

If passed, this City Charter amendment would clarify the City Council's authority to permit or prohibit incidental uses by the general public of City lands controlled by the Water Bureau. Incidental public uses – when approved by the City Council after a public engagement process – may include neighborhood green spaces, community gardens, picnic benches, play equipment or other uses that do not conflict with the primary drinking water purpose of these lands. The proposed amendment will not impact City lands in the Bull Run Watershed Closure Area, which would remain closed to the general public.

The public's incidental use may result in associated costs to the Water Fund, which is the Water Bureau's operating fund. Associated costs may include maintenance and improvements to lands and facilities and compliance with state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

If the amendment is not passed, the City Council's authority to permit or prohibit incidental public use on non-Bull Run Watershed lands would continue to be implied by the City Charter, and management of these lands would be reliant on General Fund discretionary funds.

(184 words)