

Overview and Initial Issues Identification
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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Table 1: Expenditures/Revenues

<i>Expenditures</i>	2015 Adopted Budget	2016 Endorsed Budget	2016 Proposed Budget	% Change Endorsed to Proposed
Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Spending by Budget Control Level (BCL)				
Environmental Learning & Programs	\$1,109,594	\$1,131,714	\$1,106,828	-2.1%
Facility and Structure Maintenance	\$16,888,837	\$17,997,271	\$17,708,924	-1.6%
Finance and Administration	\$10,358,225	\$12,429,737	\$14,294,669	15%
Golf	\$11,560,548	\$11,904,448	\$11,904,448	0%
Judgment and Claims	\$384,593	\$710,693	\$710,693	0%
Natural Resources Management	\$8,536,469	\$9,210,151	\$9,124,929	0%
Park Cleaning, Landscaping & Restoration	\$31,790,049	\$32,665,281	\$32,702,663	0%
Planning, Development & Acquisition	\$6,918,320	\$6,969,790	\$7,215,078	3.5%
Policy Direction and Leadership	\$3,870,315	\$4,115,167	\$4,460,102	8.4%
Recreation Facilities and Programs	\$27,410,216	\$28,573,590	\$28,000,660	-2%
Regional Parks & Strategic Outreach	\$4,393,146	\$5,348,504	\$6,146,850	14.9%
Seattle Aquarium	\$299,999	\$1,079,998	\$1,079,998	0%
Seattle Conservation Corps	\$4,122,534	\$4,171,356	\$4,080,475	-2.2%
Swimming, Boating, and Aquatics	\$9,664,355	\$9,821,934	\$9,537,806	-2.9%
Woodland Park Zoo	\$6,923,817	\$7,123,404	\$7,078,143	0
O & M Total	\$144,231,022	\$153,253,038	\$155,152,265	1.2%
Capital Spending	\$20,719,000	\$61,179,000	\$54,218,000	11.3%
Total Spending	\$164,950,022	\$214,432,038	\$209,370,265	-8.2%
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Staff	908	919	919	0%
Revenues				
General Subfund (GSF)	\$92,852,622	\$96,498,347	\$96,589,512	0%
Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)	\$11,790,000	\$11,841,000	\$14,343,000	21%
Park District	\$9,692,398	\$47,799,159	\$47,799,159	0%
Use of Fund Balance	\$950,000	\$94,110	\$809,108	360%
Other	\$50,170,891	\$58,199,422	\$49,829,486	-14%
Total Revenues	\$164,950,022	\$214,432,038	\$209,370,265	-2%

Introduction:

Operating Budget. The 2016 Proposed Budget includes a \$155.1M operating budget for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), an increase of \$1.9M (1.2%) over the 2016 Endorsed Budget. DPR's budget includes \$96.5M in General Subfund (GSF) support, an increase of \$91k over the 2016 Endorsed Budget. The GSF funding level is consistent with the commitments made in the Parks District Interlocal agreement concerning GSF support to DPR's budget. Table 1 above shows the changes in DPR's budget by Budget Control Level (BCL). Listed below are the most significant changes included in the Proposed Operating Budget:

- \$645,000 for the management of the Leschi and Lakewood boat moorages by DPR until a new operator of the moorages is selected via a Request For Proposal process, expected sometime in 2016. Funding will also be used to do basic maintenance and repairs at the moorages. This appropriation is funded with moorage fee revenues. DPR staff took over management of the moorages, October 1st. The 4th quarter supplemental includes funding to cover DPR staffing costs for the October to January period.
- \$270,000 to bring the DPR into compliance with the Level One credit card data security standards. Of the total, \$150,000 is one-time funding for hardware improvements and \$120,000 is ongoing funding for staff to ensure compliance with security standards.
- \$345,000 for two new policy positions in the Superintendent's Office. One position will work on DPR's partnership with the Seattle Public Schools (SPS), including an update to the Joint Use Agreement and potential modifications to DPR programs if school start times change. This position is funded at an Executive II level. A second position is added to work on furthering the work of the Race and Social Justice Initiative, and developing and implementing organizational development initiatives (both internal and external). This position is funded at a Strategic Adviser 3 level.
- \$1,042,000 to support the Summit Re-implementation project. Funding is provided for temporary staff and vendor services to support DPR's work on this project.
- \$809,000 use of fund balance to reduce GSF support in 2016.

Capital Budget. The 2016 spending in DPR's proposed 2016-21 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is \$54.2M, a reduction of \$6.9M (11.3%) compared to 2016 spending in the adopted 2015-2020 CIP. The 2016 Proposed Budget includes the following notable spending changes:

- \$300,000 increase to Comfort Station Renovations project. Depending on the results of a feasibility study by Parks, this funding may be used to implement the recommendations of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer (LGBTQ) Task Force regarding establishment of gender neutral restrooms.
- \$5,450,000 reduction in 2016 LTGO bond fund support for Smith Cove Park project. The cost of work in 2016 for this project, estimated at approximately \$550,000, will be covered by an interfund loan from the City's cash pool. The loan will be repaid with Parks District funding

in 2017. Total project cost (\$6 million) remains unchanged as does the plan for the Park District's funding of these costs. The method for financing the total project will be determined in 2016.

- \$1.4M increase to reimburse Seattle Public Utilities for Gas Works Park remediation work performed in accordance with the 1998 Consent Decree with DPR, Puget Sound Energy, and the Department of Ecology.
- \$3.9M reduction in parks-related Central Waterfront projects (including Pier 62/63 and Waterfront Park) to reflect changes in timeline and prioritization of resources for these projects.
- \$500,000 increase in funding for design and planning related to the Aquarium Expansion project. Proposed legislation authorizes modification to the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Aquarium to allow an increase in funding that can be spent on design and development costs. Total project costs remain unchanged.

Budget Related Legislation.

- 1) Interfund Loan for 2016 Smith Cove Park Project Costs – This ordinance authorizes the Director of Finance to provide a loan of up to \$560,000 from the City's Consolidated Cash Pool to the Parks Capital Fund to support the design phase of the Smith Cove Park Project. This loan will be repaid no later than January 31, 2017. Park's District funds will be used to pay off this loan.

Identified Issues:

1. Land Acquisition Partnership Program (Clifthorne)

In the 2015 Adopted Budget, Council requested that DPR and the City Budget Office (CBO) convene an Interdepartmental Team (IDT) with other City departments to evaluate options for increasing the purchase or retention of surplus City properties for use as publicly accessible open space within the City. This evaluation was undertaken in response to community interest in the retention of City-owned utility properties for public use and the expansion of the City's P-Patch program to address multi-year wait times at many P-Patch locations throughout the City. The IDT found that Parks has acquired 67 parcels, 35 for green space and 32 for neighborhood parkland since 2009. During this same time period, the 2008 Parks and Greenspaces Levy funded the development of community gardens or P-Patches at 20 city owned properties. The IDT noted that the Seattle Parks District (SPD) was intentionally structured to address deficiencies in the operations and maintenance of the existing park system and provides limited funding for land acquisitions. The SPD's 2016 Proposed Budget includes \$2 million a year to acquire new parks property as part of the Park Land Acquisition and Leverage Fund. Site acquisitions will be prioritized in underserved areas based on Parks' gap analysis.

The IDT did not recommend a separate revolving fund for the acquisition of open space due to concerns about: the scarcity of available funding, the long term maintenance of acquired

properties, and race and social justice impacts. In addition, the IDT indicated that the City's current surplus and acquisition policies provide opportunity for public involvement and City acquisition of properties for open space.

In its recommendations, the IDT did note that there are existing examples in other jurisdictions of successful approaches for public participation in expansion and retention of public land involving large community-based organizations. Such organizations are well suited to purchase and protect open space. Because these organizations are large and stable, they can take on maintenance for the long-term and reduce concerns raised about the staying power of smaller groups in providing the ongoing maintenance of acquired properties. With a city-wide view, a group like this could also potentially address race and social justice concerns by making such concerns a key consideration of acquisitions.

If the Council is interested in providing additional resources for acquisition of land for public use, the City could request that DPR develop a program to foster public-private partnerships with community organizations, businesses, and individuals in order to further leverage limited resources for acquisition. These partnerships would support site acquisitions of land that would be targeted for public uses including urban agriculture, open space, environmental learning activities, or the City's P-Patch program. Program guidelines could be developed that would support the City's race and social justice goals. Furthermore, such a program could significantly increase the buying-power of limited acquisition resources at DPR by capitalizing on widespread community interest in parks, urban agriculture, and open space amenities.

Options:

- A. Appropriate \$1 million for the development and operation of a program within the Parks Department to foster public-private partnerships for land acquisition. Request that DPR develop guidelines for the operation of such a program and submit such guidelines to the Council before expenditure of program funds is permitted.
- B. Approve the budget as proposed without an appropriation for a Land Acquisition Partnership program.

2. Fund for Athletics Field Fees (Venkataraman)

Currently, all youth sports organizations pay the same fees for using DPR athletic fields. See Table 2. In many cases, these fees are passed through to members of the organizations. However, because some organizations are community groups that are made up of youths that come from economically disadvantaged areas, the fees can have disproportionate impacts on traditionally underrepresented members of the community.

These disproportionate impacts could be ameliorated by awarding community organizations with the resources to pay the athletic fields fees. The 2016 Proposed Budget includes \$40,000 in annual funding for DPR's Hope or Youth Grant program, the same level of funding included in the 2016 Endorsed Budget. DPR has used this program to make grants to youth sports organizations. The

Council could attach a proviso to some of the existing funding for this program to specify that it must be granted to community organizations made up of youth from disadvantaged areas to pay for athletic field fees. In the alternative or in addition, more funding could be added to the Hope for Youth Grant program for this purpose.

Eligibility for DPR's Hope for Youth grant program is limited to 501(c)(3) organizations, so it is possible that some non-501(c)(3) youth sports organizations are not eligible for the grant funds. In that case, DPR could create and administer a fund of \$25,000 that community organizations could apply for to cover athletic field fees. The money would be granted to those organizations consisting primarily of youths from areas where the majority of households had lower incomes than the area's median household income.

Table 2: Youth Sports Fees

2015	2016	
\$10.00	\$10.00	Outdoor game fee, per hour – all field surfaces. Assessed to all youth sports organizations, in addition to existing fees, during the regularly established season.
\$6.00	\$6.00	Outdoor practice time, per hour – all field surfaces. Assessed to all youth sports organizations, in addition to existing fees, during the regularly established season.
\$25.00	\$25.00	Outdoor game fee, per hour – all field surfaces. Assessed to all youth sports organizations, in addition to existing fees, for usage that occurs outside of the regularly established season.
\$15.00	\$15.00	Outdoor practice time, per hour – all field surfaces. Assessed to all youth sports organizations, in addition to existing fees, for usage that occurs outside of the regularly established season.
\$44.00	\$44.00	Private school outdoor games, per hour – all field surfaces.
\$30.00	\$30.00	Private school outdoor practices, per hour – all field surfaces - limitations apply
\$60.00	\$60.00	Outdoor youth sports camps, per hour – all field surfaces.
\$20.00	\$20.00	Outdoor field lighting fee, per hour