

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Parks and Recreation	Michele Finnegan	Alex Rouse

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE amending the Amended Landscape Conservation and Infrastructure Program Funding Plan for the South Lake Union and Downtown as adopted by Ordinance 127252; amending Ordinance 127156, which adopted the 2025 Budget, including the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program; changing appropriations to various departments and budget control levels, and from various funds in the Budget; making an appropriation from the Park and Recreation Fund for related costs; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts; all by a 3/4 vote of the City Council.

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 sculptural art installation, a grove of shade trees, a fountain in the form of a water wall, stage and arch and playground for kids ages 2-5. An element of the park is the granite paving that was inspired from a Coast Salish cedar basket weave.

Westlake Park is managed by the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) in collaboration with Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR). In September 2025, City Council approved legislation authorizing Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) to accept donated improvements, services and project management from Seattle Parks Foundation (SPF) in Ordinance 127284.

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).

The project began in October 2025, and the original scope included demolition of the fountain and arch. A November 2025 settlement with the artist who designed the Seven Hills resulted in an expanded project scope to include removal and storage of the Seven Hills sculptures and certain elements of the waterwall and arch.

Additional funding is needed to accommodate the extra work associated with these adjustments and project delays associated with negotiating the settlement. The cost of these changes is currently estimated at \$1.0-\$1.3 million. Given that Westlake Park is within the footprint of the existing Landscape Conservation and Infrastructure Program (LCLIP), the proposed funding approach includes the use of LCLIP revenues following modification of the LCLIP funding plan approved by City Council in July 2025 via Ordinance 127252. The LCLIP revenues are higher than anticipated and are sufficient to cover the increased project costs.

As background, Ordinance 127252 amended the original Landscape Conservation and Infrastructure Program (LCLIP) funding plan adopted by City Council in 2013 as part of the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for the Regional Transfer of Development Rights and Tax Increment Financing of Infrastructure by and between the City of Seattle and King County (Ordinance 124285). The ILA included an infrastructure funding plan to be financed by the LCLIP program and adopted separately in companion Ordinance 124286.¹ A condition of that ordinance stipulates that legislative action is required to make any modifications to the original funding plan which is what this proposed legislation is intending to do.

Therefore, the legislation is proposing the following actions to implement the settlement agreement and complete the Westlake Park improvement project.

- Amend the “Landscape Conservation and Local Infrastructure Program Infrastructure Funding Plan For South Lake Union and Downtown” previously adopted as Attachment A to Ordinance 127252 to include the Westlake Park project. Attached herein as Summary Attachment 1 – Amended LCLIP Funding Plan – Tracked Changes
- Appropriate \$1.0 million in LCLIP revenue to fund the revised project scope.
 - This appropriation is supported by additional revenues received in 2025 that exceeded the originally budgeted revenue estimate of \$500,000. NOTE: 2025 is the first year of the transition of the funding from SDOT to SPR, and revenues were conservatively estimated for this reason.
 - Should the project cost exceed \$1.0 million, SPR would utilize up to \$300,000 of the planned reserve revenues already included in the funding plan.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Name:	Master Project I.D.:	Project Location:	Start Date:	End Date:	Total Project Cost Through 2030:
Parks LCLIP Improvements	MC-PR-21017	Westlake Park	December 2025	December 2026	\$9,000,000

The Westlake Park project is one of many within the Parks LCLIP Improvements CIP (MC-PR-21017). This legislation increases the 2025 appropriation by \$1 million.

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Expenditure Change (\$);	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
General Fund					

¹ Annual funding is contingent on development in the designated areas and was estimated to generate between \$1M-\$1.5M annually, or approximately \$14M over the 10 years after which it reverts back to SDOT.

Expenditure Change (\$); Other Funds	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
	\$1,000,000	-	-	-	-

Revenue Change (\$); General Fund	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
Revenue Change (\$); Other Funds	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
	\$1,000,000				

Number of Positions	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.
	N/A				
Total FTE Change	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.

3.a. Appropriations

☒ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

Fund Name and Number	Dept	Budget Control Level Name/Number	2025 Appropriation Change	2026 Estimated Appropriation Change
Park and Recreation Fund/10200	SPR	Building for the Future/BC-PR-20000	\$1,000,000	-
TOTAL			\$1,000,00	-

Appropriations Notes:

3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements

☒ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from This Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Dept	Revenue Source	2025 Revenue	2026 Estimated Revenue
Park and Recreation Fund/10200	SPR	LCLIP	\$1,000,000	-
TOTAL			\$1,000,000	-

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:

The appropriation is supported by additional revenues received in 2025 that exceeded the originally budgeted revenue estimate of \$500,000. Note that 2025 is the first year of the transition of the funding from SDOT to SPR, and revenues were conservatively estimated for this reason.

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 removal and storage of the features outlined in the settlement without this additional funding.

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

The broader Westlake Improvement 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 has been engaged in the project related 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 1 – Property Map.

The legislation allows for removal and storage of the Seven Hills artwork and certain elements of the waterwall and arch as part of the current improvement project underway so that they can be relocated to a different location in a subsequent project.

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.**

The current project will preserve the historic Seven Hills artwork and certain elements of the waterwall and arch. The designer Robert Maki designed seven sculptural elements symbolizing the seven hills on which Seattle was built as a tribute to local indigenous cultures. Preserving and relocating the artwork maintains the cultural and historic significance of this unique asset for the broader community.

- 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.**

The overall project increases planting and improves conditions for trees informed by climate change and heat island impacts. This specific legislation does not modify those plans.

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 – Amended LCLIP Funding Plan – Tracked Changes

Summary Attachment 2 – Property Map