

Seattle Park District: Frequently Asked Questions

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What is a park district?

A park district, also called a metropolitan park district, is a taxing district created for the management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, boulevards, and recreational facilities. Seattle voters approved creating the Seattle Park District on August 5, 2014.

Who will govern the park district?

The Seattle City Council is the park district governing board. An Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) describes the responsibilities of Seattle Parks and Recreation for providing the services funded by the park district.

What is an Inter-Local Agreement (ILA)?

It is an agreement that directs Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) to implement projects and use the funds collected through the park district how they are described in the ILA. The ILA calls for oversight and reporting and public review of spending priorities. The ILA was adopted by the City Council, signed by the Mayor and adopted by the Park District Board.

Who will provide oversight on how Parks spends taxpayer dollars?

A District Oversight Committee will provide advice and oversight for park district services. The committee will consist of four representatives from the Park Board and four from other city commissions, plus seven additional community members, one each from the 7 council districts.

Who will own the open space and park facilities?

Park and recreation land, facilities, and equipment acquired, preserved and maintained with park district funds are and will remain the property of the City of Seattle.

What will the tax rate be with the park district?

For the first year (2016), the district will collect \$47.9 million to fund the list of investment initiatives. If the park district had been in effect in 2014, the amount would translate into an estimated tax rate of

\$0.33 per \$1,000 of the value of assessed property. This would be a \$145 assessment for a house valued at \$440,000.

Is there a limit to how much the park district can collect?

Yes, the park district can collect up to 75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. To collect more than 75 cents per \$1,000 requires a vote of people. At the maximum amount of 75 cents, the owner of a house with an assessed value of \$440,000 would pay \$330.

Is there a ramp-up period for the park district?

2015 would be used as a ramp-up period. Park district funds would not be collected until 2016. During 2015 Parks would establish performance measures, develop processes for allocating funds to other organizations where called for, ramp up hiring, and establish an automated asset management system.