

**MEMO**

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September 2, 2021

TO: The Honorable Dow Constantine, King County Executive

FM: WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee  
David Bain, District 1 Representative  
Mary Lou Pauly, District 3 Representative  
Kintea Bryant, District 4 Representative  
Debbie Natelson, District 5 Representative  
Bobbi Wallace, District 6 Representative  
Melissa Ivancevich, MWPAAC Representative, City of Seattle  
Pam Carter, MWPAAC Representative, Valley View Sewer District  
Bob Elwell, MWPAAC Representative, City of Auburn  
Nathan Karres, Water Quality Technical Specialist

RE: WaterWorks Grant Recommendations - Round 5

The WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee would like to thank Executive Constantine for the opportunity to be involved in the review and ranking process for this fifth round of the WaterWorks grants. This committee had a series of 12 meetings to discuss the criteria, eligibility, water quality benefits, implementation strengths, equity and social justice aspects, and community involvement of the projects.

WaterWorks uses a two-step application process: letters of intent and full applications. Out of the original 73 letters submitted, 38 were invited to submit full applications, 36 submitted full applications, and 24 are recommended for funding. Members of this committee were pleased to see many diverse and innovative proposals to improve water quality in the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) service area. The group carefully considered the recommended project list to ensure diversity not only in approach and geographic distribution, but also in target populations. The Committee is confident these projects will enhance the work of WTD and benefit WTD's service area and ratepayers.

Members of the committee had concerns about meeting remotely for this round of grants, but reported that it was surprisingly efficient. The committee will review the process in advance of the next grant cycle to discuss any potential improvements. The committee believes the diversity and quality of proposals are directly related to the outreach and excellent staff support from WTD. The Committee would also like to acknowledge the work of internal reviewers from WTD and King County's Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), whose analyses furthered the committee's understanding of the submitted projects.

The following recommendation list for the WaterWorks Grant Program - Round 5 was endorsed unanimously by the WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee. The projects are listed by rank with

The Honorable Dow Constantine

September 2, 2021

Page 2

proposed funding amounts and summary descriptions of how the project meets the selection criteria (Attachment A) as directed by the adopted Implementation Guidelines.

cc: Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks

<i>Grant Applicant</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Project Description and Benefits to Water Quality</i>
Environmental Science Center	From Salmon Heroes to Schoolyard Heroes: Water quality focused education for students and teachers	\$100,000	1	This project will increase knowledge of watershed and water quality issues and improve stewardship through an education and stewardship program for students and teachers. This will benefit water quality by teaching youth the importance of water quality for ecosystems, making the connection between everyday actions and water pollution, and implementing student-led stewardship projects.
Tilth Alliance dba Seattle Tilth	Rainier Beach Urban Wetlands and Water Quality Initiative	\$175,000	2	This project will engage students, teachers, and the greater community in water-based education, habitat restoration, and installing Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) features. This will benefit water quality by engaging students and community members in service learning and events, improving local water quality through wetlands restoration, and managing stormwater through GSI installations.
Seattle Parks Foundation, with Dirt Corps LLC	Hamm Creek Water Quality Improvement Through Paid Community Restoration Trainings	\$75,000	3	This project will provide paid job training in habitat restoration, stormwater management, and maintenance for stormwater facilities. Additional youth education and volunteer events will further the restoration work. This project will benefit water quality by providing water-quality based workforce development, improving riparian habitat, and by conducting annual water quality monitoring of Hamm Creek.
Stewardship Partners	Equitable GSI Incentives for King County	\$200,000	4	This project will build on previous success to offer financial resources through mini grants to fund voluntary GSI retrofit projects, thereby accelerating adoption of GSI, and increasing the equity of access. This will benefit water quality by preventing, managing, and treating stormwater pollution on private land, as well as increasing community awareness of GSI through outreach.

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City of Tukwila	Stormwater Outfall Water Quality Retrofit Project	\$189,275	5	This project will retrofit city-owned stormwater outfalls by installing water quality treatment devices that control pollutants. This project will also act as a case study for students to learn about water quality through partnership with Sustainability Ambassadors and the Tukwila School District. This will benefit water quality in the Green-Duwamish River by reducing roadway-generated pollutants entering the river through stormwater treatment and supporting career pathways in environmental work.
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation	Labateyah Native Water Steward Interns	\$25,000	6	This project will build upon previous success and provide paid internships and culturally congruent education on water stewardship, GSI, organic gardening, and provide job training for youth of color, especially Native youth. This will benefit water quality by centering education on GSI features and benefits, supporting interns to pursue environmental careers, and to utilize the project site as a learning and demonstration center.
Environmental Coalition of South Seattle	Environmental Stewards 2022-23	\$80,000	7	This project will continue efforts to provide in-language workshops for immigrant and low-income community members on reducing pollution and adopting sustainable behaviors. This will benefit water quality by educating the community on the importance of water quality, encouraging behavior change, promoting stormwater best management practices, and increasing access to GSI information and resources.
Seattle Parks Foundation, for Rainier Beach Link2Lake	Mapes Creek and Estuarine Bay Riparian Improvements at CSO Outfall Site	\$148,104	8	This project will restore riparian and in-stream habitat along the newly daylighted Mapes Creek in Be'er Sheva Park. This is part of a larger project to improve habitat, water quality, public access, and overall community health and engagement. This will benefit water quality by improving riparian and in-stream habitat to treat stormwater runoff, empowering the

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				community to advocate for safer parks and healthy watersheds, and making up for the impacts of the combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfall at the park.
Refugee Federation Service Center	Refugee/Immigrant Communities Water Quality Education and Fish Sampling Project	\$146,580	9	This project will engage immigrant and refugee fishing communities in culturally appropriate pollution prevention workshops, multilingual education materials, and a pilot fish monitoring program to inform public health messaging related to toxins in fish. This will benefit water quality by utilizing data to inform WLRD's monitoring program, reaching underserved communities, and empowering them to become watershed stewards.
Puget Soundkeeper	Lost Urban Creeks Community Education and Revitalization Project 3	\$87,600	10	This project will further the partnership with Unleash the Brilliance, a mentorship organization for at-risk youth, to revitalize Springbrook Creek through community-based education, outreach, and stewardship. Phase three will include assessing Springbrook Creek for Green Stormwater Infrastructure and restoration opportunities. This will benefit water quality by empowering youth and increasing stewardship, restoration, and pollution prevention.
Seattle Good Business Network	Bridging Youth Workforce Development with Green Career and Water Quality Management Pathways	\$124,798	11	This project will expand the reach of City of Seattle's EnviroStars program by providing paid internships for under-resourced youth from BIPOC and low-income communities with local small businesses for career-learning opportunities, and developing business pollution prevention plans and water quality goals. This will benefit water quality by improving spill response and prevention, reducing CSOs, engaging diverse businesses in water stewardship, and fostering career pathways in clean water for local youth.
Northwest Center for	Water Stewards Lake Washington: Promoting	\$40,000	12	This project will promote the use of alternatives to pesticides through education, outreach, and technical assistance for

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Alternatives to Pesticides	Chemical Free Pest Management to Improve Water Quality			English and Spanish-speaking school staff, community members, and nursery professionals. This will benefit water quality by reducing pesticide pollution in water, supporting local water quality ambassadors, and providing ongoing technical support and resources to nursery professionals.
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	Equitable Green Opportunities for Youth in Highline	\$47,700	13	This project will pilot a summer college and technical education course for BIPOC and low-income high school-aged youth, where students will earn college credit and stipends to engage in water quality education, habitat restoration, and conservation career pathways. This will benefit water quality by controlling invasive species and planting native species, fostering conservation career pathways for youth considered the furthest from educational justice, and educating students on the importance of water quality.
American Rivers	Longfellow Creek Headwater Restoration at Roxhill Bog - Phase 3	\$143,950	14	This project will finalize plans and permits to restore hydrologic function of Roxhill Bog by redirecting stormwater through GSI features into the bog. Bog restoration will also provide education and engagement opportunities for the community. This will benefit water quality by restoring wetland hydrology, saturating dried-out peat, reducing CSOs, and moderating in-stream flows.
Mini Mart City Park	Mini Mart City Park Stormwater Infrastructure and Youth Training Program	\$73,000	15	This project will continue a previously-funded project by monitoring water quality and maintaining the GSI features installed. It will also launch a new green career training program for Duwamish Valley youth, in partnership with DirtCorps and Duwamish Valley Youth Corps. This will benefit water quality by continuing on-site stormwater treatment and data collection, and training youth to become local water quality stewards.
Thornton Creek Alliance	Thornton Creek Watershed	\$47,651	16	This project will transform an identified waterbody from a ditch to a bioswale by

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	Stormwater Cleaning Project on NE 110th Street (at 31st Ave NE)			removing invasive species, planting native plants, and installing curb stops to prevent illegal parking and subsequent soil compaction. The community will be engaged through volunteer events, water quality monitoring, and outreach. This will benefit water quality by treating stormwater, engaging community members as local stewards, and installing signage on site to explain the project and water quality benefits.
The Common Acre	The Green Line	\$91,950	17	This project will pilot a green workforce development project for youth, engage Rainier Beach community members through volunteer events and workshops, and expand and maintain the current restoration site. This will benefit water quality by retaining and treating stormwater on-site, improving habitat function through restoration, and equitably engaging youth in water quality education and career training.
World Relief Seattle	Hillside Parking Plots Community Garden: Developing Community-Based Water Quality Education Programs	\$183,950	18	This project will build upon the previously funded project, monitor the installed GSI features, develop community education programs for immigrant, refugee, and other BIPOC communities about GSI and watershed science, and provide paid internships for local youth. This will benefit water quality by collecting data on the GSI features, empowering and engaging underserved community members to act as stewards, and supporting youth with water quality and GSI job experience.
King Conservation District	Evaluating dry manure storage options for water quality protection across King County, WA	\$165,000	19	This project will evaluate and collect data on four dry manure storage best management practices (BMPs) for impacts on water quality in partnership with WA Discovery Farms. This will benefit water quality by reducing water pollution from improper manure management, educating farmers on manure management BMPs, and collecting data for multiple storage options to reduce barriers for implementation.

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Northwest Maritime Center	Maritime High School: Duwamish Water Quality and Community Action Program	\$88,259	20	This project will launch the Duwamish Water Quality and Community Action Program at the new Maritime High School, where students will design and conduct inquiry-based water quality studies. This will benefit water quality by creating community action plans for water quality improvement, empowering students to be stewards, and collecting water quality data.
Pacific Marine Research	Marine Science Afloat/Remote	\$40,000	21	This project will provide hands-on science education aboard a research vessel through direct interactions with sea life, education about Puget Sound watersheds, and water quality analysis. Low-income schools will be included through field trip scholarships. This will benefit water quality by creating future stewards through instilling in students a sense of ownership and belonging, and discussing threats to Puget Sound as well as solutions.
Sustainable Seattle, with Sea Potential LLC	Rippling Effects: Dive into the intersections of Ocean Justice and Riparian Restoration	\$27,445	22	This project will pilot a new marine science and water quality education and service learning program for BIPOC youth in South Seattle and Renton. Sea Potential, working in partnership with established environmental organizations, will model the power of youth to steward, understand, and seek water justice. This will benefit water quality by installing native plants to improve habitat function, fostering appreciation and activism for local water quality, creating new environmental stewards, and reducing barriers for BIPOC youth to engage with marine environments.
City of Pacific	Pacific Meadows / Hansen PRD Wetland Enhancement	\$40,000	23	This project will restore a wetland by removing invasive species, planting native plants through volunteer events, and installing educational signage. This will benefit water quality by improving wetland function, treating stormwater, and educating community members on wetland restoration benefits.



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City of Mercer Island	Luther Burbank Park South Shoreline and Trail Restoration	\$60,000	24	This project will restore in-water habitat through the installation of large woody debris and gravel. This will improve water quality by reducing erosion, improving in-stream habitat function, and reducing sedimentation in Lake Washington.
	Total	\$2,400,262		

### **Attachment A – WaterWorks Grant Program – Evaluation Criteria**

The WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee review, ranks, and makes recommendations on grant proposals using criteria based on the Implementation Guidelines, Attachment A to Ordinance 18261. The main criteria are as follows, with percent emphasis on each area:

- **Water Quality Benefits** – 60%
- **Implementation Strength and Certainty of Success** – 20%
- **Community Involvement** – 20%
- **Equity and Social Justice** – included in the above criteria