

# 2008 Parks Levy

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## Department Overview

In November 2008, Seattle voters approved the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy (2008 Parks Levy), a \$145.5 million, six-year Levy lid lift for park and recreation purposes. A 16-member Citizen Oversight Committee reviews expenditures, advises on allocations for upcoming budget years, makes recommendations on Opportunity Fund expenditures, and performs other duties. The 2008 Levy expires at the end of 2014. In 2015 and beyond, Parks will spend down the fund balance and any outstanding property tax revenues that may be collected.

The 2008 Parks Levy Fund chapter of the budget is an administrative tool to summarize the approved uses of the Levy. Proceeds from the 2008 Parks Levy are used mainly to support property acquisition, as well as capital expansion, development, and renovation of Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) facilities. Parks' appropriations for the 2008 Parks Levy are more specifically described in the 2015-2020 Proposed Capital Improvement Program.

Parks manages the 2008 Parks Levy Fund and the majority of the levy funded projects. With these levy resources, the City acquired new neighborhood park and green spaces; developed new and existing parks, playgrounds, trails, boulevards, playfields, and cultural facilities; and performed environmental restoration at various Parks properties. The 2008 Parks Levy also included a development opportunity fund for citizen-initiated projects called the Opportunity Fund.

The 2008 Parks Levy is structured to fund the following major functions:

**Park and Green Space Acquisition:** The 2008 Parks Levy provides \$36 million for neighborhood park and green space acquisitions. To date, \$27.7 million has been appropriated for property acquisitions. The department has implemented a policy to land bank all newly acquired green space until funding for park development is available.

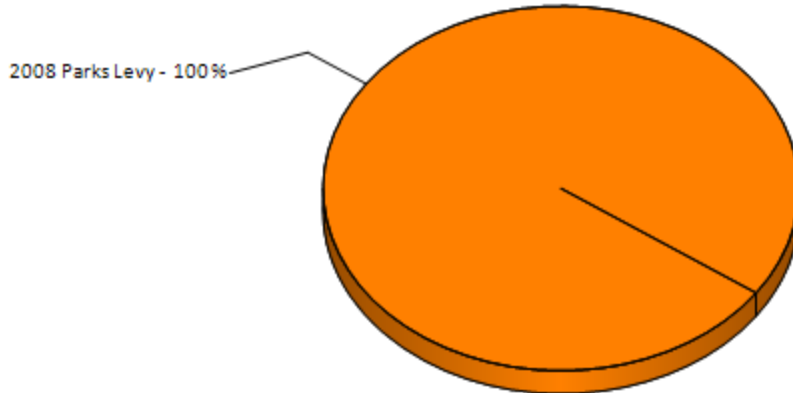
**Park Development Projects:** The levy provides \$87 million for 62 named development projects, three of which are trail projects managed by the Seattle Department of Transportation. To date, \$67 million has been appropriated for development projects. Approximately \$3.4 million of savings were reallocated from this category to fund two more playfield renovations in 2011, and \$9.8 million of inflation contingency funds were reallocated to fund 17 major maintenance projects in 2012.

**Environmental Projects:** The 2008 Parks Levy provides \$8 million for environmental projects, including forest and stream restoration, community garden and P-Patch development, and expanded shoreline access. To date, Parks has appropriated \$7.6 million for environmental projects.

**Opportunity Fund:** The levy provides \$15 million for citizen-initiated park projects to be recommended by the Levy Oversight Committee. In 2011, the Oversight Committee recommended funding two acquisitions and 13 development projects. In 2013, the Oversight Committee recommended funding three acquisition projects, and 11 development projects. The \$15 million has been appropriated for the Opportunity Fund projects.

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## 2015 Adopted Budget - Revenue by Category



### **Budget Overview**

The 2008 Parks Levy requires the Parks Levy Oversight Committee to make recommendations on the allocation of Levy dollars. Their input helped shape development of the 2015-2020 Proposed Capital Improvement Program, which includes the individual levy projects funded in 2015.

With Levy spending winding down, the 2015-2020 Proposed Capital Improvement Program appropriates approximately \$1.7 million from the Levy in 2015, including two acquisition projects. Of this amount, \$427,000 is appropriated in the Environmental Category based on the Levy Oversight Committee's April 23, 2012 recommendation to allocate the Environmental Category's inflation contingency to the Urban Forestry and Green Seattle Partnership projects.

The following tables describe anticipated revenues and spending to the 2008 Parks Levy Fund for 2015.

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## Revenue Overview

### 2015 Estimated Revenues

Summit Code	Source	2013 Actual	2014 Adopted	2015 Adopted	2016 Endorsed
411100	Taxes, Levies & Bonds	25,686,710	24,250,000	5,395,000	1,918,000
	<b>Total 2008 Parks Levy</b>	<b>25,686,710</b>	<b>24,250,000</b>	<b>5,395,000</b>	<b>1,918,000</b>
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>25,686,710</b>	<b>24,250,000</b>	<b>5,395,000</b>	<b>1,918,000</b>
	<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>25,686,710</b>	<b>24,250,000</b>	<b>5,395,000</b>	<b>1,918,000</b>