

PROPOSED BY: Executive
INTRODUCTION DATE: September 10, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. _____

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROJECT BASED BUDGET FOR THE GOVERNORS POINT PROJECT FUND

WHEREAS, Whatcom County has the opportunity to acquire 98 acres or wooded shoreline adjacent to Pleasant Bay; and

WHEREAS the first phase of this acquisition is to perform an engineering analysis to establish the parking lot location and trailhead design parameters to inform acquisition and development; and,

WHEREAS, the initial phase will be funded with a \$100,000 transfer from the REET I 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 Governor Point Project Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and expenditures of the acquisition and improvements described above.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that the Governor Point Project Fund is approved with an initial project budget of \$100,000 as described in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Approved by Chris Quinn 9.12.2024/LB

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Parks & Recreation

Suppl ID # 4731 Fund 326 Cost Center 324062400| Originator: Bennett Knox

Expenditure Type: One-Time Year 2 2024 Add'l FTE Add'l Space Priority 1

Name of Request: **Governors Point - Acquisition and Trailhead Dev**

X   7/16/24
Date
Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	6190	Direct Billing Rate	\$7,500
	6630	Professional Services	\$92,500
	Request Total		\$100,000

1a. Description of request:

The Governors Point Project involves acquisition of 98 acres of wooded shoreline adjacent to Pleasant Bay within larger Bellingham Bay followed by development of associated recreational facilities in partnership with the Whatcom Land Trust (WLT). WLT secured donation of this shoreline acreage as part of the development proposal for Governors Point in 2023. WLT seeks to transfer the property to Whatcom County for the value of their expenses incurred, and at significant discount to the County, so that the County may construct trailhead facilities to support recreational use of the property. The project involves three phases: pre-acquisition, acquisition, and development. This SBR is for the first phase to perform engineering analysis to establish parking lot location and trailhead design parameters to inform subsequent acquisition and development. The acquisition phase will result in addition of approximately 2.6 miles of hiking trails and two public kayak launch areas to the Whatcom County Parks inventory. Subsequent development will add a trailhead with a 30-vehicle spaces and a restroom facility.

1b. Primary customers:

Recreating community of Whatcom County including local resident and tourist hikers and kayakers

2. Problem to be solved:

This project protects one of the last remaining undeveloped shorelines in Whatcom County. In addition, this project is responsive to Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Policy PE-1 that the county should acquire for public access a minimum of 15% of the saltwater shoreline and adjacent tidelands in Whatcom County. The addition of approximately 2.6 miles of trail will provide a slight increase in the LOS for miles of trail per 1,000 residents from 34.0 to 34.2 by 2026.

3a. Options / Advantages:

The no action option, i.e., not moving forward in partnership with WLT, was considered. Partnering with WLT and implementing this phase approach is the preferred option given the overall benefit to the community in terms of conservation and recreation value.

3b. Cost savings:

This initial phase informs the subsequent acquisition and development phases in order to identify the most desirable and cost-efficient location of parking lot and trailhead facilities. In addition, pursuing this work sooner rather than later will result in cost savings by avoiding future cost escalation due to potential inflation.

4a. Outcomes:

It is anticipated that this engineering analysis phase will take approximately six months, followed by acquisition by mid-to late-2025. Development is expected to occur in 2026.

4b. Measures:

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Parks & Recreation

Suppl ID # 4731

Fund 326

Cost Center

Originator: Bennett Knox

Project will move to completion with public access available by the end of 2026.

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

n/a

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

n/a

6. Funding Source:

REET I