



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WA**

**AB 4358
October 6, 2008
Consent Calendar**

ISLAND CREST WAY TRAIL LANDSCAPING	Proposed Council Action: Authorize installation for Island Crest Way Trail landscaping.
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DEPARTMENT OF	Maintenance (Joan Weiser)
COUNCIL LIAISON	n/a
EXHIBITS	1. Landscape Design Sketch
APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER	

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$	40,000
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$	0
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$	40,000

SUMMARY

At the June 2, 2008 City Council meeting staff was directed to complete construction of the Island Crest Way Trail Project by Labor Day 2008, to apply for grant funding to landscape the trail, and to prepare a planting plan for installation in the fall. At Monday's Council meeting, staff will be requesting that Council appropriate King Conservation District grant funds and seeking Council authorization to move forward with the landscaping installation.

Trail Construction

Construction of the new half-mile-long trail was completed by Maintenance Department crews in July. The project was completed for approximately \$86,000, well under the \$135,000 budget, and ahead of schedule. In keeping with the City's goal to utilize environmentally friendly construction methods, crews used asphalt grindings from recent roadway projects on the Island as a base for the trail and stump grindings salvaged from the site preparation to dress the trail edges. Pedestrians, runners, parents with babies in strollers, students and bikers are busy using this newest addition to the Island's trail system.

Landscaping

In June, staff met with the neighborhood to discuss ideas for plant locations and species. Two neighborhood team leaders were identified who will organize volunteers to assist in the planting, and with maintenance and watering of the plants during a two-year establishment period.

In July, the City applied for a \$71,000 King Conservation Grant to fund trail landscaping design and plant procurement. In August, the City was awarded the grant and Mike Lee, landscape architect, was hired to complete the landscaping design. The design includes tree replacement at a 3:1 ratio for significant trees (dying/ hazardous) removed from the site and shrubbery in-fill along the length of the trail. The design emphasizes the use of native and drought tolerant species.

During the remainder of 2008, \$40,000 of the grant funds will be used for landscape design, soil amending, and plant procurement and installation. In future years the remaining grant funding will be used to water plants as needed, to support the neighborhood volunteers, and to purchase and install plants to replace those that do not survive the initial establishment period.

Some in the neighborhood voiced concerns about pedestrian safety where the trail alignment is adjacent to the road, near the hill portion of the trail at the 7400 block and at the south end of the trail near SE 78th St. At the City's request Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA) completed a traffic engineering safety evaluation of the trail along ICW at the point where the trail meets the road. Bill Haro, a longtime traffic engineer, completed this evaluation for WCIA. Mr. Haro determined that the trail meets all applicable standards and found no potential liability problems. After reviewing the initial landscaping design, Haro recommended limiting the height of mature shrub plantings between the trail and street to 30 inches to preserve sight distance for drivers and trail users.

This evening we present this landscape concept design and ask Council to authorize staff to move ahead with installation of the landscaping and to appropriate \$40,000 in funding from the Street Fund (King Conservation District grant funds). Approval of this appropriation will authorize staff to commence work and incur expenses on this project. As an administrative step, staff will return with a Budget Ordinance including this appropriation request (and other approved appropriations) as part of a future Financial Status Report to the City Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Project Manager

MOVE TO: Authorize staff to install landscaping along the Island Crest Way Trail Project and appropriate \$40,000 from the Street Fund for the landscaping project.



ISLAND CREST TRAIL
AT SE 7TH AND ST.

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