

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	CBO Contact/Phone:
Seattle Parks and Recreation	Karl Fields/734-5930	Justin Hellier/327-5684

** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE authorizing The City of Seattle, through Seattle Parks and Recreation, to enter into an agreement with the Arboretum Foundation for support of the Seattle Japanese Garden consistent with the Non-Government Agreement in Attachment 1 to this ordinance.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

The proposed legislation authorizes the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to enter into a 10-year agreement with the Arboretum Foundation to support the Japanese Garden. The agreement allows for one five-year extension if agreed to in writing by both Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) and the Arboretum Foundation. SPR owns the Garden, sets fees and charges, provides garden maintenance, and operates the gate house cashiering. Under the terms of the Agreement, the Arboretum Foundation will support Japanese Garden (Garden) operations by providing educational and culturally relevant community programming, fundraising for capital projects, volunteer management, outreach and marketing, sharing of merchandise revenue, and public benefits to expand access and user experience at the Garden.

In 2014, SPR joined with the Japanese Garden Society to co-sponsor an Optimal Operations Study to explore opportunities to increase capacity, improve financial sustainability, address capital needs and improve operations at the Garden. The primary goal of the study was to identify a model that would provide the greatest public benefit. The Study concluded that the Garden had the best chance for long-term success under a nonprofit supported operating structure. In 2016, Ordinance 124979 authorized the Superintendent of SPR to enter into an agreement with the Arboretum Foundation to support the Seattle Japanese Garden. SPR entered into a six-year agreement which was extended by one year through 2022 to allow for continuous support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2022, SPR conducted a Letter of Interest application process, and the Arboretum Foundation was the sole organization to apply.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ___ Yes x No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? ___ Yes x No

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?

Yes. The 2023-24 budget process includes \$3,600 in SPR staffing support for the Foundation fundraising events and each budget cycle thereafter will establish the annual appropriation.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?

Implementing this legislation will provide the organizational structure necessary to ensure long-term sustainability of the Japanese Garden. If this legislation is not implemented, the Arboretum Foundation would not continue to deliver events, fundraising, marketing and membership support for the Japanese Garden. Seattle Parks and Recreation would incur all expenses to operate and maintain the Japanese Garden without the fundraising support from the Arboretum Foundation.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

No

b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No

c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No

d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

Yes, the Seattle Japanese Garden is located within the Washington Park Arboretum, as illustrated in Summary Exhibit 1 – Japanese Garden Map.

e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?

This agreement authorizes the Arboretum Foundation to continue providing opportunities for visitors and volunteers, as well as enhance public education and programming for populations that are not familiar with this facility. This agreement also maintains the current fee structure which sets admission and pass fees as part of the Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule. Additional discounted fees for seniors, adaptive (specialized programs), students, and the military are included in the 2023-24 budget. The Japanese Garden also offers First Free Thursday and Free Family Saturday visitation opportunities once a month. Special event and program fees will be set in cooperation with the Arboretum Foundation. This agreement includes substantial public benefits that help ensure equitable access to the Garden. Examples of these public benefits include critical outreach to promote free

attendance days, 80+ docent led garden tours, community outreach events, volunteer coordination, and vital capital fundraising.

f. Climate Change Implications

1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?

Anticipated carbon impact is neutral.

2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.

Increased adaptability is anticipated through educational programming and docent tours that will include opportunities to discuss the impacts of climate change on the Garden collection and sustainability counter measures.

g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)?

No

Summary Attachments:

Summary Exhibit 1 – Site Maps of the Seattle Japanese Garden