

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**ORDINANCE** 126945  
COUNCIL BILL 120690

AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle Parks and Recreation; authorizing an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between The City of Seattle and the Seattle Park District.

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2014, the Seattle City Council approved Ordinance 124468, which authorized the Mayor to sign an interlocal agreement formalizing the relationship between The City of Seattle (“The City”) and the Seattle Park District for implementation of park and recreation services and infrastructure in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, voters approved Proposition 1 on August 5, 2014, creating the Seattle Park District (“the District”) as permitted under chapter 35.61 RCW; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the ongoing provision of sufficient revenues to Seattle’s parks and recreation system, through the interlocal agreement, The City committed to allocate a baseline of General Fund revenues to be appropriated to Seattle Parks and Recreation in each annual budget that is adjusted by the rate of inflation as measured by Consumer Price Index on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, in the 2024 Proposed Budget the City is retaining and expanding its allocation of General Fund revenues to Seattle Parks and Recreation, but an unprecedentedly high rate of inflation for 2023 hampers the City’s ability to do so at the level currently required by the interlocal agreement; and

WHEREAS, both the City and the Seattle Park District have an interest in ensuring the long-term stability of revenues to the park and recreation system, and avoiding unilateral termination of the interlocal agreement during a challenging fiscal environment; and

1 WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 125722 of the City and Resolution 24 of the District Board,  
2 the City and the Seattle Park District agreed to enter into that certain First Amendment to  
3 the Interlocal Agreement, (the “First Amendment”); and

4 WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 126199 of the City and Resolution 36 of the District Board,  
5 the City and the Seattle Park District agreed to enter into a Second Amendment to the  
6 Interlocal Agreement (the “Second Amendment”); and

7 WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 126380 of the City and Resolution 43 of the District Board,  
8 the City and the Seattle Park District agreed to enter into a Third Amendment to the  
9 Interlocal Agreement (the “Third Amendment”) and execute an Amended and Restated  
10 Interlocal Agreement; and

11 WHEREAS, the City and the Seattle Park District desire to amend the interlocal agreement  
12 authorized by Ordinance 124468 as amended and restated on July 6, 2021 to adjust and  
13 clarify the terms; NOW, THEREFORE,

14 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

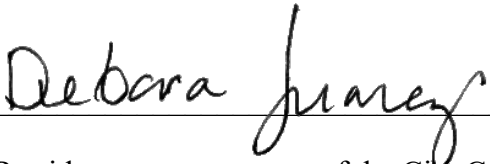
15 Section 1. Statement of intent. It is the intent of The City of Seattle that the interlocal  
16 agreement be amended to revise the rate by which the General Fund baseline for parks and  
17 recreation services is adjusted for the 2024 budget, and to clarify the specific measure of  
18 adjustment that will be used for other years.

19 Section 2. Amendment to interlocal agreement authorized. The Mayor is authorized to  
20 execute and deliver, on behalf of The City of Seattle, an amendment to the interlocal agreement  
21 between The City of Seattle and the Seattle Park District (the “Fourth Amendment”), set out as  
22 Attachment 1 to this ordinance.

1           Section 3. Amended and restated interlocal agreement authorized. The Mayor is  
2 authorized to execute and deliver, on behalf of The City of Seattle, the interlocal agreement as  
3 amended by Ordinance 125722, Ordinance 126199, Ordinance 126380, and this ordinance, as set  
4 out as Attachment 2 to this ordinance.

1 Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.


4 Passed by the City Council the 21st day of November, 2023,  
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 21st day of  
6 November, 2023.

7   
8 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

9  Approved /  returned unsigned /  vetoed this 1st day of December, 2023.

10   
11 Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

12 Filed by me this 1st day of December, 2023.

13   
14 Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

15 (Seal)

16 Attachments:  
17 Attachment 1 – Fourth Amendment to Interlocal Agreement Between The City of Seattle,  
18 Washington, and the Seattle Park District  
19 Attachment 2 – An Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement Between The City of Seattle,  
20 Washington, and the Seattle Park District

**FOURTH AMENDMENT TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE CITY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, AND THE SEATTLE PARK DISTRICT**

This Amendment is made between The City of Seattle, Washington (the “City”), a first-class city organized under the laws of the State of Washington, and the Seattle Park District, a municipal corporation organized under chapter 35.61 RCW and the laws of the state of Washington, amending the Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement executed July 6, 2021.

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2014, the Seattle City Council approved Ordinance 124468, which authorized the Mayor to sign an interlocal agreement formalizing the relationship between The City of Seattle and the Seattle Park District for implementation of park and recreation services and infrastructure in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, voters approved Proposition 1 on August 5, 2014, creating the Seattle Park District as permitted under chapter 35.61 RCW; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle and the Seattle Park District both have an interest in ensuring the long-term stability of revenues to the park and recreation system, and avoiding unilateral termination of this interlocal agreement during a challenging fiscal environment; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle and the Seattle Park District desire to amend the interlocal agreement authorized by Ordinance 124468 as amended and restated on July 6, 2021 to adjust and clarify the terms; and

WHEREAS, by the Ordinance of the City introduced as Council Bill 120690, the Mayor is authorized to execute this Amendment on behalf of the City; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 61 of the Board of Commissioners of the Seattle Park District (“District Board”), the President of the District Board is authorized to execute this Amendment on behalf of the Seattle Park District; NOW, THEREFORE,

The City and the Seattle Park District agree to amend the Interlocal Agreement as follows:

- 1. Adjusting and Clarifying the Terms of the General Subfund revenue baseline.** Section 3.3, Finance, is amended by removing the stricken language and adding the underlined language to read in its entirety as follows:

3.3 Finance. The City shall include in its annual budget General Subfund revenues to support the Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”) projects, programs, and services in amounts necessary to meet or exceed the minimum funding described in this paragraph. The 2014 Adopted Budget for DPR includes \$89 million of General Subfund revenues which will be the baseline for allocating General Subfund revenues to DPR, adjusted annually by the annual percent change (~~July to July~~ for the 12 months ending in June) in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue area (“CPI”) unless otherwise stated in this agreement, or unless the City Council by resolution with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote determines that a natural disaster or exigent economic circumstances prevent the Council from maintaining this level of General Subfund support. The City shall continue to allocate all revenues dedicated by Article XI, section 3 of the City Charter to the operation and maintenance of

the park and recreation system. The Council will approve DPR’s budget and provide oversight in accordance with the City’s normal budget processes and Section 4 of this Agreement. The City shall keep such books and records as are necessary to ensure the proper expenditure of all funds received by it for parks and recreation purposes, in accordance with this Agreement, state law and City ordinances.

The City and the Seattle Park District agree that for The City’s 2024 Adopted Budget, the General Subfund revenue baseline for DPR will be adjusted by 3% rather than by the annual percent change in CPI. For each year thereafter, the General Subfund baseline will be adjusted from this new 2024 baseline.

- 2. Integration.** This Amendment culminates negotiations and discussions between The City of Seattle and the Seattle Park District concerning the amendment of the Interlocal Agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements, statements, and intentions with respect to the amendment of the Interlocal Agreement. This Amendment may be executed in two counterparts, one for each of the parties, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, and the same instrument. Except as expressly set forth in this Amendment, the Interlocal Agreement as previously adopted and amended remains in full force and effect. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Amendment this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

SEATTLE PARK DISTRICT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Lewis, District Board President

Pursuant to Resolution 61

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

THE CITY OF SEATTLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Pursuant to the authority of the Ordinance introduced as Council Bill 120690

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**AN AMENDED AND RESTATED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
CITY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, AND THE SEATTLE PARK DISTRICT**

This amended and restated Agreement between the City of Seattle, Washington (the “City”), a first class city organized under the laws of the State of Washington, and the Seattle Park District (the “Seattle Park District”), a municipal corporation organized under chapter 35.61 RCW and the laws of the state of Washington, is dated as of this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2023.

WHEREAS, the City passed Ordinances 124467 and 124468 proposing formation of a metropolitan park district, with the intent to cooperate with such a district to provide ongoing and stable funding to maintain, operate and improve parks, community centers, pools and other recreation facilities and programs, and to implement elements of the Seattle Parks Legacy Plan and other planning documents; and

WHEREAS, the formation of the Seattle Park District was placed before the voters at an election held on August 5, 2014 and was formed immediately upon certification of the election results, pursuant to RCW 35.61.040, possessing all powers available to a metropolitan park district under state law; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Seattle Park District are each authorized by RCW 67.20.010 and other state law to act independently or jointly to maintain, operate and improve parks, community centers, pools and other recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, Article XI of the City Charter vests in the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation the responsibility for the management and control of the park and recreation system of the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 124468 of the City and Resolution 1 of the Board of Commissioners of the Seattle Park District (the “District Board”), the City and the Seattle Park District entered into that certain Interlocal Agreement, dated as of October 30, 2014, in order to provide ongoing and stable funding to maintain, operate and improve parks, community centers, pools and other recreation facilities and programs, and to implement elements of the Seattle Parks Legacy Plan and other planning documents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 125722 of the City and Resolution 24 of the District Board, the City and the Seattle Park District agreed to enter into that certain First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement, (the “First Amendment”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 126199 of the City and Resolution 36 of the District Board, the City and the Seattle Park District agreed to enter into that certain Second Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement, (the “Second Amendment”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Ordinance of the City introduced as Council Bill 120098 and Resolution 43 of the District Board, the City and the Seattle Park District agreed to enter into that certain Third Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement, (the “Third Amendment”, and together with the First Amendment and the Second Amendment, the “Amendments”); and

WHEREAS, by the Ordinance of the City introduced as Council Bill 120098, the Mayor is authorized to execute this amended and restated Agreement on behalf of the City; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 43 of the Board of Commissioners of the Seattle Park District (the “District Board”), the President of the District Board is authorized to execute this amended and restated Agreement on behalf of the Seattle Park District;

WHEREAS, the City and the Seattle Park District desire to amend and restate the Original Agreement in its entirety, together with all Amendments; NOW, THEREFORE,

The City and the Seattle Park District agree as follows:

1. Purpose and Interpretation. The City and the Seattle Park District are each, independently and acting jointly, empowered to maintain, operate and improve parks, community centers, pools, and other recreation facilities and programs. The purpose of this amended and restated Agreement is to make the most efficient use of public funds, avoid duplication of effort, and coordinate efforts.
2. Obligations of the Seattle Park District. The Seattle Park District agrees as follows:
  - 2.1 Governance. The Seattle Park District Board of Commissioners (“District Board”) shall conduct its business in accordance with state law, as necessary in order to review, consider and approve the annual budget for the Seattle Park District, including the levy of property taxes, and to participate in the planning and budgeting process set forth in Section 4 of this Agreement. The District Board will waive any additional compensation available under RCW 35.61.150.
  - 2.2 Staffing. The Seattle Park District shall not hire its own staff and shall not contract for the implementation of projects, programs or services with any person other than the City. The City shall provide the staff and other resources to implement the projects, programs and services identified in the adopted Seattle Park District budget. City staff supported with Seattle Park District funds shall remain City employees subject to applicable labor contracts. If public works, or other projects and activities need outside contracts to complete the work, the City will enter into those contracts using City contracting procedures. Nothing in this section affects the authority of the City to implement projects, programs or services funded by the Seattle Park District as it deems appropriate.
  - 2.3 Finance. The Seattle Park District shall levy property taxes annually under RCW 35.61.210, within applicable statutory and constitutional rate and amount limitations, in amounts sufficient, together with any other available funds, to provide for the payment to the City of amounts set forth in its annual budget adopted in accordance with Section 4 of this Agreement. The Seattle Park District will levy only the amount necessary to fund its budget adopted in accordance with the procedures under section 4.2 below. The Seattle Park District further agrees that if it receives revenues from taxes or any other source, excluding interest



earnings derived from Seattle Park District Revenues, in excess of the amounts needed to fund its obligations to the City (revenues in excess of appropriations), such money will be used to reduce tax revenues collected in the following year's levy.

2.4 Ex Officio Treasurer. The Seattle Park District shall take such actions as are necessary under RCW 35.61.180 to appoint the City Director of Finance to serve as *ex officio* Treasurer for the Seattle Park District.

3. Undertakings of the City. The City agrees as follows:

3.1 Duty to Provide Facilities and Services. The City shall maintain, operate and improve its parks, community centers, pools and other recreation facilities (including, without limitation, open spaces, zoo and aquarium facilities), and shall provide recreational programs, on behalf of itself acting in conjunction with the Seattle Park District. The City agrees to participate in the budgeting and planning processes described in Section 4 of this Agreement and to apply any funds received by it from the Seattle Park District, solely as set forth in the Seattle Park District's adopted budget.

3.2 Park Employees. The City shall provide the staff and other resources to implement the projects, programs and services identified in the adopted Seattle Park District budget. The City shall provide necessary related support to the Seattle Park District, including without limitation, administrative staffing, legislative staffing, treasury management services, legal services, subcontracts, and similar support. The Seattle Park District shall not contract for the implementation of projects, programs or services with any person other than the City. Nothing in this section affects the authority of the City to implement projects, programs or services funded by the Seattle Park District as it deems appropriate.

The reasonable costs of such staffing and support shall be reported to the Seattle Park District at least annually and may be included as part of the Seattle Park District annual budget.

3.3 Finance. The City shall include in its annual budget General Subfund revenues to support the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR") projects, programs and services in amounts necessary to meet or exceed the minimum funding described in this paragraph. The 2014 Adopted Budget for DPR includes \$89 million of General Subfund revenues which will be the baseline for allocating General Subfund revenues to DPR, adjusted annually by the annual percent change (for the 12 months ending in June) in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue area ("CPI") unless otherwise stated in this agreement, or unless the City Council by resolution with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote determines that a natural disaster or exigent economic circumstances prevent the Council from maintaining this level of General Subfund support. The City shall continue to allocate all revenues dedicated by Article XI, section 3 of the City Charter to the

operation and maintenance of the park and recreation system. The Council will approve DPR's budget and provide oversight in accordance with the City's normal budget processes and Section 4 of this Agreement. The City shall keep such books and records as are necessary to ensure the proper expenditure of all funds received by it for parks and recreation purposes, in accordance with this Agreement, state law and City ordinances.

The City and the Seattle Park District agree that for The City's 2024 Adopted Budget, the General Subfund revenue baseline for DPR will be adjusted by 3% rather than by the annual percent change in CPI. Subsequent annual adjustments will use annual percent changes in CPI as described in this section (e.g., the 2025 Adopted Budget baseline will be adjusted using the 2023-24 annual percent change in CPI).

3.4 Ex Officio Treasurer. The City Director of Finance agrees to accept appointment as *ex officio* Treasurer for the Seattle Park District in accordance with RCW 35.61.180. In such capacity, the City Director of Finance shall maintain financial records on behalf of the Seattle Park District, kept in accordance with applicable generally accepted accounting principles and other applicable governmental accounting requirements.

3.5 Compliance with Other Law. In providing services pursuant to this Agreement, the City shall in all respects abide by all applicable federal, state and local requirements, including without limitation those regarding contracting, labor relations, minimum and prevailing wage, open public meetings, public records, ethics, and nondiscrimination.

4. Other Agreements. In addition the Seattle Park District and the City agree as follows:

4.1 Ownership and Disposal of Assets. All park and recreation land, facilities, and equipment that are maintained, acquired, improved or otherwise used in connection with this Agreement are and shall remain the property of the City. No joint property ownership is contemplated under the terms of this Agreement. Sale of City-owned park land or facilities remain subject to the restrictions contained in City Ordinance 118477, which adopted Initiative 42.

4.2 The Budget Process.

A. Annual Seattle Park District Budget Request. The Mayor will direct the development and implementation of DPR's budgets and work programs, which will include tasks performed on behalf of both the City and the Seattle Park District. The City will continue to provide funding for park purposes consistent with Section 3.3 of this Agreement and Article XI of the City Charter. In conjunction with its own budget process, the City shall prepare an annual budget request for Seattle Park District funding, to be presented to the District Board. The budget request shall include an annual proposed project list and budget for expenditure

of Seattle Park District revenues. The budget shall be accompanied by an annual report that documents the status of the park and recreation projects, programs and services undertaken pursuant to this Agreement, and describes how Seattle’s various peoples and neighborhoods have been equitably served by the projects, programs, and services. Each budget request shall be consistent with the then-current 6-year plan, as described in Section 4.3.

B. The Seattle Park District. Using the budget request submitted by the City, the District Board will annually review and approve a final Seattle Park District budget. Each annual budget shall make appropriations sufficient to fund a plan adopted through the 6-year funding process described in Section 4.3.

4.3 Six-Year Funding Cycles. The City and the Seattle Park District agree to engage in funding activities on a six-year cycle. For each six-year cycle, beginning with the cycle that includes 2021 through 2026, the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, City Council and the Mayor will consider the recommendations of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, upon conclusion of a public process, and will recommend to the District Board an updated list of Seattle Park District funded projects, programs and services including projected costs, as part of the budget process. The Park District Board may delay the start of a new six-year funding cycle by one year by resolution with a 3/4 vote in the event of a natural disaster, exigent economic circumstances, or other emergency as determined by the Park District Board and instead approve an interim annual budget for the Seattle Park District consistent with the process outlined in Section 4.2 of this Agreement. The decision to delay the start of the six-year funding cycle may be renewed on an annual basis by resolution with a 3/4 vote in the event that the Park District Board determines that the natural disaster, exigent economic circumstances, or other emergency is continuing. For the purposes of this subsection, “3/4 vote” in this context shall mean a 3/4 vote of all Board Members who are available to participate in the Board Meeting and are capable of performing the duties of the office. Equitable distribution of services among Seattle’s various peoples and neighborhoods, including addressing historical and developing gaps in access for low-income and communities of color, will be considered in developing each update.

4.4 Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners. The community based Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, which advises the City pursuant to chapter 3.26 of the Seattle Municipal Code shall be tasked to provide advice to the Mayor, City Council, and Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, and to provide oversight of the projects, programs and services undertaken jointly by the City and the Seattle Park District, pursuant to this Agreement, including:

- A. Establish a community response fund application process and evaluation criteria, and make recommendations to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation (“Superintendent”) on the allocation of the fund.
  - B. Review an annual report prepared by DPR for the Seattle Park District and the City, including assessment of performance measures and expenditure of District funds including interest earnings, and reporting to the Superintendent and Park Board on implementation issues, concerns and needed adjustments in services or spending.
  - C. Hold-public meetings and making recommendations to the Superintendent in connection with each 6-year update to the funding plan.
  - D. Provide to the Mayor, City Council, and Superintendent of Parks and Recreation an annual report on the progress of expenditures, a report on lessons learned 4 years through each 6-year period to inform the planning process for the next 6-year cycle, and a final report documenting accomplishments in each 6-year period within one year of the conclusion of each cycle. The annual report for the final year of each 6-year period will be included in this 6-year reflective report.
5. Condemnation and other Exercise of Governmental Powers. The Seattle Park District shall not exercise condemnation powers within the City of Seattle. If condemnation of property is required for Seattle Park District purposes, the City may exercise condemnation powers on the Seattle Park District’s behalf. The Seattle Park District shall form no local improvement district within the City. If formation of a local improvement district is required for Seattle Park District purposes, the City may carry out the formation and may levy and collect of assessments on the Seattle Park District’s behalf.
6. Termination and Dissolution. This agreement shall terminate or expire as follows:
- 6.1 This agreement may be terminated by either party upon the provision of one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days’ notice. A final reconciliation of costs, payment, and a current report of completed activities shall be completed by the City within such period following the notice by either party.
  - 6.2 Unless earlier terminated by either party, this agreement shall expire on the date when the Seattle Park District is dissolved in accordance with provisions of chapter 35.61 RCW, as the same exists or is hereafter amended. Upon dissolution of the Seattle Park District, it is the intent of the parties that all assets be turned over to the City.
7. Severability. In the event that any provision of this agreement is held to be in conflict with existing state statute or any future amendment thereof, such provisions shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
8. Integration. This Agreement embodies the entire agreement between the City and the Seattle Park District with respect of the transactions contemplated in this Agreement and supersedes all prior agreements, statements, and intentions with respect to the subject matter herein, including, without limitation, the Original Agreement. This Amendment

may be executed in two counterparts, one for each of the parties, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, and the same instrument.

9. Effective Date. This agreement shall be effective upon the date first set forth above.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this amended and restated agreement on the date first written above.

SEATTLE PARK DISTRICT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Lewis, Chair of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

CITY OF SEATTLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Bruce A. Harrell

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date