

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

| Department: | Dept. Contact: | CBO Contact: |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Parks and Recreation | Jacob Thorpe | Alex Rouse |

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle Parks and Recreation; authorizing the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to accept, for and on behalf of the City, certain donated improvements from the Seattle Parks Foundation for Westlake Park, identified as King County parcel number 197570-0175 at 401 Pine Street; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary and Background of the Legislation: Westlake Park was completed in 1988 and is at the heart of the retail core of the city. The Park includes a large, paved plaza that is used for large community gatherings and seasonal events, and flexible seating areas. Other Park features include the Seven Hills art installation, a grove of shade trees, a fountain, stage and playground for kids ages 2-5. A signature element of the park is the granite paving that was inspired from a Coast Salish cedar basket weave.

This legislation authorizes Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) to accept much-needed, donated improvements, services and project management from Seattle Parks Foundation (SPF). These improvements are shown in Summary Attachment 1 – Westlake Park Improvement – Design. SPF will pursue non-SPR fund sources, including grants, to support the project costs. SPF will provide community and stakeholder engagement and concept level designs which include upgrades to existing park elements that need repair, will look to remove elements that have exceeded their useful lifespan, and make improvements to the park to support the ongoing needs of the park. These roles are established in a development agreement that is included as Summary Attachment 2 – Development Agreement.

Westlake Park is managed by the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) in collaboration with SPR. The City's 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes \$1.4 million in 2025 and \$2.3 million in 2026 of Real Estate Excise Tax proceeds to support revitalization of Westlake Plaza as part of the Downtown Activation Plan (DAP).

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.

N/A

If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.

N/A

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.
Seattle Parks and Recreation would not have the ability to complete the renovation without the funding for community and stakeholder engagement, concept level designs and project management support from Seattle Parks Foundation.

Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.

This project will seek to set the stage for longer-term improvements by working with other city agencies in and around the retail core to continue supporting community use and economic development in the area. Seattle Department of Transportation has been engaged in this project for coordination, collaboration, and funding support related to the improvements in the Right-of-Way along 4th Avenue. Office of Arts and Culture will be engaged in the project related to existing and new art opportunities at Westlake Park.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Is a public hearing required for this legislation? No

Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation? No

- a. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? If yes, please attach a map and explain any impacts on the property. Please attach any Environmental Impact Statements, Determinations of Non-Significance, or other reports generated for this property.**

This legislation affects Westlake Park located at 401 Pine St., Seattle 98101. A photo of the property is included as Summary Attachment 3 – Property Map.

The legislation will allow for needed improvements to the park such as repairs to existing granite pavers, repairs to outgrown tree wells, removal of the fountain, stage and arch, electrical infrastructure repairs, and landscaping upgrades, pending funds available.

b. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

- i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**

This project will make updates to the design of Westlake Park that are intended to create a more welcoming and functional space for all visitors. Specifically, the project will increase or improve access in the following ways.

Community Events: Current plans are to design and make improvements to update the park to create a more flexible and modern space that will allow for the wide variety of events that are regularly scheduled in the park as well as daily users of the park. Westlake Park is home to many scheduled events throughout the year and is also a regular location for free speech and protest events that happen on an impromptu basis. Providing a flexible space for large gatherings that can meet the needs of the community is a critical goal of this project.

Lighting: Currently the park also lacks dedicated consistent lighting which park users have noted makes them feel unsafe in the park especially in winter months when there is not daylight at busy times. Planned lighting improvements will address these concerns.

Technology Access: This project also proposes exploring added electrical outlets for parks users and public Wi-Fi.

- ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation. N/A**
- iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**
All project materials are available in English. Translations and accommodations for project materials can be made by request.

c. Climate Change Implications

- i. Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response. N/A**
- ii. 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.**
Shade area is being considered in relation to climate change/heat island impacts. The removal of impervious surfacing around the trees will contribute to a healthier environment and larger tree canopy at the park by giving the trees more space to

grow. Additional planting areas are included in the proposed design for the park. Additional plantings will help to mitigate urban heat island effect.

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)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals? N/A

Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization? N/A

5. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments:

Summary Attachment 1 – Westlake Park Improvement Project – Design

Summary Attachment 2 – Development Agreement

Summary Attachment 3 – Property Map