



Council Agenda Item 25-0559R

MEETING DATE: 07/21/2025

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONSERVATION PRACTICE ASSISTANCE CONTRACT WITH THE SOUTH ST. LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT INCLUDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN AN AMOUNT OF \$190,000 TO SUPPORT THE BUCKINGHAM CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT.

SUBMITTED BY: Jessica Peterson, Manager of Parks & Recreation

RECOMMENDATION: Approve.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: September 27, 2021 (21-0751R) – Approved and authorized implementation of the Enger Park Golf Course Renovation Plan. The Plan described the irrigation needs at the Golf Course, where Buckingham Creek has historically providing surface water input to the irrigation pond.

BACKGROUND: Buckingham Creek is the coldest designated trout stream in Duluth, and it runs through the Enger Park Golf Course. Last year, the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) began restoring roughly 3,500 feet of Buckingham Creek. Undersized culverts were replaced with bridges, the riparian area was replanted while accommodating course standards, habitat features were added, and appropriate stream geomorphology for this size watershed was restored. These restoration activities have been closely coordinated with the City of Duluth's irrigation and Golf Course renovation work. The Buckingham Creek restoration will result in a more resilient creek, better trout habitat, and a more aesthetically pleasing course.

Thus far, restoration work has been funded by a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant and funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative awarded to the DNR and SWCD. The Buckingham Creek restoration work is nearly complete, and additional funds are needed to complete the project. The SWCD has funding available and wishes to allocate \$190,000 to the project through this Conservation Assistance contract (Exhibit A). As the landowner, the City of Duluth must approve of the spending under this contract. Financial assistance will be paid directly to the contractor and no pass-through funding or administration responsibilities are required of the City in association with this Conservation Assistance.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: Buckingham Creek restoration has been funded through state and federal grants awarded to project partners, and the work is being completed in close coordination with the City of Duluth's Enger Park Golf Course renovation project. The additional funding offered by the SWCD for the project will not require pass-through responsibilities of the City and will allow for completion of the project.

OPTIONS: Approve the Conservation Assistance to allow Buckingham Creek restoration work to be completed as planned or decline the contract to halt restoration work, which will leave the project incomplete.

NECESSARY ACTION: Approve.

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A: Conservation Practice Assistance Contract