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City Council

Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Program Update

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Title

Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Program Update

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Receive a progress report on the Habitat and Stewardship Program and provide guidance

Report

Issue:

Review progress on the first year of Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Program implementation.

Staff Contact:

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Presenter(s):

Jesse Barham, Habitat Planner

Background and Analysis:

With support from the Utility Advisory Committee, staff completed an in-depth evaluation of aquatic habitat within the City. This evaluation identified and prioritized habitat needs, and recommended various approaches for protecting and improving habitat. Staff presented the resultant Habitat and Stewardship Strategy to the Utility Advisory Committee in January 2014 and to the City Council in May of 2014.

Subsequently, staff launched a two-year pilot project to implement portions of the strategy. This included habitat planning on both public and private lands, implementation of a variety of restoration projects, and the creation of multiple partnerships. Partners include other City Departments/work groups, other agencies, neighborhoods, and private property owners.

Staff will provide the City Council with a progress report on the first year of this work effort.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The work effort builds upon neighborhood and community interests in habitat protection and enhancement. It helps guide the Storm and Surface Water Utility as it works to implement the aquatic habitat goals and policies of the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Storm and Surface Water Master Plan.

A focus group of neighborhood and community group representatives provided insights into community needs in December of 2014.

Options:

City Council could modify staff's approach and/or timing of this initiative in order to better serve community needs.

Financial Impact:

No additional financial impact at this time.

Attachments:

Aquatic Habitat Program Progress Report - November 2015