



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010

Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2025-682

File ID:	AB2025-682	Version:	1	Status:	Adopted
File Created:	09/26/2025	Entered by:	MMiterko@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Finance Division	File Type:	Ordinance		
Assigned to:	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee			Final Action:	10/21/2025
Agenda Date:	10/21/2025	Enactment #:	ORD 2025-051		
Related Files:					

Primary Contact Email: atan@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance establishing the Silver Lake Lagoon Project Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Silver Lake Lagoon Bridge Fund

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

Establishing the Demolition of the Park Lagoon Bridge and Trail Renovation at Silver Lake Park Project Fund to facilitate removal of applicable structures and plan and construct a trail re-route to maintain internal park connectivity. The Demolition of the Park Lagoon Bridge and Trail Renovation at Silver Lake Park Project Fund seeks an initial budget of \$300,000 as described in Exhibit A. Please see attached.

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
10/07/2025	Council	INTRODUCED	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee
		Aye: 7 Nay: 0	Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremier
10/21/2025	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION	
		Aye: 3 Nay: 0	Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

10/21/2025 Council

ADOPTED

Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremier

Nay: 0

Attachments: Proposed Ordinance, Notice of Action Proposed on 10.7.2025

PROPOSED BY: Executive
INTRODUCTION DATE: 10/07/25

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-051

**ESTABLISHING THE SILVER LAKE LAGOON PROJECT FUND AND ESTABLISHING
AN INITIAL BUDGET FOR THE SILVER LAKE LAGOON BRIDGE FUND**

WHEREAS, the Lagoon Bridge at Silver Lake Park was constructed in the 1970s to provide internal park connectivity between the Park's cabin, lodge, and day-use areas; and

WHEREAS, the Lagoon Bridge has reached the end of its service life has been closed due to recent failure of structural members; and

WHEREAS, the existence of a structurally compromised bridge in a public area with 350,000 annual visitors presents a public safety issue; and

WHEREAS, costs will include the design, permitting, demolition of the existing bridge, and investigation of pier structure as well as park renovations and trail rerouting work; and

WHEREAS, costs may be initially funded by a transfer from the REET II fund; and

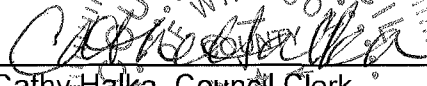
WHEREAS, Section 6.80 of the Whatcom County Home Rule Charter allows for project-based capital budget appropriation ordinances that lapse when the project has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has been made for three (3) years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established effective immediately, titled Silver Lake Lagoon Bridge Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and expenditures of the improvements described above; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that the Silver Lake Lagoon Bridge Fund is approved with an initial project budget of \$300,000 as described in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED this 21st day of October, 2025.

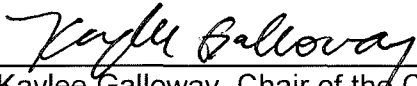
ATTEST


Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Approved by email/B Waldron/A Tan
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Kaylee Galloway, Chair of the Council

(x) Approved () Denied


Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Date: 10/22/2025

EXHIBIT A

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Parks & Recreation

Suppl ID # 5169 Fund Cost Center Originator: Bennett Knox

Expenditure Type: One-Time Year 1 2025 Add'l FTE ☐ Add'l Space ☐ Priority 1

Name of Request: Silver Lake Park Lagoon Bridge Removal

X

Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

Date

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	6190	Direct billing rate	\$30,000
	6630	Professional services	\$85,000
	7060	Repairs and maintenance	\$170,000
	7199	Other miscellaneous-interfund	\$15,000
	8397.C.32402401	Transfers in	(\$300,000)
	Request Total		\$0

1a. Description of request:

The lagoon bridge at Silver Lake Park (see attached photos) has reached the end of its service life and has been closed due to recent failure of structural members resulting in a public safety issue. Parks seeks to remove affected structures up to, and possibly including, the bridge piers. The lagoon bridge has historically served as both a popular park amenity and, functionally, the means for park patrons to travel between park's cabin, lodge, and day-use areas. This SBR will establish a project-based budget to consider options, remove applicable structures, and plan and construct a trail re-route to maintain internal park connectivity.

1b. Primary customers:

Citizens of Whatcom County and particularly the nearly 350,000 annual visitors to Silver Lake Park.

2. Problem to be solved:

The existing lagoon bridge was constructed as part of the original development of Silver Lake Park (1970s). Over the years, certain elements of the overall structure (e.g., overhead pergola structures) have been removed as those elements deteriorated. WCPR has had replacement of the lagoon bridge on the CIP for a number of years, but other priorities have pushed replacement into the future. Recent Departmental efforts to prioritize capital expenditures in light of the totality of Departmental capital needs have resulted in a focus on removal and rerouting of inter-park access rather than immediate replacement. Presently, the CIP identifies 2026 for removal with rerouting to occur in 2026 and 2027. Given recent structural failures WCPR has taken steps to close off the facility. However, due to its location within the lagoon, the public continues to find ways to access the structure from the water. In the interest of reducing county liability, the Department seeks to remove the unsafe structures as soon as possible.

3a. Options / Advantages:

WCPR would preferably consider full removal and replacement of the lagoon bridge structure. However, replacement cost is estimated to be substantial and given overall capital priorities the Department, including a strategic utility project at Silver Lake Park, the Department cannot justify a request for replacement at this time. Given current public safety concerns, removal is the most responsible option. With the funds requested, the Department will investigate the structural integrity of the existing piers to determine whether adapted reuse of the piers is possible.

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Rpt: Rpt Suppl Regular

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Parks & Recreation

Suppl ID # 5169	Fund	Cost Center	Originator: Bennett Knox
-----------------	-------------	--------------------	---------------------------------

3b. Cost savings:

This request does not result in capital cost savings. It will, however, result in reduced liability exposure for the County.

4a. Outcomes:

WCPR expects completion of the investigation and removal process in 2025 and design and permitting of a trail reroute by mid-2026 followed by construction by the end of 2026.

4b. Measures:

Structure will be removed and public safety issue resolved. Trail connectivity will be restored within the park.

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

Permitting will be required necessitating coordination with PDS and WDFW

5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:

No other agency is responsible, but there necessary coordination as referenced above.

6. Funding Source:

REET II - WCPR is requesting a project budge. Funded through companion supplemental 5170.

SILVER LAKE PARK - Lagoon Bridge

