

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-73

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Mayor

Date of Introduction: January 23, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: R, F, TEU, Waterways Commission

Date of Analysis: January 25, 2024

Type of Action: Appropriation; authorization of fund carry-over; invocation of direct contracting exception; authorization to execute funding agreement; Ordinance Code waiver; designation of oversight agency; requirement for annual and final reports

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$122,091 from Environmental Protection Fund fund balance to provide funding for a direct contract with Groundwork Jacksonville, Inc. to undertake a pilot project in Hogan's Creek to determine the impact of stream restoration to natural conditions on water quality and the ability to obtain water quality credits. (**NOTE** – the appropriation is intended for a project on branches of McCoy's Creek; the scrivener's error listing Hogan's Creek as the site in the bill title will need to be corrected in committee). The funds are authorized to carry-over to FY24-25. The bill invokes the Procurement Code's exception to permit direct contracting with an organization specifically named in authorizing legislation and authorizes execution of a funding agreement between the City and Groundwork Jax. A provision of Ordinance Code Chapter 110 – City Treasury – is waived to permit a partial advance payment of the funds to be made to Groundwork Jax. The Environmental Quality Division of the Neighborhoods Department is designated as the oversight agency for the project. The funding agreement will contain a requirement for annual progress reporting by Groundwork Jax in September of each year through the end of the grant period.

Background Information: The pilot project will attempt to demonstrate the amount of water quality improvement and water quality credits that could be obtained by restoring artificially channeled streams to their natural condition as part of the larger McCoy's Creek restoration project. If successful, the results of the pilot project could be used to inform water project permitting processes by the St. Johns River Water Management District and Florida Department of Environmental Protection in other jurisdictions. The procurement exception and Ordinance Code waiver are required to enter into a non-competitive direct contract with the organization. The Environmental Protection Board has authorized the use of EPB funding as a worthwhile and beneficial use of the funds for environmental research.

Policy Impact Area: Water quality improvement

Fiscal Impact: The bill appropriates \$122,091 from Environmental Protection Fund fund balance.

Analyst: Clements