

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Urban Forestry Assessment
DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation
PRESENTED BY: Dick Deal, PRCS Director /Maureen Colaizzi, PRCS Project Coord.

INTRODUCTION:

- The City recognizes the need to create a comprehensive management plan to guide future management of urban park forests within the city. A critical first step in the creation of a city-wide management strategy is to conduct an inventory of existing vegetation resources in our parks.

BACKGROUND:

- The City Council approved \$50,000 for an Urban Forestry Assessment in the 2006 Parks Department budget to conduct an inventory of existing vegetation resources within our public parks to guide future forest management decisions. Additionally the preparation of an Urban Forestry Assessment meets Goal #6 of the 2007-2008 City Council Work Plan, Create an "environmentally sustainable community".
- The Parks & Recreation Department (Parks) has contacted the Seattle Urban Nature Project (SUNP) to provide a draft proposal for habitat mapping, vegetation surveys and management recommendations. Based on available budget, the proposed scope includes approximately fifty percent of Shoreline's public parks to begin the City's goal of completing an Urban Forest Assessment of City-Owned property.

DISCUSSION:

- Seattle Urban Nature Project is a nonprofit organization founded in 1998 to document natural resources on public lands, to inform civic decision-making and support improved stewardship of these lands. SUNP is currently moving towards a focus on empowering people in Puget Sound to improve urban habitat through science-based information and methods.
- A seven member board of directors, in concert with three staff experienced in performing botanical and biological surveys, developed a system to survey plant communities and wildlife habitats and store the information in geographic information system (GIS) data for mapping. Maps and data have been used by public agencies to help make better-informed decisions about how to manage invasive and native species on public lands, and where to undertake restoration.

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AGENDA TITLE: Business License Program
DEPARTMENT: Finance
PRESENTED BY: Debbie Tarry, Finance Director

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The Council's 2005-2006 work plan includes the implementation of an active economic improvement plan. One of the milestones included in this goal is the implementation of a City business license/registration program. In February 2006 the Council reviewed business license policy issues and gave direction to staff to proceed with developing a regulatory business license program and to partner with the Washington State Department of Licensing Master Licensing Service to administer the program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The 2007 proposed budget includes \$90,000 in business license revenue. At \$50 per license, the City would need to issue 1,800 business licenses. At \$60 per license the City would need to issue 1,400 licenses. At this time staff does not have a complete list of all businesses that will be required to license, but based on our sales tax records a minimum of 1,400 businesses should register, and we anticipate that the actual number of licenses issued will exceed this number.

At this time staff has not included additional staffing to implement the business license program. We have discussed the staffing impacts of administering the business license program with other cities that are partnering with MLS and found that each City is different. Sammamish felt that they had very minimal staffing impact once the initial business letters were distributed. Bellevue and Tumwater, on the other hand, have additional staff to assist with the business license program, but it appears that much of the work done by staff is a result of the business and occupation tax that these cities also levy. Although staff is not recommending additional staffing at this time, Council should be aware that as we implement this program we will continue to monitor and may have to request additional staffing support if the workload becomes too burdensome for existing staff.

RECOMMENDATION

On October 9, 2006, the Council is scheduled to adopt the business license ordinance. Staff recommends that Council clarify any issues during this evenings workshop so that any required changes can be made to the ordinance prior to the October 9, 2006 City Council meeting.

Approved By: City Manager _____ City Attorney _____