

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE**

Council waiver or modification of
development standards to allow installation
of 32 netting poles at Jefferson Park Golf
Course (Project No. 3039491-LU, Type V).

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C.F. 314536
Application 3039491-LU

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS
AND DECISION

Background

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) proposes to add netting and poles to holes 11 and 12 as part of the restoration of the Bill Wright Golf Complex at Jefferson Park. Portions of the netting and poles will exceed zoned height limits and are intended to address errant golf ball trespass associated with restored tee locations.

As proposed, the project requires City Council approval under Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Section 23.76.064, which section also authorizes Council to modify development standards for City facilities. SPR requests a waiver of development standards to allow the poles and netting to exceed the height limit.

The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) reviewed the proposal and issued its Analysis and Recommendation on July 31, 2025. SDCI recommends approval of the project.

On September 3, 2025, the Council's Land Use Committee was briefed on the project, held a public hearing, and made a recommendation to the Council.

Findings of Fact

The City Council hereby adopts the following Findings of Fact:

1. The Bill Wright Golf Complex at Jefferson Park is located at 4100 Beacon Avenue South.
2. The site is zoned Neighborhood Residential 3 (NR3).
3. SPR submitted an application (Project No. 3039491-LU) to install netting and poles along the northern edge of holes 11 and 12 at the Bill Wright Golf Complex at Jefferson Park.
4. The Seattle Land Use Code sets a base height limit for structures NR3 zones of 32 feet (SMC 23.44.012).
5. Pursuant to SMC 23.76.064 B, the City Council may waive or modify development standards for City facilities.

6. SPR seeks a City Council modification of the height development standard of the NR3 zone to permit the poles and netting.

Development Standard	Code Requirement	Proposed Modification
SMC 23.44.012 Height limits	The maximum height permitted for any structure not located in a required yard is 32’.	Allow 32 poles with suspended netting with heights up to 160 feet.

7. The project also requires that SDCI grant a special exception for the poles to exceed height limits within the Airport Height Overlay District, SMC Chapter 23.64.010.
8. SDCI and SPR received public comments on multiple topics related to the project. There were both comments in favor of the poles and netting and comments identifying concerns with environmental and wildlife hazards associated with the poles and netting and the overall appearance of the poles and netting.
9. SMC 23.76.050 requires that the SDCI Director evaluate the proposal based on the standards and criteria for the approval sought and consistency with applicable City policies.
10. SMC 23.76.050 also requires consultation with other governmental agencies. Here that includes the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which on January 17, 2023, issued a Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation requiring that the poles be marked and lighted.
11. SDCI reviewed the proposed project and issued its Analysis and Recommendation on July 31, 2025. SDCI recommends that the Council conditionally approve the modification to development standards.

Conclusions

The City Council hereby adopts the following Conclusions:

1. The proposed facility is a City facility as defined by SMC 23.84A.006.
2. The City Council has authority to waive or modify a development standard for a City facility under SMC 23.76.064 B.
3. SPR has demonstrated that the proposed pole and netting height is necessary to minimize trespass from errant golf balls and reduce the risk to public safety and private property.

Decision

Subject to the condition described below, the City Council grants the following modifications of development standards for the proposed improvements at the Bill Wright Golf Complex at Jefferson Park.

Development Standard	Proposed Waiver or Modification
SMC 23.44.012 Height limits	Allow 32 poles with suspended netting with heights up to 160 feet.

Condition

1. The structure is to be marked/lighted in accordance with FAA Advisory circular 70/7460-1 M, Obstruction Marking and Lighting, red lights-Chapters 4,5(Red), &15.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2025.

City Council President