



# City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

**Appointee Name:** *Rebecca J. Rasch*

**Board or Commission Name:** *Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners*

**Position Title:** *Representative District 1*

**Appointment**  **Reappointment** \***Term of Position:** *3 years from City Council confirmation*

*Serving partial term (eligible for full terms thereafter)*

**Appointing Authority:**  City Council  Mayor  Other: *Insert Appointing Authority*

**City Council Confirmation Required?**  Yes  No

**Residential Neighborhood:** *West Seattle*

**Appointee brief overview:**

Rebecca has spent over 15 years advancing climate mitigation, climate adaptation conservation, renewable energy and environmental justice across global NGOs, federal agencies, and philanthropic partnerships.

She has expertise in strategy development, program design, monitoring, evaluation and organizational learning systems. She is skilled in synthesizing complex evidence, supporting decision-making, managing interdisciplinary teams, and facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Rebecca has demonstrated an ability to design strategies that integrate climate science, justice, and community priorities.

She has worked at the USDA Forest Service, Amazon, Aspen Global Change Institute and currently works as a social scientist at the DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Rebecca lives in the Hiawatha neighborhood with her family, including her two young children that attend LaFayette Elementary School.

We believe her knowledge, background and expertise will benefit the communities we serve.

**Appointing Authority Signature:**

**Date Signed:** May 27, 2026

**Appointing Authority Printed Name and Title:**

Councilmember Debora Juarez, Chair Parks and City Light Committee

*\*For most boards and commissions, the term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*

## Senior Program Officer | Strategy, Learning & Evaluation | Climate & Justice

15+ years advancing climate mitigation, climate adaptation, conservation, renewable energy, and environmental justice across global NGOs, federal agencies, and philanthropic partnerships. Expertise in strategy development, program design, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), results frameworks, and organizational learning systems. Skilled in synthesizing complex evidence, supporting decision-making, managing interdisciplinary teams, and facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration. Demonstrated ability to design strategies that integrate climate science, justice, and community priorities.

### CORE COMPETENCIES

- Strategy Development & Theory of Change Design
- Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Systems
- Program Design & Adaptive Management
- Climate Justice & Community Engagement
- Cross-Team Collaboration & Facilitation
- Research Synthesis & Decision Support
- Partnership Development (NGO, Government, Philanthropy)
- Impact Measurement & Results Frameworks
- Grant & Contract Management
- Stakeholder Engagement & Communications

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

*Social Scientist, DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Seattle, WA (2024–Present)*

- Assess community, conservation, and environmental justice concerns related to offshore renewable energy development.
- Lead public outreach design, briefing materials, and talking points for leadership.

*Social Scientist, Aspen Global Change Institute, Seattle, WA (2023–2024)*

- Designed and launched the institute’s MEL system including KPIs and communications metrics.
- Facilitated executive strategy sessions on mission, vision, and organizational objectives.
- Built climate justice partnerships with governments and NGOs.
- Published applied research on climate justice and renewable energy.

*Research Scientist, Amazon, Seattle, WA (2022–2023)*

- Led evaluation design and insights for global employee experience programs.
- Delivered strategic recommendations to executive leadership.

*Team Lead, Work Environment & Performance, USDA Forest Service, Seattle, WA (2020–2022)*

- Led evaluation and analysis team advancing employee support programs.
- Developed measurement strategies aligned with Justice40 and equity directives.

*Chief of Staff, Research & Development, USDA Forest Service (2021)*

- Facilitated executive strategic planning and high-level policy communication.
- Managed Congressional and White House inquiries and briefing materials.

*Social Science Program Manager, USDA Forest Service, Montana (2015–2020)*

- Designed stakeholder engagement workshops internationally and domestically.
- Convened foundations, NGOs, and agencies to strengthen conservation planning.
- Conducted social impact assessments and socioeconomic monitoring.

*Senior Project Manager & Consultant, Brazil, Ghana, Peru, NY (2011–2015)*

- Led evaluations of climate adaptation and conservation programs.
- Conducted research for **ACLU, Helmsley Charitable Trust, Rockefeller Foundation, and Candid.**

*Director of Sales & Marketing, SkyRun Vacation Rentals, CO (2011)*

- Increased franchise participation by 30% through targeted marketing strategy.

*Marketing Communications Manager, Environmental Defense Fund, DC (2009–2010)*

- Managed Climate411 blog; authored climate policy communications.
- Facilitated partnership with Clinton Global Initiative to reduce fleet GHG emissions by 20%.

*Project Manager, i-to-i Meaningful Travel, UK (2008–2009)*

- Designed and monitored global conservation volunteer programs.

*Staff Officer, Boulder Shelter for the Homeless, CO (2005–2006)*

- Supported operations for 150 clients nightly through volunteer and crisis management.

*Agroforestry & Gender Development Specialist, Peace Corps, Dominican Republic (2003–2005)*

- Founded women's cooperative supporting 25 members.
- Installed 50 bio-sand filters supplying potable water to 250+ residents.

## EDUCATION

**PhD:** Environmental Sociology and Demography, Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY

**MBA:** Darden Graduate School of Business, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

**BA:** Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

**SERVICE:** Board Member, Wildlife Alliance

## SELECTED CLIMATE AND EQUITY FOCUSED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Vano, J.A., Archie, K.M., Arnott, J.C., DeHaan, A., Hirschfeld, D., Mateo, E., and Rasch, R. 2025. Understanding decision support for a changing climate. Aspen Global Change Institute. <https://doi.org/10.69925/FHTF3834>

Rasch, Rebecca. 2022. "Wildland Advocates in Unexpected Places." *International Journal of Wilderness*. <https://ijw.org/august-2022/>

Rasch, Rebecca. 2021. "Exploring Perspectives on Public Land Management in Rural Montana and Idaho." *Journal of Applied Social Science*. DOI: 10.1177/1936724420980410

Rasch, Rebecca. 2021. "Societal Relevance of Wilderness lands." Chapter 3 in *Economic, Social, and Tribal Values of Wilderness in America*. General Technical Report. Research Triangle Park, NC: USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station.

Rasch, R. 2020. "Connecting to Nature: Outdoor recreation preferences and constraints of older adults in the intermountain West, United States." *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*. DOI:10.18666/JPra-2020-10521

Rasch, Rebecca. 2019. "Are public meetings effective platforms for gathering environmental management preferences that most local stakeholders share?" *Journal of Environmental Management* (3) 245:496-503. DOI: 10.1016/j.jenvman.2019.05.060.

- Rasch, Rebecca and Sarah McCaffrey. 2019. "Exploring wildfire-prone community trust in wildfire management agencies." *Forest Science* (65)5:652-663. DOI:10.1093/forsci/fxz027
- Rasch, Rebecca and Sarah McCaffrey. 2019. Local public priorities and preferences for public land management in the Northern Region. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-400. Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.
- Rasch, Rebecca, Reeves, Matt and Colin Sorenson. 2018. "Does oil and gas development impact recreation visits to public lands? A cross-sectional analysis of overnight recreation site use at 27 national forests with oil and gas development." *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism* 24:45-51.
- Rasch, Rebecca. 2018. "Intergenerational Changes in Wilderness Values in America." *Population and Environment*. DOI: 10.1007/s11111-018-0293-7
- Rasch, Rebecca and Beth Hahn. 2018 "A Spatial Demographic Approach to Wilderness Management." *International Journal of Wilderness*. <https://ijw.org/a-spatial-demographic-approach-to-wilderness-management>
- Rasch, Rebecca. 2016. "Income Inequality and Flood Hazard in Brazilian Municipalities." *Social Science Quarterly*. DOI: 10.1111/ssqu.12274
- [Burd-Sharps, Sarah](#) and [Rasch, Rebecca](#). 2015. "[Impact of the US Housing Crisis on the Racial Wealth Gap Across Generations.](#)" New York: Social Science Research Council, New York, NY. <https://www.ssrc.org/publications/view/impact-of-the-us-housing-crisis-on-the-racial-wealth-gap-across-generations/>
- Rasch, Rebecca. 2015. "Assessing Urban Vulnerability to Flood Hazard in Brazilian Municipalities." *Environment and Urbanization*. DOI: 10.1177/0956247815620961
- Rasch, Rebecca. 2015. "Income Inequality and Flood Hazard in Brazil." *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*. <http://berkeleyjournal.org/2015/08/income-inequality-and-flood-hazard-in-brazil/>
- Rasch, Rebecca. 2015. "Measuring the Middle Class in Middle Income Countries." *Forum for Social Economics*. DOI: 10.1080/07360932.2015.1044258

# BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

15 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 12680, all members subject to City Council confirmation, with 3-year terms, except for position 5 which serves as a one-year term and is a Get Engaged member per SMC 3.51.

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 8 Mayor-appointed
- 0 Other Appointing Authority-appointed:

## Roster as of June 2026

Position Number	Position Title	Appointee Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	*Term Number	Appointed By
1	At-Large	Ryan Baum	5/14/24	5/13/27	1	Mayor
2	At-Large	Jane Stonecipher	9/16/25	9/15/28	1	Mayor
3	At-Large	Steve Lerer	5/14/24	5/13/27	1	Mayor
4	At-Large	Kevin Werner	9/16/25	9/15/28	1	Mayor
5	Get Engaged	Brian Bakker	9/9/25	9/8/26	1	Mayor
6	Commission Seat	Tricia Diamond	5/14/24	5/13/27	1	Mayor
7	Commission Seat	H Bradley Kahn	N/A	3 years from City Council confirmation	1	Mayor
8	Commission Seat	Whitney Nakamura	4/29/25	4/28/28	1	Mayor
9	Council District 1	Rebecca J. Rasch	N/A	3 years from City Council confirmation	1	City Council
10	Council District 2	Daya Zhang	9/16/25	9/15/28	1	City Council
11	Council District 3	John A. Flinn	5/14/24	5/13/27	1	City Council
12	Council District 4	Elise Chisholm Clare	9/17/24	9/16/27	1	City Council
13	Council District 5	Ammanuel Haile-Leul	7/16/24	7/15/27	1	City Council
14	Council District 6	James Williams	N/A	3 years from City Council confirmation	1	City Council
15	Council District 7	Phillip Meng	N/A	3 years from City Council confirmation	1	City Council

## Self-identified diversity chart

Appointing Authority	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/A	Asian	Black/African American	American Indian/Alaska Native	White/non-Hispanic	Hispanic/Latinx	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multi-racial	N/A
Mayor	5	3		1		1	1		6					
Council	4	3				1	2		4					
Other														
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>10</b>					

## City Council districts represented

Council District	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	

\*P is for partial initial term. Appointee is eligible for full terms thereafter.