an environmentally sustainable community. A summary of the “Green Kirkland Partnership” is attached as Exhibit D. Other opportunities to draw upon the conservation expertise of the Cascade Land Conservancy include the preparation of open space and natural resource management plans.

One of the chief advantages to the City’s participation in either the Cascade Agenda City program or the Green City Partnership programs is as a communication and coordination tool. Such designations would put the City’s current efforts to implement Council Goals 1 through 7 into the context of a longer term and larger scope regional strategy, provide a tangible way to increase public awareness of and support for the implementation of the Goals, and foster the City’s partnership with other participating jurisdictions and organizations.

There are no apparent disadvantages to adoption of the resolution. Its adoption would have no fiscal impact nor bind the City Council to any specific future action. The resolution is a statement of aspiration and intent.

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the City Council adopt the enclosed resolution (Exhibit E) which endorses the vision articulated in the Cascade Agenda and states that the City will pursue partnership with the Cascade Land Conservancy “Cascade Agenda City” and “Green City Partnership” programs. The resolution also directs the City Manager to appoint a staff member to act as the City’s liaison with Cascade Agenda activities.

Exhibits

- A Cascade Agenda Cities Program Summary
- B Shoreline City Council Goals for 2007-2008
- C Green Cities Partnerships Summary
- D Green Kirkland Partnership Summary
- E Resolution regarding Cascade Agenda



CASCADE AGENDA CITIES PROGRAM

Building Great Communities

Why We Care About Cities

The population of the central Cascades is projected to double in the next 100 years—that's enough new people to create six cities the size of Seattle. The pressure for additional housing will have a significant impact on the quality of life for all who make this region their home. The Cascade Agenda calls for nurturing a relationship between the conservation of our landscapes and outstanding places to live, work and raise our families. Our cities and towns are economic hubs vital to the region. They offer residents good jobs, housing choices, trails, parks—generally a high quality of life. Attractive, vibrant cities provide the great places to live that act as a magnet for growth, protecting our region's natural and working lands from sprawling development. That's why Cascade Land Conservancy has launched the Cascade Agenda Cities™ Program.

Simply put, a Cascade Agenda City is taking the steps to make a desirable place for people of all income levels to live, work and raise their families.

What is a Cascade Agenda City?

A Cascade Agenda City strives to become even more vibrant, attractive and livable. It aspires to sustain both a sound economy and a healthy environment, by providing attractive places where people want to live. A Cascade Agenda City builds civic pride by actively engaging its citizens in creating and sustaining an exceptional community both now and in the future. Above all, a Cascade Agenda City works to create:

Great Public Places

- Healthy parks, trails, and open space
- Civic spaces
- Cultural institutions

Quality Neighborhoods

- Livable & walkable
- Good design
- Green buildings & infrastructure
- Transit & streets

A Successful Region

- Responsible growth management
- Affordable housing
- Economic development & jobs

How Can My City Get Involved?

There are two levels of involvement in the program: (1) To get started, your city will need to pass a resolution endorsing The Cascade Agenda and committing to the principles of The Cascade Agenda Cities™ program. If your city is interested in a more in-depth involvement, they can (2) apply to become a Cascade Agenda Leadership Partner. If accepted into this program, Cascade Agenda staff will work with your city to develop a detailed vision and implementation plan that will make these principles a reality in your city.

More Information

Please contact Alison Van Gorp at 206-292-5907 x127 or alisonv@cascadeland.org.



2007-2008

Complete the projects approved in the 2006 Parks Bond

Implement the Economic Development Strategic Plan

Implement an affordable civic center/city hall project

Complete the Aurora improvements from 165th to 205th Streets including, but not limited to, sidewalks, drainage and transit

Develop a comprehensive housing strategy



Create an "environmentally sustainable community"

Provide safe and affordable transportation options to support land use plans including walking, bicycling, transit and vehicular options

Develop a Fircrest master plan in partnership with the state

Increase emergency preparedness training and education

GOAL NO. 10

Increase opportunities for all residents, including our youth, to get more involved in neighborhood safety and improvement programs



GREEN CITY PARTNERSHIPS

Parks and open spaces are vital to cities and, in the Puget Sound, we are fortunate to have a legacy of forested parklands. Preserved by thoughtful community leaders for wildlife habitat and recreation, parks and greenbelts beautify and strengthen our local neighborhoods. Trees also provide valuable "green infrastructure" services that save us money! The Cascade Land Conservancy **Green City Partnership** program works to protect this important legacy of beautiful parks and vibrant communities for our children and great-grandchildren.

Forests are in danger...

Without immediate action, 70% of the tree canopy in our forested parklands will be lost in the next twenty years. Urban natural areas are not self-sustainable: the trees can't take care of themselves!

Why do trees need our help?

Many of our trees are "pioneer species" like big leaf maple and red alder. These trees are at the end of their lifespan and, at the same time, invasive species - plants such as English ivy, bindweed and clematis - are growing under the trees and climbing into the tree tops. Right now, these invasive plants are preventing native trees like Western red cedar or Doug fir from reseeding or growing.

Together, we can save our forests!

Each city is unique. And, in each of our cities, a community-based, scientific, environmental restoration effort can save forested parklands. **Hundreds of volunteers** spend thousands of hours each year working to battle against invasive plants in our local parks. Each individual has a significant impact, but overall success has been limited. These community volunteers need the support of **businesses, community groups, non-profits and government agencies**. The trees we protect and plant today will grow and thrive, becoming a living asset.

A city's green infrastructure

Each tree in your neighborhood is working hard to:

- Improve **air and water quality**
- **Reduce runoff** from storm water and **fight erosion**
- **Buffer noise**, provide beauty and improve property values
- Create **habitat for birds and other wildlife**



Volunteers are working to plant trees and remove the invasive species that threaten

The Cascade Land Conservancy **Green City Partnership**:

- ✓ **Builds awareness** of the problem and creates a model for immediate action
- ✓ **Increases community capacity** and builds **civic pride** through education and volunteerism

CASCADE LAND CONSERVANCY **Green City Partnerships**

Program Manager | 206-292-5907 | leslie@cascadeland.org
www.cascadeland.org/greencities

- ✓ Promotes **scientific restoration** to ensure long-term ecological sustainability
- ✓ Sustains **healthy parklands for future generations**
- ✓ Help preserve our region's natural landscapes by making Cities **attractive, vibrant and livable**; a Cascade Agenda City

For more information, visit our website: www.cascadeland.org/greencities/



Green Kirkland! Program Information

Cascade Land Conservancy's Stewardship Program

Mission

To inventory, assess, restore and acquire Open Space/Natural Areas in the City of Kirkland and to create a program for the stewardship of those lands owned by the City of Kirkland.

Background

The City of Kirkland's Comprehensive Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan (2001) identifies natural area rehabilitation as a major issue in the City of Kirkland's Parks and Recreation Services. The plan has also identified opportunities to remedy this issue through reforestation, habitat and wetland restoration, noxious weed control, and trail improvement in City Natural Areas including Watershed Park.

Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) is now engaged in the Discovery Phase of the Watershed Park restoration planning project which includes an environmental quality and land use assessment, development of a restoration concept plan, and development of a Site Access agreement with the City.

Phase I (March 2006 through March 2007)

• Goal 1

Assess current ownership of open space/habitat lands in the City of Kirkland

• Goal 2

Conduct an environmental quality and land use assessment of the City of Kirkland's currently owned public Open Space/Natural Area lands as identified in Goal 1.

• Goal 3

Agency and Community Stewardship Capacity Assessment – Assess the current capacity of Municipal Agencies, community organizations and volunteers to restore Kirkland's owned Open Space/Natural Areas

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, ENDORSING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CASCADE AGENDA, OBSERVING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL GOALS FOR 2007-2008 REFLECT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CASCADE AGENDA CITIES PROGRAM, AND DECLARING THE CITY'S INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE "CASCADE AGENDA CITY" AND "GREEN CITY PARTNERSHIP" PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, the Cascade Agenda is a century-long vision for the Central Cascade region of King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kittitas counties, and sets forth goals and strategies to conserve this region's natural character, create vibrant cities and towns, and ensure a strong economy, and

WHEREAS, the Cascade Land Conservancy has launched both the "Cascade Agenda City Program" and the "Green City Partnership Program" to recognize the relationship between the creation of great communities and the conservation of this region's ecology and working landscapes, and

WHEREAS, the population of the Central Puget Sound region is forecasted to grow from 3.3 million today to 5 million by the year 2040, with a corresponding increase in the population in central cities such as Shoreline, and

WHEREAS, in the face of significant long-term growth, the City of Shoreline's choices are not whether to grow or how much to grow, but rather how to manage growth in a way that maintains and enhances Shoreline's quality of life, and

WHEREAS, the core principles and objectives of the Cascade Agenda City Program are reflected in the City Council's adopted goals for 2007-2008, including:

- Goal 1 Complete the projects approved in the 2006 Parks Bond
- Goal 2 Implement the Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Goal 3 Implement an affordable civic center/city hall project
- Goal 4 Complete the Aurora improvements from N.165th Street to N. 205th Street, including, but not limited to, sidewalks, drainage, and transit
- Goal 5 Develop a comprehensive housing strategy
- Goal 6 Create an "environmentally sustainable community"
- Goal 7 Provide safe and affordable transportation options to support land use Plans including walking, bicycling, transit and vehicular options

and,

WHEREAS, the Shoreline Planning Commission and Parks Board received a presentation on the Cascade Agenda on September 7, 2006 and the City Council received a presentation regarding the Cascade Agenda and the Cities program on March 19, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the long-term economic vitality, environmental health and natural beauty of the Central Cascades region is a vital interest to the citizens of Shoreline.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City of Shoreline endorses the vision articulated in the Cascade Agenda and shall pursue partnership with the Cascade Land Conservancy in both the “Cascade Agenda City” and “Green City Partnership” programs as a strategy to increase public awareness of and support for the implementation of Shoreline City Council Goals 1 through 7.

Section 2. The City of Shoreline will seek to align its policies and programs on community development, housing, transportation, parks, and open space with the strategies and approaches of the Cascade Agenda.

Section 3. The City Manager shall appoint a staff representative to act as the City’s primary liaison with respect to Cascade Agenda related activities and shall provide periodic reports to the City Council.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON _____

Robert L. Ransom, Mayor

ATTEST:

Scott Passey, City Clerk

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