



Project title: Resolution supporting the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

City Council Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Council Bill # *interoffice use*

Consideration: Adopt Resolution

Project: Support full and permanent funding of LWCF

Partner/Supplier :

Location:

Preceding action: None

Fund: None

Agenda dates requested:
October 30, 2019

Briefing
Proposed action
Consent
Action
Ordinance
Public hearing
..... Yes x No

Budget amendment:
..... Yes x No

PowerPoint presentation:
..... Yes x No

Attachments:
Draft Resolution

Department(s) involved:
City Council

Contact person:
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Fiscal summary statement:

None

Project summary statement:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal program established by Congress in 1965 to provide funds and matching grants to federal, state and local governments to help preserve, safeguard, develop, and ensure access to our natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage and support outdoor recreation facilities. Funding comes from royalties for offshore oil and gas drillings, The federal government distributes funding to States to administer. The Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) administers the fund in Washington State.

While the LWCF is authorized to receive \$900 million annually, this threshold has been met only twice during the programs 54 year existence.

The resolution declares and formally acknowledges the city of Everett is in support of fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund and urges Congress to vote to permanently and fully fund the LWCF.

Recommendation (exact action requested of Council):

Adopt resolution declaring the city of Everett to be in support of fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Initialed by:

.....
Department head

.....
Administration

.....
Council President



RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION declaring the City of Everett to be in support of fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund

WHEREAS,

1. Public lands in Washington and throughout the country are a treasure to Washingtonians due to their stunning beauty, wildness, recreation opportunities, and intrinsic value; and
2. protecting public lands is essential to preserving America's biodiversity, especially at a time when the U.N. has reported that 75% of all terrestrial environment has been "severely altered" by human action; and
3. 5.6 gigatons of annual CO₂ emissions are sequestered in marine and terrestrial ecosystems making the protection of lands an essential resource in local, state and national efforts to fight global warming; and
4. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), created by Congress 54 years ago, is one of the most successful government programs in preserving our country's precious natural and cultural resources and improving access to the outdoors in urban and rural communities; and
5. The LWCF has been a critical tool in creating, enhancing and conserving national parks and historic sites, national wildlife refuges, watersheds, forests, wildlife areas and state and local parks, trails, and ball fields, all of which are essential to the people of Washington and our health, culture, economic opportunity, and the future of our children and grandchildren; and
6. Over the last 54 years, LWCF funding has preserved and enhanced public lands that are critical to Washington and Everett including: Howarth Park, Lions Park, Kasch Park, Langus Riverfront Park, Hauge Homestead Park, Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Olympic National Park, and Mt. Rainier National Park among other federal projects; and
7. Sustained stewardship requires funding, and LWCF takes a portion of royalties from offshore oil and gas development and invests that money in protecting America's important public lands for future generations--be that an iconic national park or an urban playground; and
8. While LWCF is authorized to receive \$900 million annually, this threshold has been met only twice during the program's existence and, instead of being fully funded, nearly every year substantial sums of funding are diverted to non-conservation related projects; and

9. Despite receiving only a fraction of its intended funding over the last 54 years, LWCF has led to the protection of land in every state, has improved access to these public lands, and has provided matching grants for the creation of more than 500 state and local park projects in Washington; and
10. Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling, and other outdoor recreation activities contribute \$26.2 billion annually in consumer spending to Washington's economy and support 201,000 jobs, which generate \$7.6 billion in wages and salaries and produce \$2.3 billion annually in state and local tax revenue; and
11. Washington has received grants totally in \$76.2 million from LWCF; and
12. The parks, trails and recreation projects dependent upon LWCF funding are green spaces that contribute to the health and well-being of Washingtonian families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND EVERETT CITY COUNCIL THAT:

- 1) The City Council is in complete support for the full and permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- 2) The City Council urges Congress to vote to permanently and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, given the important contributions it makes to our nation's and Washington's health, well-being, economic opportunity, and access to our nation's natural treasures.

Councilmember introducing resolution

Passed and approved this ____ day of _____, 2019.

Council President