



## Council Agenda Item 26-0574R

**MEETING DATE:** June 29, 2026

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SUBGRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOUTH ST. LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF DULUTH FOR THE TISCHER CREEK TRIBUTARY 7 RESILIENCE PROJECT.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kate Kubiak; Natural Resources Coordinator

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:** N/A

**BACKGROUND:** The SWCD has acquired a \$418,825 Conservation Partners Legacy grant to implement a project located within the Hartley Designated Natural Area and park entitled: Tischer Tributary 7 Resilience Project - Phase 3. The SWCD applied for and was awarded this grant as part of a group effort focused on preserving the high-water quality in Tischer Tributary 7, which drains into Tischer Creek near the Hartley Nature Center. During Phases 1 and 2 of this effort, Tributary 7 was restored from a “ditch” into a healthier, meandering stream and an undersized culvert was replaced. The MN Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District and Hartley Nature Center assisted with Phases 1 and 2 and are also serving as partners on this project. Using the grant funding acquired by the SWCD, the City will implement the following actions on City parcels located within Hartley: 1.) remove non-native trees in the riparian area – specifically White Crack Willow, which is negatively impacting the stream function and native trout habitat; 2.) plant native trees and shrubs within the riparian area; 3.) mitigate sediment impacts to Tributary 7 by removing excess sediment and/or reshaping the stream channel; 4.) mitigate sediment impacts to Tributary 7 by installing a sediment vault at the north end of Tributary 7. This work is being funded under a separate grant - see Resolution #26-0570.

This project is a joint project between Public Works – Engineering and Property and Facilities Management. Public Works Engineering has secured a separate grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for \$1.2 million dollars to install stormwater management infrastructure on a storm sewer outfall on Northfield Street (Task #4). This infrastructure will treat stormwater before it drains into Tributary 7, protecting water quality in Tischer Creek.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:** The working fund for this project is Stormwater Utility Fund (535), with Federal and State grant funds paying for the project. The Conservation Partners Legacy grant will provide the match required by a \$1,200,000 U.S. Army Corps of Engineering Section 569 Grant that is being brought forward to the Council concurrently as Resolution #26-0570.

**OPTIONS:** Approve the resolution and the project can move ahead as planned. If denied, the project will be halted.

**NECESSARY ACTION:** Consent to enter into a subgrant agreement with the South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

**ATTACHMENTS:** Exhibit 1 – Subgrant Agreement