

November 21, 2024

Memorandum

To: Parks, Utilities, & Technology Committee
From: Seattle Parks and Recreation
Subject: Council Bills 120921 and 120922

Summary

This memo outlines legislation that helps Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) secure park land acquisitions for the city in two areas:

- Authorizing the acquisition of property in the junction of North Beach Hill Residential Urban Village (RUV) and North Rainier Hub Urban Village (HUV) (Council Bill 120922) as well as authorizing funding to acquire the property (Council Bill 120921).
- Authorizing funding to acquire property in the Westwood-Highland Park RUV (Council Bill 120921, through receipt of King County Conservation Futures (CFT) grant. The property acquisition was approved by Council in 2023.

Council Bill 120922: SPR N Rainier HUV Acquisition ORDINANCE

This legislation authorizes the acquisition of property located at the approximate junction of two urban villages, North Beacon RUV and North Rainier HUV (sometimes referred to as Mt. Baker HUV). The proposed acquisition would fill existing park service gaps, defined in the 2024 Park and Open Space Plan as an urban village not having a park within a five-minute walking distance. The property was appraised at \$5.38 million, and the seller agreed to a final price of \$5.5 million—which is within historic negotiating standards, as it is not atypical for the final negotiated price to be slightly higher than the appraisal. In early 2024, SPR applied for a \$5.5 million King County Conservation Futures (CFT) grant. The CFT Oversight Committee has recommended the grant. Council Bill 120921 recognizes receipt of the \$5.5 million in CFT funding that is being used for this property acquisition.

If approved, this acquisition will result in a new block-sized park, the idea of which was community-initiated and remains community-supported by the Mt. Baker Hub Alliance, El Centro de la Raza, and the Beacon Hill Council. CB 120921 in addition to this one are running concurrently to ensure timing of funding.

Council Bill 120921: SPR CFT Amendment 5 to Interlocal 2025 ORDINANCE

This legislation authorizes Amendment 5 to the existing Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between The City of Seattle and King County for the Acquisition of Open Space Projects (“Interlocal”).

- It authorizes acceptance of up to a total of \$3,250,000 of King County Conservation Futures Levy 2025 allocations for the Westwood-Highland Park RUV acquisition, a nearly 14,000 square foot property. City Council authorized SPR’s acquisition in 2023 with CB 120648. This acquisition fills in a gap in a neighborhood with limited access to green space.
- The amendment also adds the North Beacon Hill RUV/North Rainier HUV project to the approved projects list for CFT. It is anticipated that King County will directly fund escrow of the North Beacon Hill RUV/North Rainier HUV project estimated at \$5,550,000. Therefore, SPR will not receive the proceeds for that acquisition