



**SEATTLE PARKS
AND RECREATION**

NEWS RELEASE

Mike McGinn, Mayor
Christopher Williams, Acting Superintendent

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Seattle Parks Legacy Plan Citizens Committee holds public hearing

The Parks Legacy Citizens Advisory Committee, appointed to consider Seattle Parks and Recreation's future funding options, invites the community to a public hearing on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013 starting at 6 p.m. at Miller Community Center.

Seattle Parks and Recreation has issued a special invitation to immigrants, refugees, people of color, and other diverse communities to attend and speak at this public hearing. Input from these communities is critical to shaping an inclusive future for Seattle's public parks and recreation programs.

As part of Parks' outreach efforts, the department's Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) Change Team performed outreach to gather input from historically under-represented communities this past summer.

The Change Team's goal was to create opportunities for input for communities that may not have participated in past planning processes. By going to the places where these communities meet, socialize, and live their lives, the Change Team was able to bring in a whole new chorus of voices to the process.

There are currently 37 investment initiatives (funding recommendations) that are proposed for inclusion in a future park funding ballot measure. The initial prioritization of the 37 proposed investment initiatives occurred in three subcommittees: Existing Programs and Services, New Programs and Services and Partnerships. During November and December, the subcommittee priority lists will be merged into one prioritized list by the full Legacy Committee.

Examples of these investment initiatives prioritized by the Existing Programs and Services subcommittee are park maintenance and community center programs for seniors and teens. Examples of the investment initiatives prioritized by the New Programs subcommittee are creating new parks and programs and improving park

safety. The Partnership subcommittee worked to prioritize funding partnerships with city agencies and non-profit organizations such as the Zoo and Aquarium.

In addition the Committee has heard presentations on various possible funding mechanisms such as short-term, long-term and permanent levies and a metropolitan park district. The Committee will be discussing those options in more detail as well. Before that occurs, the Committee wants to hear comments from the people of Seattle.

The public hearing on Nov. 7 is an opportunity for all communities to participate in the future of Seattle Parks. It is imperative that the Parks Legacy Citizens Advisory Committee hears from immigrants and refugees, people of color, and other diverse communities as they move forward in prioritizing funding initiatives for the ballot measure in 2014. Information about the Legacy Committee's work is on the web at: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/legacy/committee.htm>

Seattle Parks and Recreation manages a 6,200 –acre park system of 465 parks and extensive natural areas. Parks provides athletic fields, tennis courts, play areas, specialty gardens, and more than 25 miles of boulevards and 120 miles of trails. Parks also manages many facilities, including 26 community centers, eight indoor pools, four environmental education centers, two small craft centers, four golf courses, an outdoor stadium and much more. The Citizens Advisory Committee is asking for your input on prioritizing funding options for these vast services and facilities.

The Mayor and Council created the committee to review the draft Parks Legacy Plan (<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/legacy>) and to propose options for funding operations and maintenance, development and acquisition of parks and recreation facilities and programs. A revised edition of the *Parks Legacy Plan: Draft Goals and Strategies* can be downloaded from the project's website. The committee will complete its preliminary recommendations to the Mayor and Council by December 2013.

Committee members are: Barbara Wright, Co-Chair; Charlie Zaragoza, Co-Chair; Thatcher Bailey; Steve Daschle; Juli Farris; Bill Farmer; Thomas Goldstein; Jessie Israel; Diana Kincaid; Michael Maddux; Brice Maryman; Yalonda Gill Masundire; Mustapha Math; David Namura; and Erika Nuerenberg-Melroy.

For more information, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/legacy/committee.htm> .

For special meeting accommodations or interpretation services at the meeting please contact Susanne Rockwell at susanne.rockwell@seattle.gov or 206-733-9702.

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