**future
wise**

Memorandum

From: Christopher Wierzbicki, Executive Director

To: Port Angeles City Council

Date: May 21, 2019

Re: GreenLink Port Angeles

Attachments: Project Timeline, Frequently Used Terms, Further Resources

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Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update to the Port Angeles City Council on the current status of the GreenLink Port Angeles project, as well as to provide project background and context. It is intended to supplement the in-person briefing Futurewise provided to the Council at the May 21, 2019 meeting.

Summary of GreenLink Port Angeles

GreenLink Port Angeles is a two-phase, watershed-scale, green infrastructure planning project.

- The **goal** of GreenLink Port Angeles is to plan and begin implementing an integrated network of green stormwater infrastructure that will improve the city's water quality, habitat, and community assets;

- **Futurewise** is an environmental non-profit organization that specializes in land use policy in Washington State. In 2017 we partnered with Herrera Environmental to implement a GreenLink pilot project in Bellingham, Washington; and the success of that project allowed our team to receive two additional grants to bring this approach to Port Angeles;

- The GreenLink method emphasizes collaboration between government agencies, between professional disciplines, and amongst community stakeholders; while also prioritizing projects with multiple benefits in addition to water quality (e.g., habitat, mobility, community health, etc.); it takes a **holistic view of watershed planning that promotes inclusion**, **coordination**, and a **broad definition of the watershed**

Background

- Initially, Futurewise was in conversation with the City of Sequim to apply for a **Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Near Term Action (NTA) grant** to implement a GreenLink project there.[1] Futurewise received the first $248,000 NTA in 2018 but Sequim decided that the timing was not right for them to take on a project like this. Partners in Sequim suggested that we reach out to Port Angeles, and soon afterwards our team connected with Nathan West. He and Mayor Sissi

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[1] PSP is a Washington-based, quasi-governmental agency that manages all of the Puget Sound recovery research and funding and NTAs are their prioritization process for channeling federal funds into local-level projects.

Bruch found that the project aligned well with the City's green stormwater infrastructure vision and goals.

- After partnering with the City of Port Angeles, Futurewise applied for and received **a second NTA** (also for $248,000) and combined the two grants into "Phase 1" and "Phase 2" of the same GreenLink project. Futurewise chose to divide the two phases into the following priorities:
  - **Phase 1** will develop an integrated network of implementable green infrastructure project recommendations to improve water quality, habitat, and community assets;
  - **Phase 2** will support the development and implementation of projects and programs identified in Phase 1.

Project Team & Key Partners

Futurewise is excited to support the City of Port Angeles' green infrastructure goals:

- **Futurewise** is an environmental non-profit organization that specializes in land use policy in Washington State;
- **Herrera Environmental** provides watershed planning and analysis services to the project;
- The project's governmental partners include the **City of Port Angeles**, **Clallam County**, **Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe**, **and the Washington State Department of Ecology**; and several Port Angeles-based community organizations are also helping to guide the project;
- The following government bodies and community organizations are represented by the **GreenLink Advisory Committee (GLAC)** members:
  - City of Port Angeles
  - Clallam County
  - Clallam Marine Resources Committee
  - Feiro Marine Life Center
  - Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
  - Olympic National Park
  - Puget Sound Streamkeepers (Clallam County)
  - Washington Sea Grant

Phase 1 (July 2018 - April 2020)

The goal of Phase 1 is to develop a list of implementable green infrastructure projects and/or policies that **will improve Port Angeles water quality, habitat, and community assets**:

- The **GreenLink Advisory Committee** is made up of local stakeholders and technical advisors who are deeply integrated throughout the process. The GLAC members provide local expertise concerning the watersheds' conditions, opportunities for public engagement, and potential projects and/or policies that should be evaluated. The GLAC first met in November 2018 and meets quarterly throughout the project;
- Herrera, the project technical consultant, will create a **watershed condition analysis** of the Port Angeles watershed. This will involve collecting watershed data using criteria within the three categories of water quality, habitat, and community assets and creating a catalog of maps of the

existing Port Angeles watershed conditions using these criteria. Herrera will analyze GIS data to develop "heat maps" that can help identify areas within the watershed that would benefit from green infrastructure projects;

- Futurewise will engage in broad **community engagement** to inform Port Angeles and Clallam County residents about GreenLink as well as to collect community knowledge local definitions of community assets, creek conditions and uses, and preferences for potential projects. Potential outreach opportunities involve:
    - **Tabling at community events** like the Port Angeles Farmers Market, the Clallam County Fair, or the Dungeness Crab & Seafood Festival;
    - A **Watershed Tour** in late summer or early fall 2019 for the GreenLink Advisory Committee and other interested members of the public to take a tour of some of the areas highlighted by the heat map analysis to help narrow down potential project sites and brainstorm project ideas;
    - **Presenting at meetings** of relevant or interest community organizations.

- Phase 1 will end with the development of a **list of priority projects**. Based on the "heat map" analysis and community feedback, Futurewise, Herrera, and the GLAC will develop a set of potential green infrastructure projects that meet project goals. Potential projects will be sourced from the City's existing plans (e.g., capital improvement plans) as well as from feedback provided by project stakeholders and members of the Port Angeles general public. From this list, the GLAC will narrow down to a "short list" of projects that community members and decision-makers can use to apply for implementation funding.
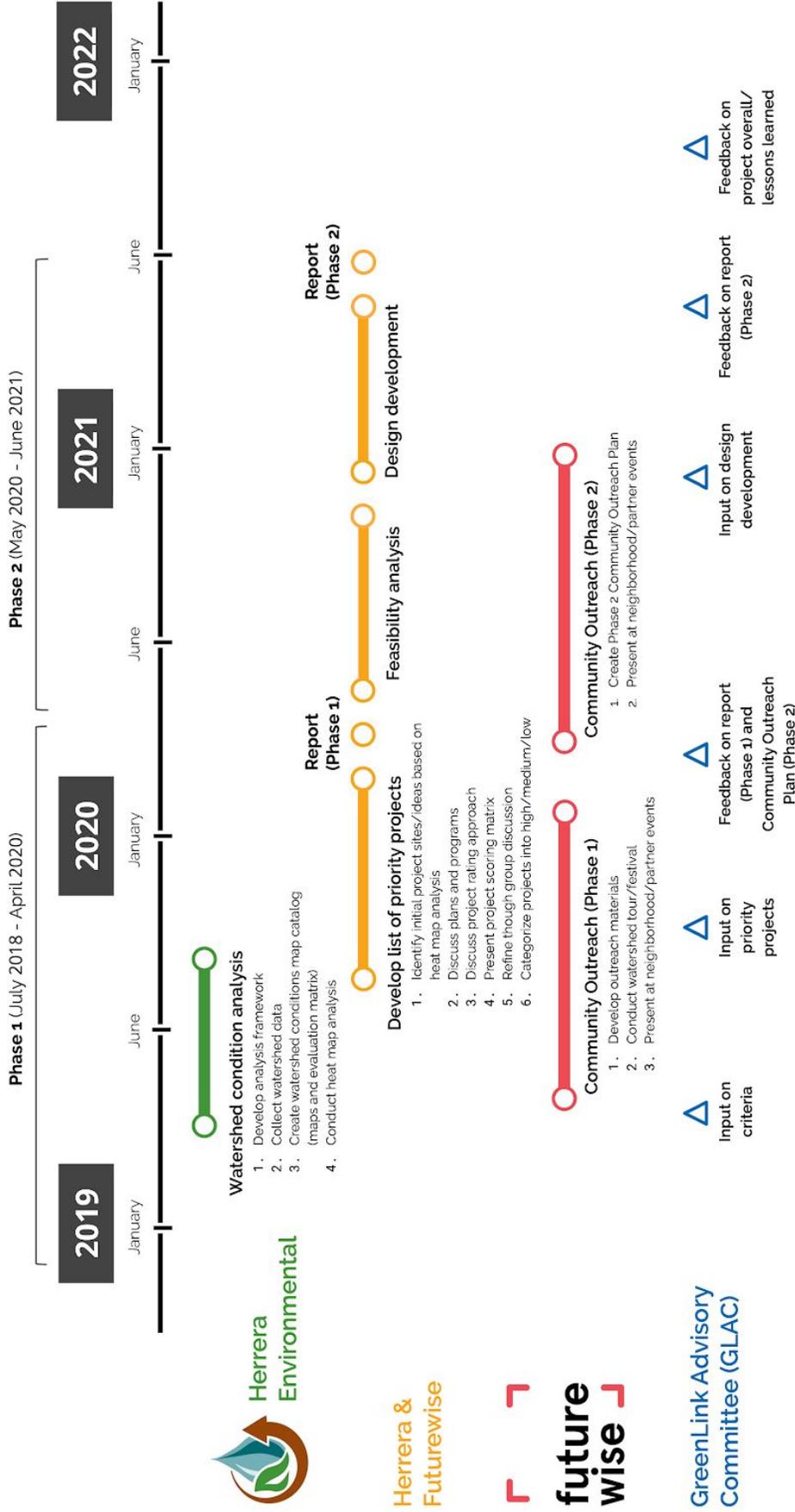
Phase 2 (May 2020 - June 2021)

The plan for Phase 2 is highly dependent on what the heat map analysis and subsequent list of priority projects developed during Phase 1. Phase 2 will be focused on advancing the project or policy list generated from Phase 1. Further details will be shared with the Council as Phase 1 nears completion.

GreenLink Port Angeles Timeline

Phase 1 (July 2018 - April 2020) **Phase 2** (May 2020 - June 2021)

2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022

January — June — January — June — January — June — January

Herrera Environmental

Watershed condition analysis
1. Develop analysis framework
2. Collect watershed data
3. Create watershed conditions map catalog (maps and evaluation matrix)
4. Conduct heat map analysis

Develop list of priority projects
1. Identify initial project sites/ideas based on heat map analysis
2. Discuss plans and programs
3. Discuss project rating approach
4. Present project scoring matrix
5. Refine through group discussion
6. Categorize projects into high/medium/low

Herrera & Futurewise

Report (Phase 1)

Feasibility analysis

Report (Phase 2)

Design development

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Community Outreach (Phase 1)
1. Develop outreach materials
2. Conduct watershed tour/festival
3. Present at neighborhood/partner events

Community Outreach (Phase 2)
1. Create Phase 2 Community Outreach Plan
2. Present at neighborhood/partner events

GreenLink Advisory Committee (GLAC)

Input on criteria

Input on priority projects

Feedback on report (Phase 1) and Community Outreach Plan (Phase 2)

Input on design development

Feedback on report (Phase 2)

Feedback on project overall/ lessons learned

Community Benefits or Community Co-Benefits
This encompasses any project benefits that are outside of what has traditionally been considered to be environmental benefits. This can include community health (improved air quality, improved community physical health from access to trails, improved community mental health from access to green spaces) or community assets (trail systems, green spaces, etc.).

Green Infrastructure
Green infrastructure is a series of management practices that encourage viable ecological functions in developed areas, primarily as a way of managing stormwater. Green infrastructure reduces the volume of stormwater flows and can reduce water quality contaminated from flooding, combined sewer overflows, and stormwater runoff. Green infrastructure, however, can provide other ecological, economic, and social benefits and is an innovative solution for providing habitat viability, climate change preparation, and safe streets.

Heat Map
A "heat map" is a graphical representation of several layers of watershed condition criteria displayed in a single map. These criteria are combined into a single color spectrum that indicate the range of low- to high-levels of negative impact, typically with green representing "low" and red representing "high". The purpose of a "heat map" is to show a lot of spatial information in a way doesn't distract the viewer.

Stormwater
Stormwater is rainwater or snowmelt that runs over surfaces such as lawns, roofs, streets, and parking lots. In most areas of Port Angeles, stormwater is collected in catch basins located in paved areas. Stormwater flows from the catch basins into underground pipes that carry it a nearby body of water, such as a creek or the harbor. Stormwater is also transported in roadside ditches or culverts, and in some areas may enter the combined sewer system and be transported to the wastewater treatment plant.

Watershed
A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that drains off of it goes into the same place. The Port Angeles watershed is just under 27,000 acres in size and includes the city of Port Angeles, part of Clallam county, and a small part of Olympic National Park.

Appendix C: Further Resources

To learn more about Futurewise, please see our website: www.futurewise.org

To see an example of a previous GreenLink project, please check out the report from GreenLink Bellingham: http://www.futurewise.org/resources/reports/greenlink-bellingham

To learn more about stormwater in Port Angeles, please see your City of Port Angeles Public Works Stormwater Utility website: https://wa-portangeles.civicplus.com/444/Stormwater-Resources

For more on green infrastructure, please see the EPA's website on green infrastructure: https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure. Of particular interest to this project may be the 2014 EPA report on enhancing sustainable communities through green infrastructure: https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/enhancing-sustainable-communities-green-infrastructure or the 2014 EPA report on coastal stormwater management through green infrastructure: https://www.epa.gov/nep/coastal-stormwater-management-through-green-infrastructure-handbook-municipalities-0.