

Park Inspection Program

Overview, Outcomes, Plans for the Future

City Council Civic Development, Public Assets and Native Communities Committee

July 18, 2018

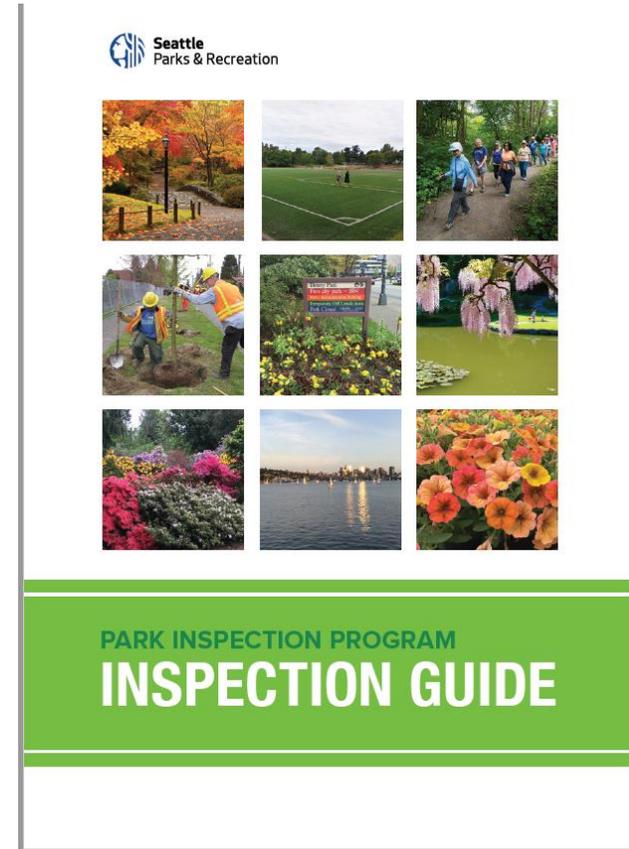
Seattle Parks and Recreation



City of Seattle

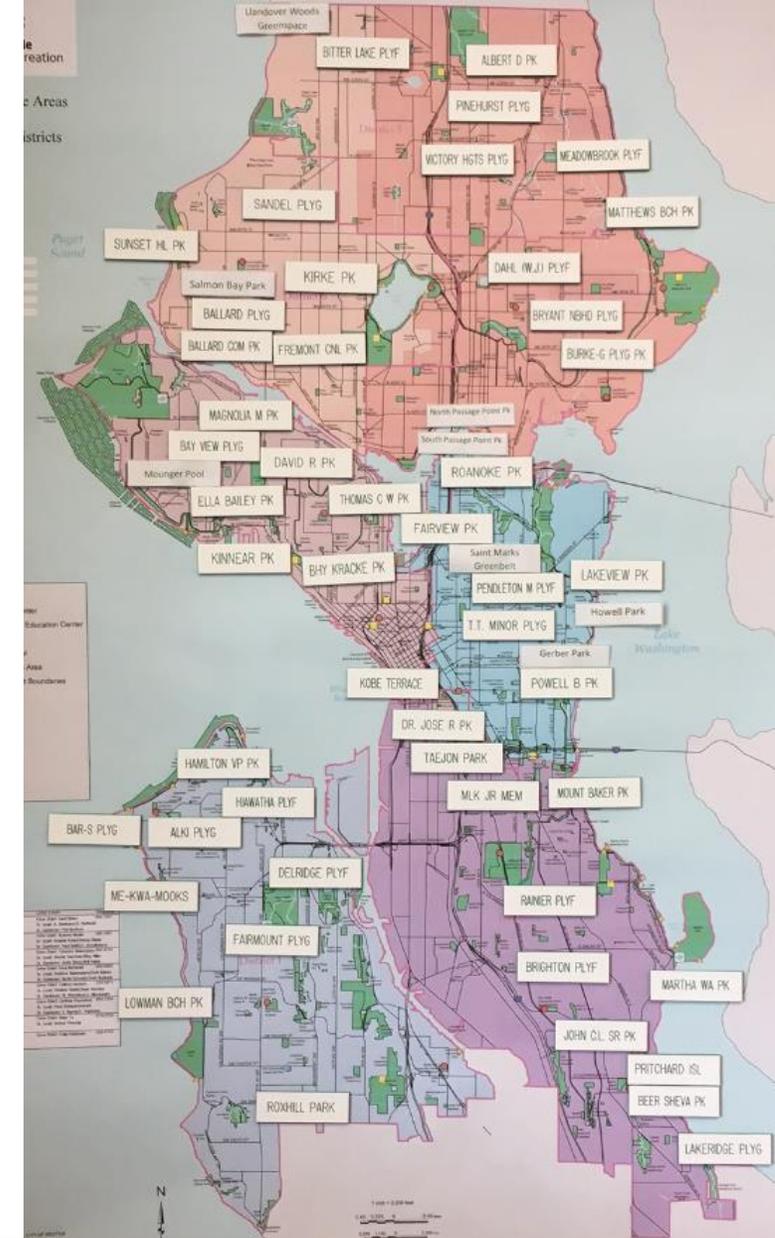
Park Inspection Program Overview

- Re-launched Park Inspection Program
 - First started in early 2000s – lacked adequate resources; too many competing priorities to sustain it
 - Re-launch of program in 2017 – commitment to Park District & performance mgmt.; audit suggested inspections as best practice
- Program Goal: Ensure clean, safe and welcoming parks
 - Lessons learned from this baseline year will inform 2019 and beyond



2018 Baseline Process Overview

- Goal: inspect a minimum of 80 parks in this baseline year (Nov. 2017 – Nov. 2018)
- Inspection sites are randomly selected
- Multiple volunteers attend a single inspection
- Inspections included numeric ratings and open-ended comments



Summary of Milestones to Date

- Inspections began in November 2017
- Recruited & trained 54 volunteer inspectors
 - For 2019 recruitment, we are exploring strategies to diversify participation
- 52 parks inspected through June (on track to annual baseline goal of 80 parks)
 - Numerical ratings of 14 elements for each site
 - Over 450 comments received on individual rating forms (see next slide)
 - Work orders are submitted for immediate maintenance needs
 - Results are helping determine trends, priorities

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Park inspection volunteers needed for new program

October 19, 2017 by [Kyle Morrison](#)



Inspection Tools - Rating Guide and Evaluation Form




PARK INSPECTION PROGRAM
INSPECTION GUIDE

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|------------------------|--|
|  Seattle Parks & Recreation | | Park Evaluation Form – See inspection book for rating details and example photos. Ratings: 1 = unacceptable, 2=barely acceptable, 3 = needs improvement, 4 = meets almost all goals, 5 = excellent | | | |
| Park Inspected: Burke- | Inspec Brian Rapalee | Date: 4/17/18 | Time: 10:30am | Weather: Partly | |
| Inspected Areas | Rating | Comments / Improvements Needed | | | |
| Garbage Control | 4 | No comments. No photos. | | | |
| Restrooms | 3 | Minor cleaning of interior surfaces and floor required. Painting/repair of exterior | | | |
| Community Center Entry | N/A | | | | |
| Picnic Shelters and Areas | 4 | Minor surface cleaning of picnic tables and several separate bench seats required. One | | | |
| Play Areas | 3 | Additional mulch material, leveling and grading required. Weeding required at some | | | |
| Sport Courts | N/A | | | | |
| Hardscapes | 1 | Significant tripping hazards at 12-15 raised/lowered walkway panel edges require immediate mitigation by edge grinding, feathered ramps or selective reconstruction. Worst area is a sagging/cracked walkway area at edge of nature trail entrance which will ultimately require reconstruction of four large panels or more--maybe with subsurface edge drains at toe of landscape mound. Most walkway joints and cracks are filled with grass/debris and/or lacking joint filler/sealer. All walkways require surface cleaning of moss/debris. See 3 photos. | | | |
| Lighting | 4 | No comments. No photos. | | | |

Post-Inspection Actions

- Site Specific
 - Work orders generated during inspection
 - Re-prioritization of routine maintenance activities
- Districtwide
 - Trends – scheduling and training opportunities (see handout)
- Systemwide
 - Analyzing trends (See slide 13 & handout)
 - Assessing how new work order system can better support this work
 - Communication with other departments (property ownership, etc.)



Inspection-Generated Improvements

Safe:



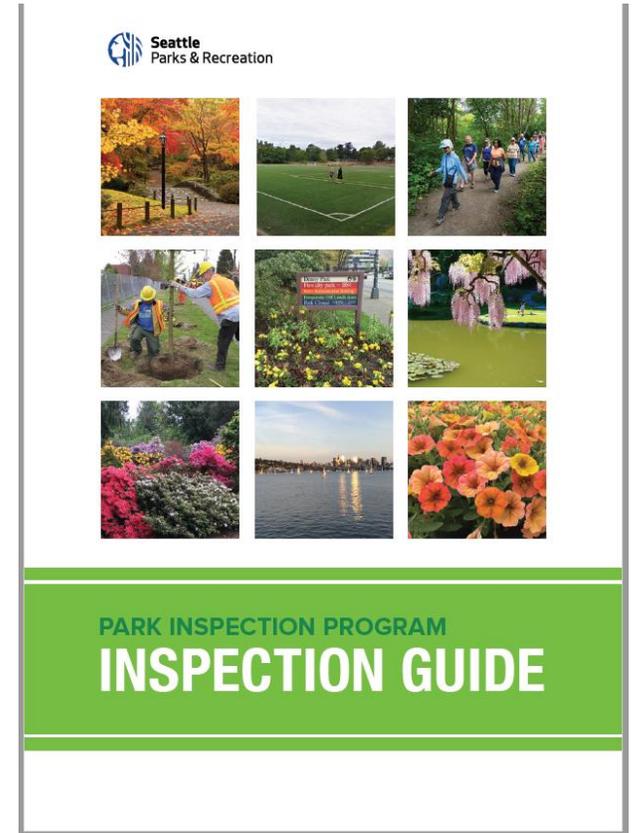
Welcoming:



Clean:



Park Inspection Program Early Observations

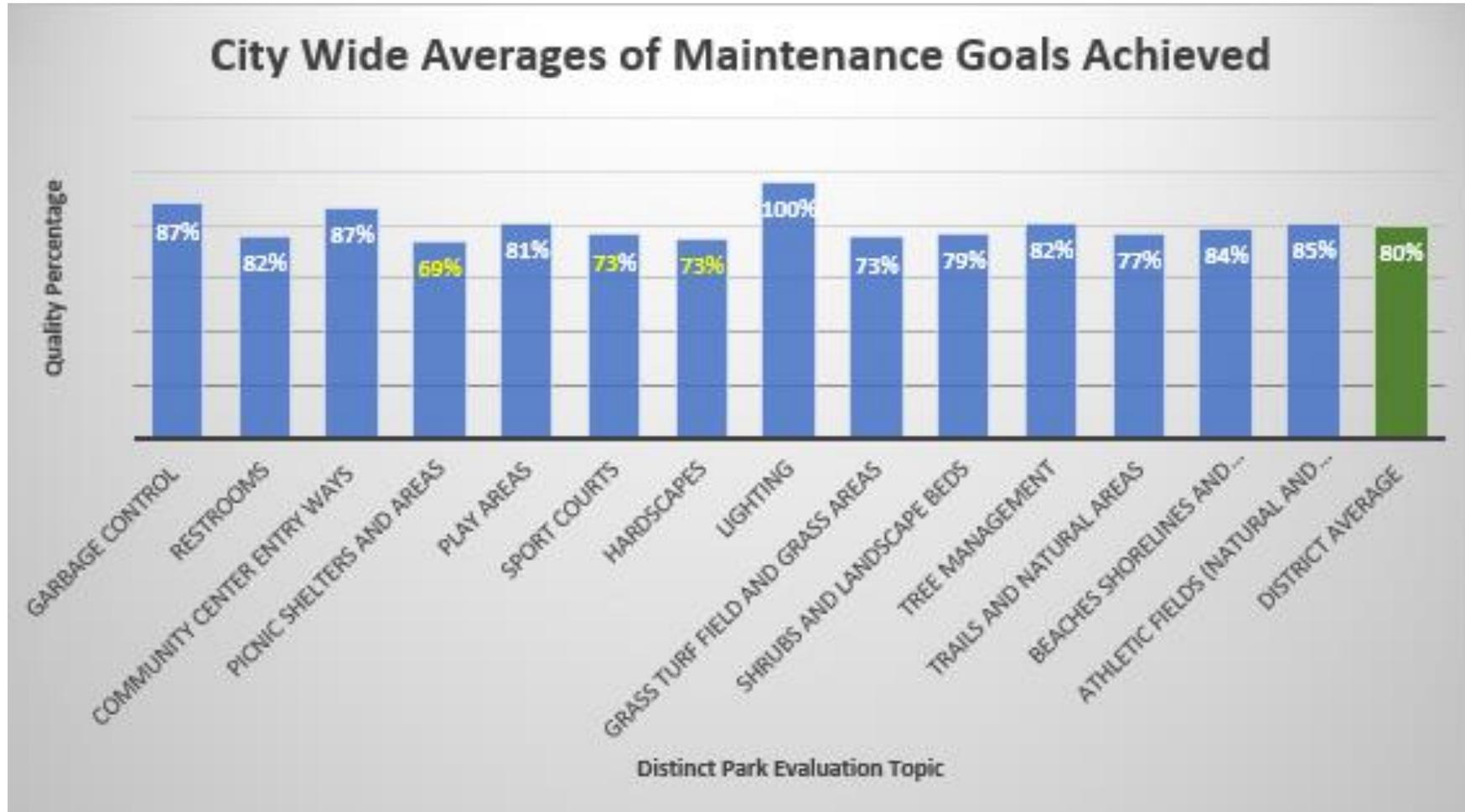


Early Observations - Numeric Ratings: Snapshots of data and predictions

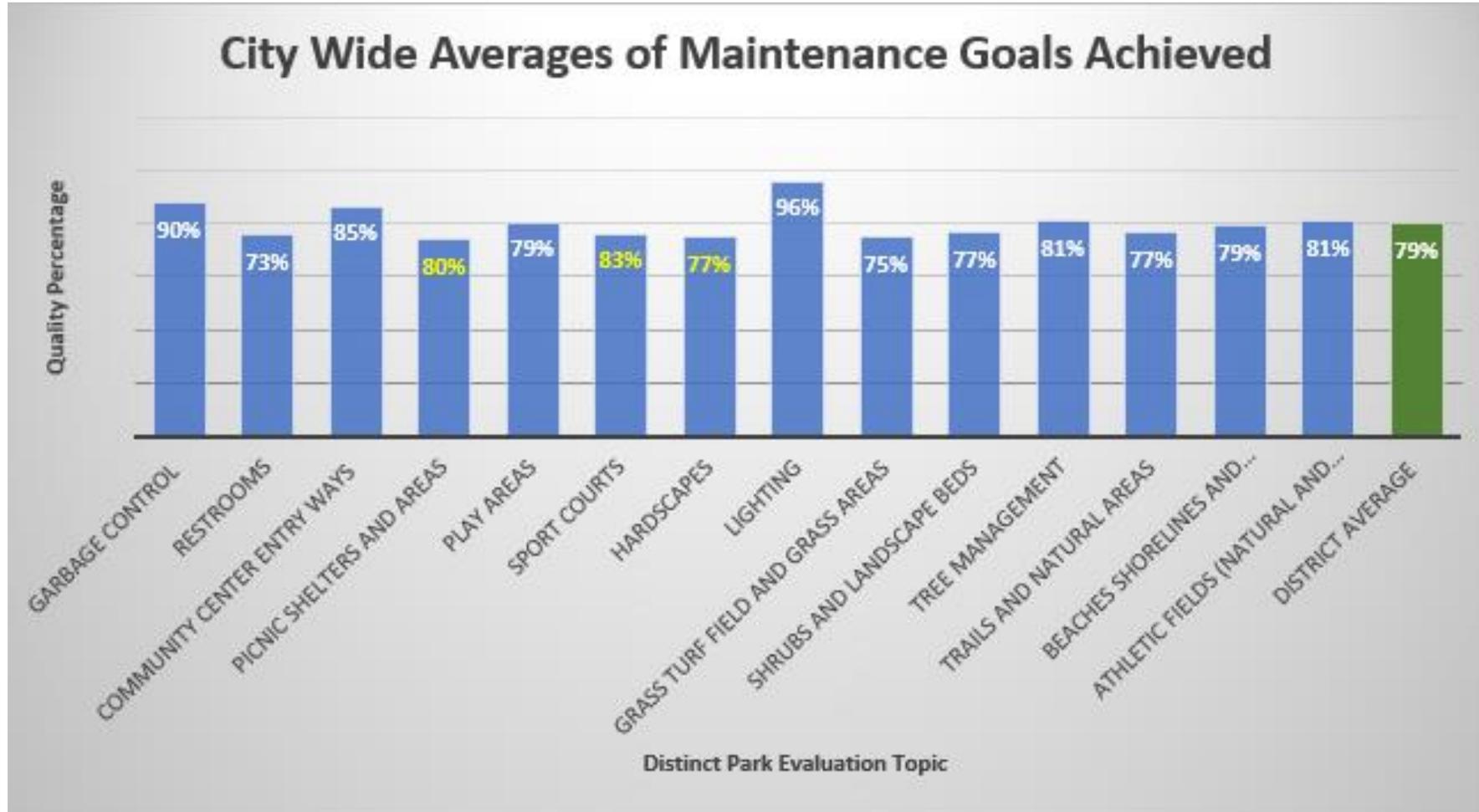
- Snapshot 1 – Winter Ratings: Seasonal impact on inspection elements (Slide 10)
 - Predictably hard surfaces, sport courts and picnic areas scores are low in winter – unable to pressure wash until April when water is turned on
- Snapshot 2 – Spring Ratings: growth concerns (Slide 11)
 - Vegetative growth concerns; mowing, weeding, pruning
- Prediction – Summer Ratings (Peak Season)
 - Dormant, unirrigated turf will receive lower ratings
 - Long days and hot weather expected to bring heavy use and abuse with more graffiti, litter/garbage, restroom cleaning
- Prediction – Fall Ratings
 - Leaf and storm debris concerns will impact ratings



Snapshot 1: Winter Maintenance Results



Snapshot 2: Spring Rating Results



Early Observations - Open-Ended Comments

- Goal is safe, clean and welcoming parks
 - Comments are helping us evaluate where next to focus maintenance efforts (Snapshot of comments – Slide 13)
- Shrub beds: replenish mulch
 - Attention here in winter could reduce summer weeding
 - Saves water and increases resiliency
- Trails/natural areas:
 - Walking is most identified activity
 - Attention to pruning for pedestrian clearing and trail surface maintenance could improve user experience
 - Could result in more activation, positive uses throughout our park system



Inspection feedback informs way forward

| Legend | |
|------------------|---------|
| SAFE: | |
| Clean: | |
| Welcoming: | |
| Policy conflict: | No Fill |

| Grass areas | Shrub beds | Trees | Trails/ NA | Beach/ shore | Athletic Fields |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Aerate/ seed worn areas (18) | Remove weeds (22) | Install protective mulch (11) | Pedestrian clearance pruning (5) | Remove litter (4) | Aerate/ seed worn areas (3) |
| Repair Trip hazard-holes (11) | Replenish mulch (12) | Pedestrian clearance pruning (10) | Trip hazard-repair (5) | Remove Invasive weeds (2) | Control weeds in infield |
| Repair vehicle ruts (4) | Vegetation encroachment (7) | Remove invasive vegetation from trees (8) | Remove weeds in trail (4) | Remove natural debris (2) | Remove leaves on synthetic turf |

Next Steps

- Volunteer Engagement
 - Explore ways to diversify volunteer participation
 - Survey our volunteers on ways to improve the program
 - Recruit 2019 volunteers
- Operationalize Inspection Suggestions
 - Establish baseline and future goals
 - Include results in SPR Annual Report
 - Explore how to operationalize first-year lessons learned
- Opportunities for Continuous Improvement
 - Link inspection repair requests to our work order system
 - Update and merge inspection guide and evaluation sheet
 - Peer-to-peer inspection as follow-up



Thank you!

