

District Oversight Committee Site Tours

June 2015

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Dear District Oversight Committee Member,

Seattle Parks and Recreation operates 465 parks, 26 community centers, 10 pools, four golf courses, and much more. Parks alone cover about 11% of the City’s total land area. Within this system, the quality and usability of individual parks, park features, and buildings varies greatly. This document, along with the online map, is a sampling of both the good and the bad. It shows the problems Parks faces with examples of assets in poor condition, and shows potential solutions to those problems with examples of assets in good condition. By showing the differences between individual community centers, pools, and parks, we hope to show the scope of the challenges we face in making Seattle’s park and recreation system accessible, full of opportunity, and sustainable.

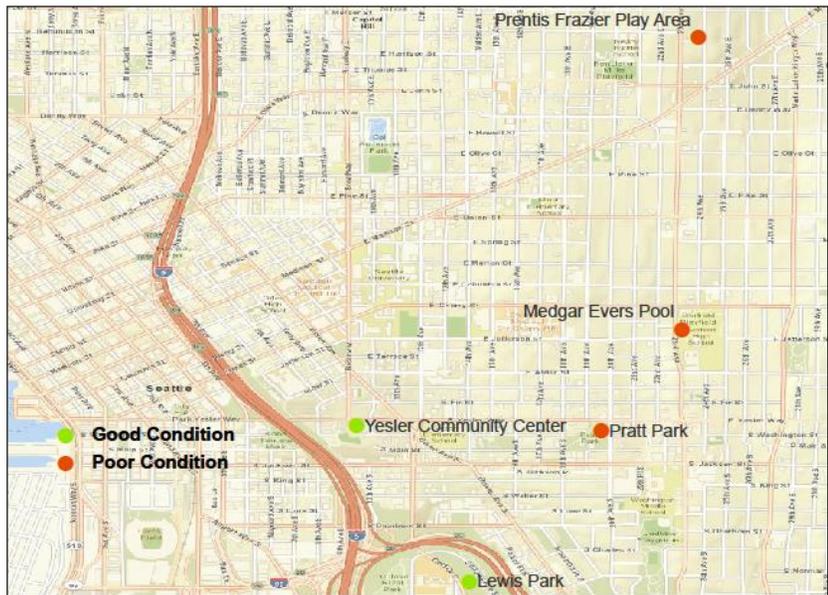
Each point of interest is clustered into one of 11 groups. Not all groups contain the same types of facilities and parks, but they allow you to visit a variety of sites in a minimal amount of time. We tried to distribute assets relatively evenly across each geographic sector of Seattle—Central East, Central West, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest. Feel free to introduce yourself to Parks staff when you arrive—their knowledge and expertise of the parks and facilities they operate is second-to-none.

So, pick a point of interest or a group, and **explore more!**

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Central East Sector



 **Lewis Park**

1120 15th Ave S, 98122



Lewis Park is a great example of a successful reforestation project. The Friends of Lewis Park, a local nonprofit organization, qualified for two separate Neighborhood Matching Fund awards and received Levy Opportunity Fund allocations in two consecutive rounds, raising the funds necessary to restore Lewis Park. The Friends of Lewis Park, the Green Seattle Partnership, and others worked together to clear out invasive plants, pick up trash, pull weeds, and establish native plants and trees.

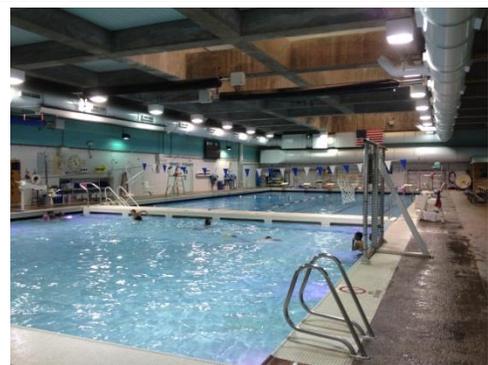


 **Medgar Evers Pool**

500 23rd Ave, 98122



Seattle's first major Forward Thrust project, Medgar Evers Pool is *not* a nuclear fallout shelter, although it does look like one. The pool faces a number of deferred maintenance issues, not the least of which is flooding. The front entranceway, outside the main doors, often floods; the water then squeezes inside and has actually reached a level of more than two feet deep within the main room. The roof also poses problems. The two large concrete cuboids on top of the building are actually skylights—the windows within them, however, are dirty enough (cleaning these windows, because of their location, is not simply a matter of



scrubbing them down) that they only let a small amount of light in. The pool basin itself shows it has been patched up many times to fill cracks.

 **Pratt Spraypark**

800 S Main St, 98144



Pratt Park's spraypark, while undeniably fun, suffers from a lack of effective water features and a haphazard layout. The water runs directly into a storm drain, and the water features are not as dynamic as possible. This was one of Parks' first sprayparks, and it is in need of an upgrade.



 **Prentis I. Frazier Play Area**

401 24th Ave E, 98112



This play area was built in the 1990s and is in need of an upgrade. The equipment is old and worn out, making it difficult both for kids to enjoy and staff to maintain.

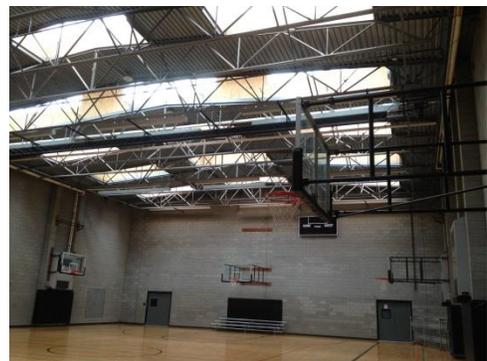


 **Yesler Community Center**

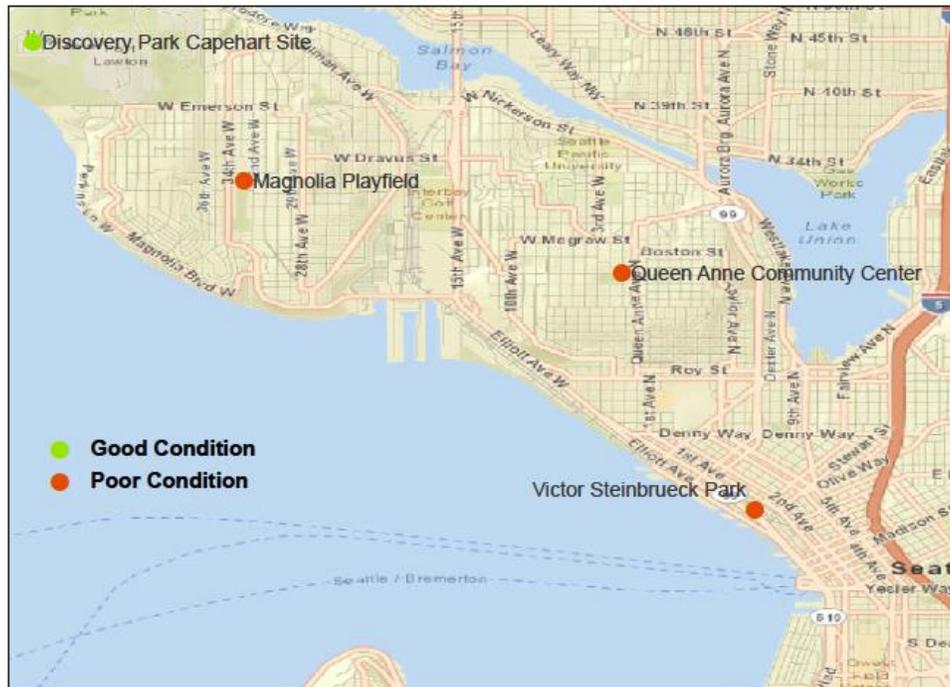
917 E Yesler Way, 98122



Replaced with funding from the 1999 Community Center Levy, Yesler Community Center—one of our gems—is an energy efficient and inviting community center. It is a great example of one of Parks' LEED-gold certified buildings. Seattle Parks and Recreation received a Civic Design Award from the American Institute of Architects for its design. The Associated Recreation Council (ARC) operates one of its RecTech programs here. RecTech works to bridge the digital divide by providing technology access, training, and opportunities for personal and career development where the need is greatest: in community technology centers across south and central Seattle. Even though Yesler CC is a full-featured, popular community center, it is still only able to operate 45 hours per week.



Central West Sector



 **Discovery Park Capehart Housing**

3801 Discovery Park Blvd, 98199



The U.S. Navy built over 60 housing units here in the early 1960s. In 2011, Parks and the Green Seattle Partnership restored these 27 acres of military housing to a mixed forest and meadow, removing and recycling 4,500 cubic yards of concrete and asphalt, and planting approximately 12,000 native trees and plants. The site is still in the plant establishment phase.



 **Magnolia Playfield (Northernmost Playfield)** 2518 34th Ave W, 98199



Magnolia Playfield has significant drainage issues. Because the playfield is located in a valley basin, rainwater does not drain well, leading the playfield to resemble a bog during and after a rainstorm. At times, the field can be nearly unusable due to the excess water. The field surface is relatively uneven, not ideal for athletic pursuits.



 **Queen Anne Community Center**

1901 1st Ave W, 98119



Queen Anne Community Center is not in very good condition. Built in the early 1950s, it shows its age. Currently, Queen Anne CC is open only 40 hours per week.



 **Victor Steinbrueck Park**

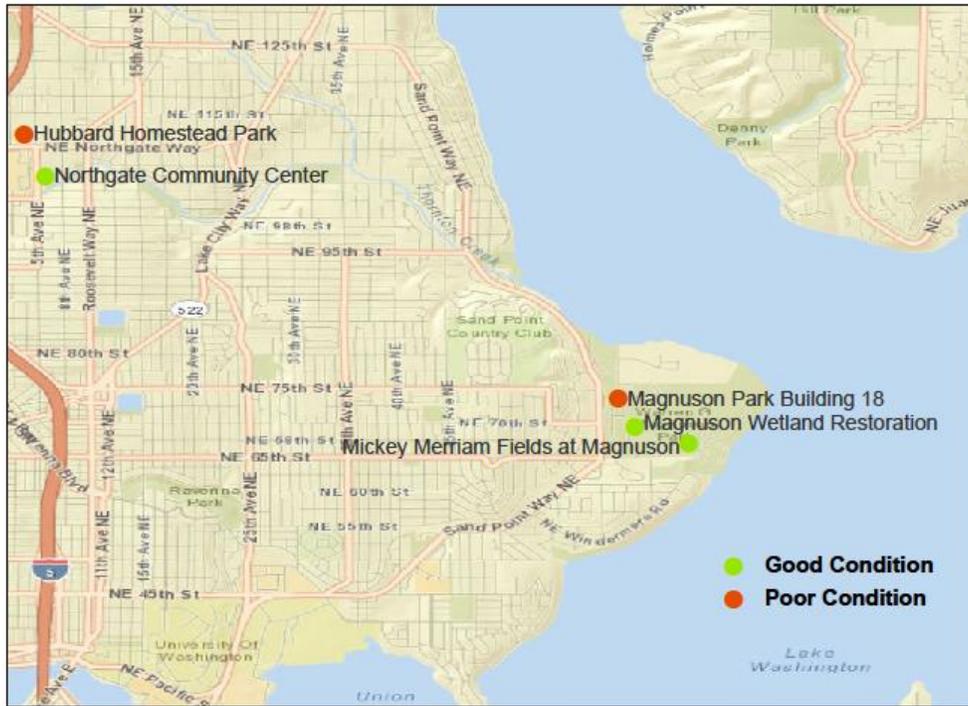
2001 Western Ave, 98121



Adjacent to Pike Place Market, this heavily-used park requires a great deal of maintenance. This park attracts large numbers of tourists and presents sanitation, safety, and maintenance challenges.



Northeast Sector



Magnuson Park Building 18

7400 Sand Point Way NE, 98115



Magnuson Park Building 18, the former naval base's fire station, is in rough shape. After the Navy deferred important maintenance priorities, the roof collapsed, sending water throughout much of the building. It needs a complete renovation in order to be legally occupied. Part of Sand Point Naval Base Historic District. Note that this site is a drive-by only; fencing prevents entry.



Magnuson Wetland Restoration

7400 Sand Point Way NE, 98115



Over the past few years, Parks has worked to restore some of Magnuson Park's former airstrips to their pre-Navy wetland state. By landscaping the area with gentle hills, carving out small ponds, installing tree snags for birds to land on, and establishing native plants and grasses, Parks increased the wetland's range of vegetation and created new habitats for animals. Parks



has completed one such wetland restoration project in Magnuson Park, and is currently working on a second.

 **Mickey Merriam Fields at Magnuson Park** 7400 Sand Point Way NE, 98115



Fields 5-9, dedicated to late Parks ballfield coordinator Mickey Merriam, are some of Parks' newest and best synthetic fields. These fields replaced the compacted soil and stormwater pipes stuck underneath the runways with better-draining synthetic material that helps water to drain onto the peninsula, benefiting wildlife. The field lights are shielded, and in good condition. This complex features fields with markings for a number of sports, including ultimate, soccer, and baseball.



 **Northgate Community Center** 10510 5th Ave NE, 98125



Opened in 2006, Northgate Community Center is one of Parks' premier facilities. It is LEED certified, and features a gorgeous, bright, and spacious interior that is welcoming and pleasing. Currently, Northgate CC is open only 40 hours per week.



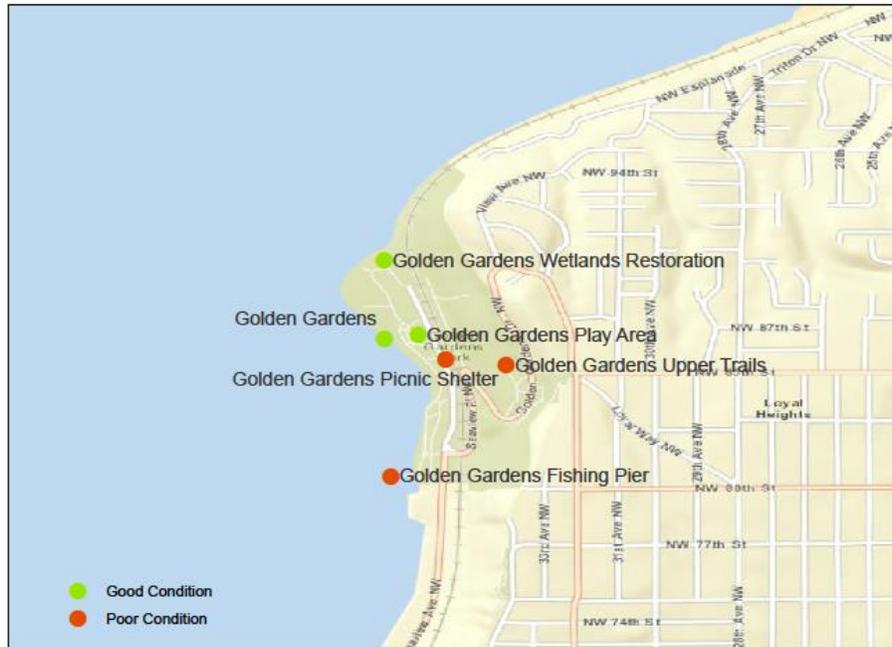
 **Hubbard Homestead Park** 11203 5th Ave NE, 98125



Adjacent to Northgate Mall, Parks built Hubbard Homestead Park with \$4 million in Parks and Green Spaces Levy funds. As this levy did not contain dedicated maintenance funds for new parks, Hubbard Homestead Park's future maintenance needs are currently unfunded. The park itself is in need of activation. Parks is about to begin construction of a skatepark at the park.



Northwest Sector Northwest - Golden Gardens



Golden Gardens Park

8498 Seaview Pl NW, 98117



Golden Gardens is a frequently-used flagship park, and a great example of the scope of the work Parks staff does. Golden Gardens requires regular maintenance and cleaning, especially of trash. It can be a challenge to keep up with the heavy use, especially from summer beach fires. The Parks and Green Spaces funded renovations of the bathhouse, a landmarked facility, which is now available for rental for weddings and other events.

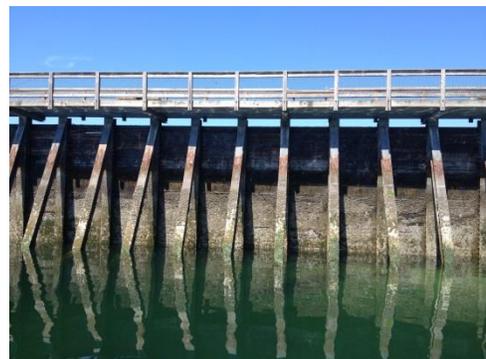


Golden Gardens Fishing Pier

8498 Seaview Pl NW, 98117



This fishing pier is in need of major maintenance. Some of the wood pilings need to be replaced, and much of the fencing on the pier itself is bent out of shape.



 **Golden Gardens Picnic Shelter**

8498 Seaview Pl NW, 98117



These picnic shelters have seen better days. Much of the wood is old and damaged, and the metal grills are rusted and grimy. Six trash cans are needed behind the shelters just to keep up with the large amounts of trash.



 **Golden Gardens Play Area**

8498 Seaview Pl NW, 98117



The play area at Golden Gardens is a great example of dynamic, safe, and fun children's play equipment. It was completed in 2011.



 **Golden Gardens Upper Trails**

8498 Seaview Pl NW, 98117



The trails that lead from the off-leash area down to the beach below have been damaged by off-leash dogs. Many plants lining the trails, carefully installed by volunteer forest stewards, have been torn out by energetic canines, increasing the risk of erosion and reducing the trails' quality.



 **Golden Gardens Wetlands Restoration**

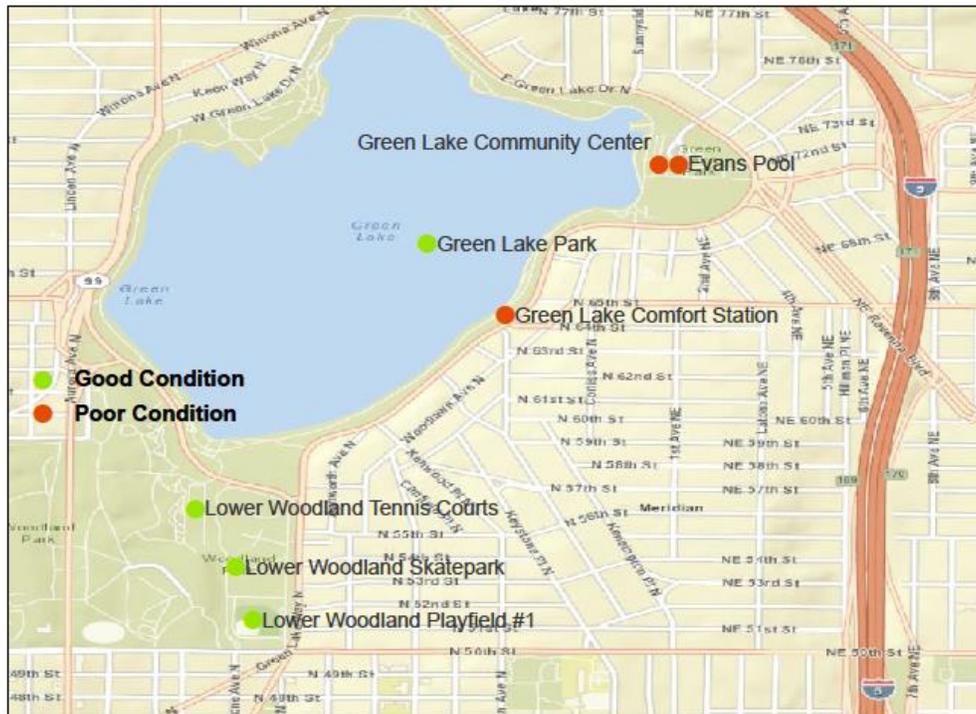
8498 Seaview Pl NW, 98117



Before it was restored in 1996, the creek that ran through this area was blocked off and not flowing. Invasive blackberries and other plants had taken over the dunes, and the beach itself was wearing away. Parks used funds from the Shoreline Park Improvement Fund to replenish the northern beach, re-establish the two wetlands, install a short loop trail, remove invasives, and establish native plants, turning this area into a thriving wetland that is now a habitat for ducks, turtles, and more.



Northwest – Green Lake



Evans Pool (Green Lake)

7201 E Green Lake Drive N, 98115 

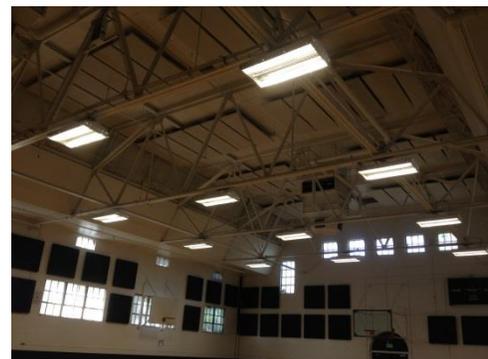
Evans Pool, completed in 1955, is an old facility. Many of the walls, ceilings, and floors have extensive water damage, and the exterior looks tired. The women’s locker room isn’t ADA accessible, doesn’t have very much space, and doesn’t have many lockers. The staff locker room is closet-sized.



Green Lake Community Center

7201 E Green Lake Drive N, 98115 

This community center is old and very worn. It was damaged in the Nisqually earthquake—causing the building to slightly separate between the main entrance and the community center. There are numerous leaks due to roof issues, and a number of cracks and damage to the walls and ceilings. The gym has ADA issues, and is not state-of-the-art. Currently, Green Lake Community Center is open 45 hours per week.



 **Green Lake Park**

7201 E Green Lake Drive N, 98115



Green Lake draws thousands of people to its grassy shores each day. Part of the original Olmsted Plan, Green Lake features activities that appeal to locals and tourists alike. The magnitude of use, however, requires a high level of maintenance. Green Lake is kept in top condition by the small army of Parks staff who descend on the park each day to pick up litter, maintain grass, clean walkways, and sanitize comfort stations (public restrooms).



 **Green Lake Comfort Station**

7201 E Green Lake Drive N, 98115



This comfort station needs an overhaul. Even though Parks regularly cleans and maintains it, the high frequency of use has led it to deteriorate. This comfort station is representative of many other comfort stations throughout Seattle that are adequately maintained and cleaned, but have deteriorated over time to the point where, even after a fresh clean, they always appear dirty.



 **Lower Woodland Tennis Courts (Green Lake)** 1000 N 50th St, 98103



These popular tennis courts are some of the city's best. Recently renovated, they are in great condition—the no-slip surface is free of cracks, the nets don't sag, and the fences aren't rusted. The floodlights are shielded, preventing light pollution in the neighborhood and directing light toward the action on the court.





Lower Woodland Playfield #1

1000 N 50th St, 98103



Lower Woodland Playfield #1 is one of Parks' nicest ballfields. It has a synthetic infield, which is playable year round, yet retains a grass outfield. The backstop, made of brick, is both aesthetically pleasing and effective. The lights, like the other lights in the Woodland Park athletic complex, are shielded to protect the neighborhood from light pollution.

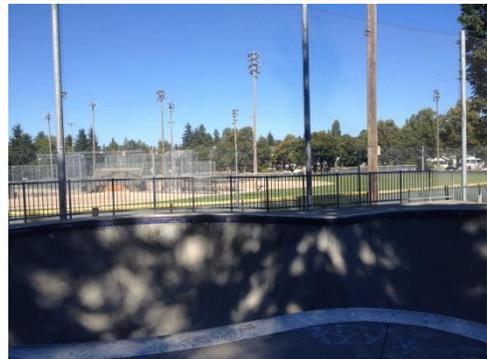


Lower Woodland Skatepark

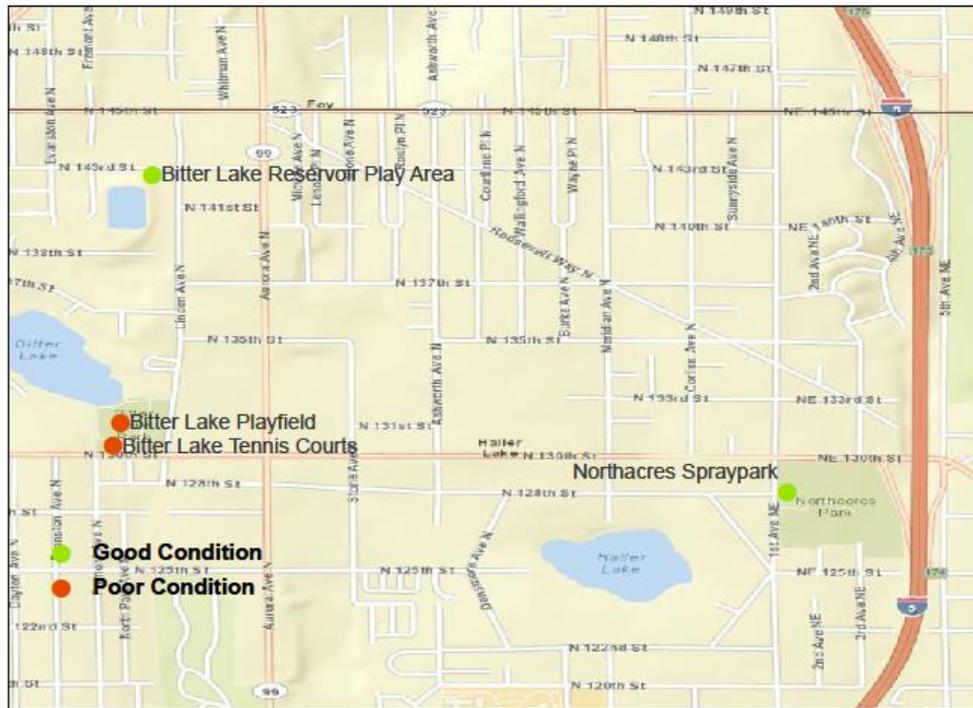
1000 N 50th St, 98103



This skatepark contains bowls and street elements, challenging skateboarders of all skill levels.



Northwest – North



 **Bitter Lake Playfield**

13035 Linden Ave N, 98133



Bitter Lake Playfield has an all-dirt baseball diamond and grass outfield/playfield. The poles and lights are old and outdated.



 **Bitter Lake Reservoir Play Area**

Linden Ave N & N 143rd St, 98133



This play area, made from state-of-the-art interchangeable KOMPAN parts, provides safe and fun kids' recreation. The play area sits next to a community garden, enhancing the space's attractiveness and activating the park. Along with Opportunity Fund grants, this project was funded by the Parks and Green Spaces Levy, which had no dedicated maintenance funds attached to individual projects. This play area is an example of an unfunded future maintenance need.



 **Bitter Lake Tennis Courts**

13035 Linden Ave N, 98133



The Bitter Lake Tennis Courts are not in the best shape. The courts themselves feature plants growing out of cracks, and a somewhat rough surface. The light poles are rusted, and the lights are not shielded. Parks' capital tennis courts program funds only a few renovations per year.



 **Northacres Spraypark**

12718 1st Ave NE, 98125

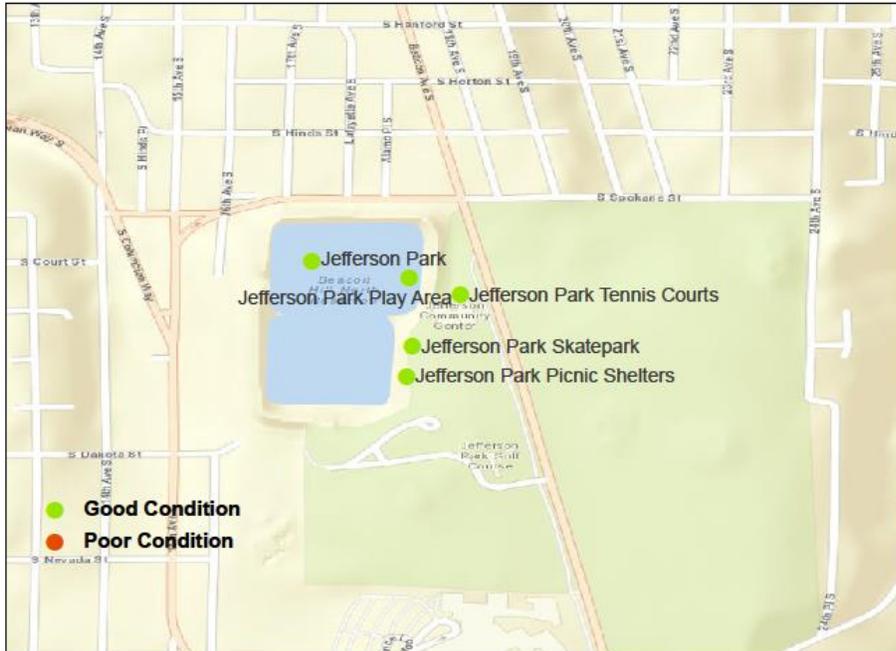


Parks turned what was once a sleepy wading pool into a popular spraypark using Parks and Green Spaces Levy funds. The spraypark has several kid-friendly features that appeal to multiple ages, and a re-circulating system that reduces water use. The water features—which spin, shoot, and dump water—encourage kids to play together. Be sure to visit Northacres Park on a hot, sunny day so you can count all the happy faces! This project was funded by the Parks and Green Spaces Levy, which had no dedicated maintenance funds attached to individual projects. This spraypark is another example of an unfunded future maintenance need—especially in terms of the water filtration system requirements.



Southeast Sector

Southeast – Jefferson and Seward



Jefferson Park

3801 Beacon Ave S, 98108



This is one of Seattle’s oldest and newest parks, having just finished a significant renovation. Pro Parks Levy funds paid for new tennis courts, a new viewpoint, and two new large meadows resting on top of the lidded reservoir. The Parks and Green Spaces Levy funded the skatepark, a new synthetic playfield, solar picnic shelters—which redistribute their collected electricity to the grid, reducing Parks’ energy costs—and more. With these improvements, Jefferson has clearly become one of Seattle’s most appealing parks. This expansion, however, has significantly increased the maintenance requirements for the park. Parks staff must now maintain the lidded open space, the new skatepark, the new play area, and more. This is another an unfunded future maintenance need.

 **Jefferson Park Play Area**

3801 Beacon Ave S, 98108



Pro Parks Levy funds paid for new play area structures in Jefferson Park. The Parks and Green Spaces Levy funded the Beacon Mountain play area (complete with waterpark, slides, and zipline). Both play areas are examples of modern play structures that are safe, fun, and attractive to kids. Because they are new, however, these two play areas' future maintenance needs are currently unfunded.



 **Jefferson Tennis Courts**

3801 Beacon Ave S, 98108



These tennis courts, which are in great shape, were constructed with Pro Parks Levy funds. Previously, there were only two—construction added two more.



 **Jefferson Park Picnic Shelters**

3801 Beacon Ave S, 98108



These state-of-the-art solar picnic shelters, developed in partnership with City Light, collect the sun's energy and distribute it to the grid, offsetting some of Parks' other energy costs. Parks staff must maintain these new shelters, however. Currently, the shelters' future maintenance needs are unfunded.





Jefferson Park Skatepark

3801 Beacon Ave S, 98108



When school's not in session, this skatepark is packed. Skaters of all ages and backgrounds can practice ollies, kickflips, and grinds in the skate park's varied features, which include an 11' deep bowl and street features. The full project was completed in early 2012 with \$1 million from the Parks and Green Spaces Levy, and a \$10,000 donation from Sub Pop Records. New assets, however, require new maintenance allocations—something this skatepark does not currently have. This is an unfunded future maintenance need.



Seward Park

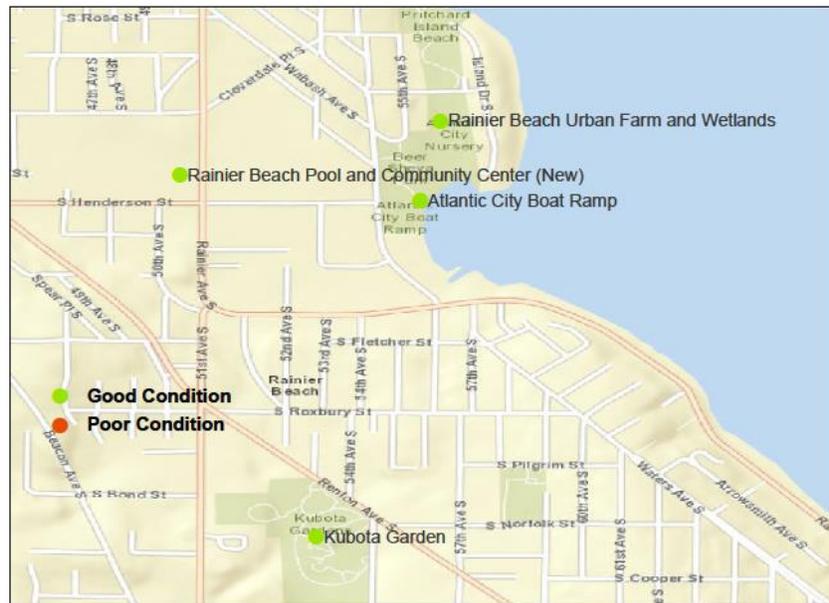
5895 Lake Washington Blvd. S, 98118



Seward Park is a fabulous example of an actively-used park—one that features one of the City's largest stands of remnant evergreen old-growth forest. This forest has benefited from great partnerships that maintain and restore the forest. The Green Seattle Partnership works to restore the forest, while the Audubon Society operates the Environmental & Audubon Center. A Neighborhood Matching Fund grant paid for the new play area. Thanks to a million-dollar donation, partners and volunteers cleared the park of invasive plant species. Active trail planning and restoration also have significantly improved the park. With its large canopy of evergreen trees, Seward Park represents the goal of the Green Seattle Partnership (a unique public/private partnership between the City of Seattle and Forterra that supports thousands of community volunteers actively working to restore and maintain Seattle's forested parklands).



Southeast – Rainier Beach

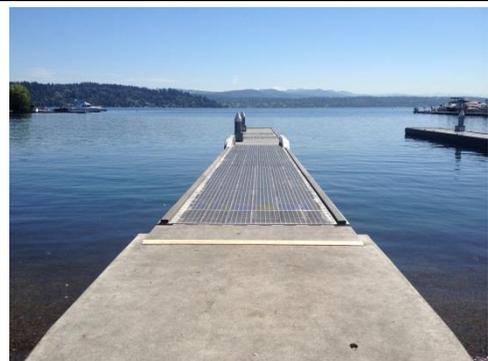


Atlantic City Boat Ramp

8702 Seward Park Ave S, 98118



The Atlantic City Boat Ramp is the ‘Cadillac’ of Parks’ boat ramps. It also features a pleasant new comfort station.



Kubota Garden

9817 55th Ave S, 98118



A hidden gem—if you’ve never been to Kubota Garden, it’s a must see. The Garden hosts many weddings and events, and is a great example of the expertise and quality work accomplished by Parks staff, through partnership with the Kubota Foundation.



 **Rainier Beach Pool and Community Center (New)** 8825 Rainier Ave S, 98118  

The new 46,479 square foot building will house the new community center and indoor pool, including a spraypark. This will be a brand new, state of the art pool facility built out of a \$25 million dollar levy project, and Parks is aiming for a LEED Gold certification. This project benefited from strong community partners that emphasized working with immigrants and youth in terms of programming. (Drive-by at this point; it opens on September 22.)

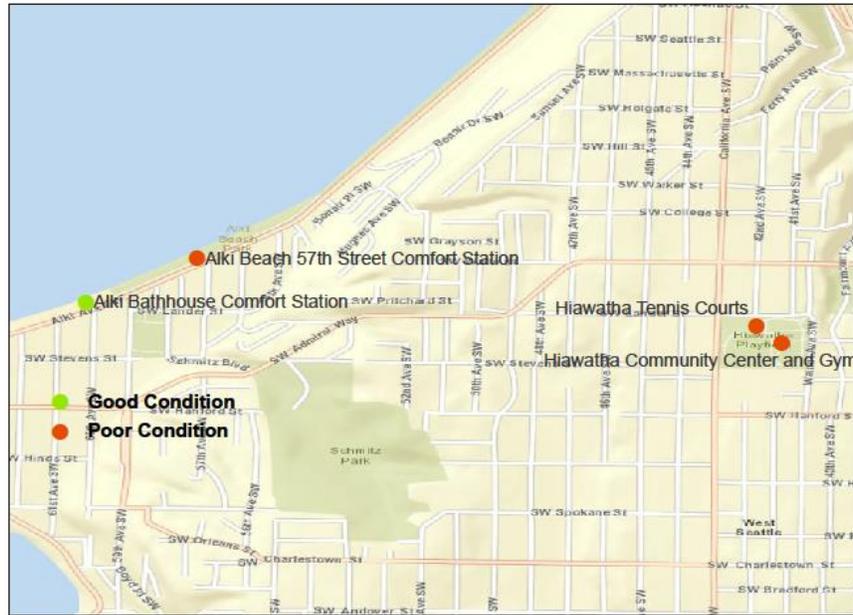
 **Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands** 5513 S. Cloverdale Street, 98118 

This site was previously Parks' Atlantic City Nursery. This Opportunity Fund project is a great example of a future partnership between Seattle Parks Foundation, Parks, Friends of Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands, and Seattle Tilth. When construction—slated for 2014—is finished, the site will operate as a dynamic farm that's also an educational place for the whole community. The south end of the property, bordering Beer Sheva and Atlantic City parks, will be renovated into an exemplary wetlands site. Seattle Tilth will operate the farm upon completion.



Southwest Sector

Southwest - Admiral and Alki



 **Alki Bathhouse Comfort Station**

2701 Alki Ave SW, 98116



The Alki Bathhouse Comfort Station, located on the Bathhouse’s south exterior, is well-maintained and in good condition. The interior is spacious, clean, and free of significant cracks or damage. This comfort station features an exterior shower so park users can wash off sand.

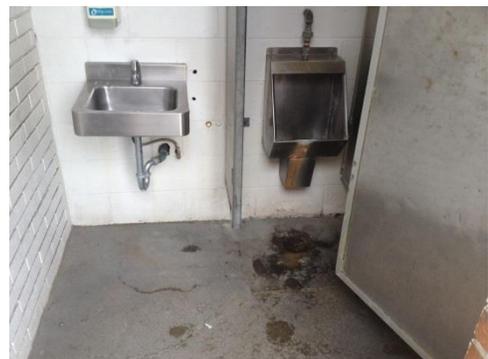


 **Alki 57th Street Comfort Station**

Alki Ave SW and 57th Ave SW



This comfort station is small, cramped, and tired. Parks placed a portable toilet adjacent to the comfort station because large volumes of people using Alki can overwhelm its small capacity. Frequent use also increases the importance of frequent maintenance, and this comfort station shows a good deal of wear and tear.



 **Hiawatha Community Center and Gym**

2700 California Ave SW, 98116



Built in 1911, Hiawatha is Seattle’s oldest public community center, and stands within an Olmsted-designed park. It has grown weary with age, and has several major maintenance issues. First, the gym walls are settling into the earth—look for the small bulls-eye stickers placed throughout the gym to see where crews have measured the amount of settlement. The gym windows, currently covered in makeshift plastic, need to be replaced. This is an actively used, busy community center, yet is open only 45 hours per week.



 **Hiawatha Tennis Courts**

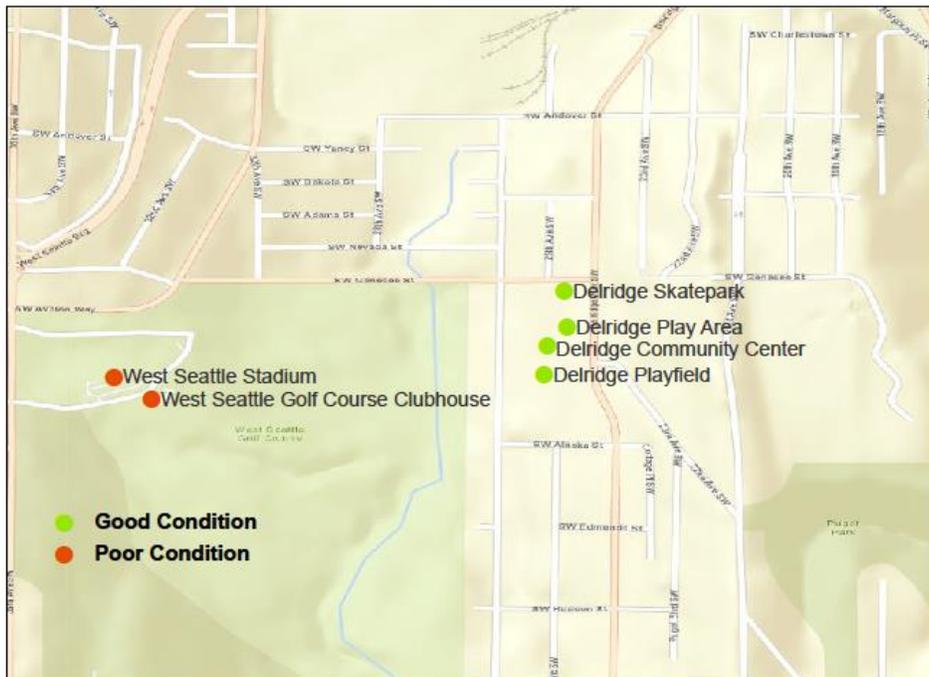
2700 California Ave SW, 98116



These tennis courts could use a significant upgrade—the fence is warped, rusted, and full of holes, while the courts themselves are sprouting weeds.



Southwest - Delridge and West Seattle Golf Course



Delridge Community Center

4501 Delridge Way SW, 98106



Delridge Community Center is an example of a Parks facility in good external condition. The design, which uses corrugated metal for the exterior walls, is easy to maintain and withstands the elements.



Delridge Play Area

4501 Delridge Way SW, 98106



The Delridge Play Area is new, colorful, and kid-friendly. Manufactured by KOMPAN, the structure is safe and features multiple climbing walls, an ADA swing, spinning contraptions, and more. The hard plastic structure is easier to maintain and clean.



 **Delridge Playfield**

4501 Delridge Way SW, 98106



From 2009-2011, Parks used Parks and Green Spaces Levy funds to upgrade the old sand playfield. The new playfield is synthetic, and supports baseball, softball, Ultimate Frisbee, soccer, and men's and women's lacrosse. The field is ADA-accessible. Delridge Playfield's new lights have visors, directing light onto the field itself and preventing light leakage that can bother neighbors. During the renovations, Parks also upgraded the subsurface drainage system.



 **Delridge Skatepark**

4501 Delridge Way SW, 98106



The Parks and Green Spaces Levy also funded Delridge Skatepark, an innovative, full service skatepark that accommodates a variety of features and different skill levels. The skatepark is in good condition, although there are a few cracks in the concrete. Because this is a new asset, it requires new maintenance expenditures from Parks. This represents an unfunded future maintenance need.



 **West Seattle Golf Course Clubhouse**

4599 35th Ave SW, 98106



The West Seattle Golf Course Clubhouse has deteriorated perilously. The boiler room, downstairs, has a number of water issues; the kitchen has roof leaks and floor cracks; and the banquet hall has become much more difficult to rent because of the poor condition of the windows.



 **West Seattle Stadium**

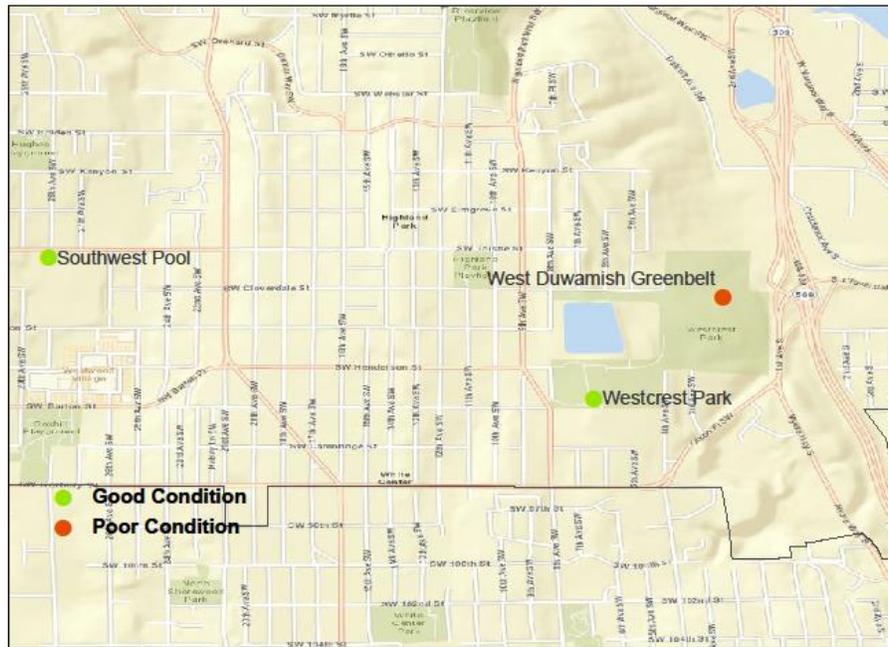
4432 35th Ave SW, 98126



West Seattle Stadium, especially the north sideline bleachers, is in need of repairs. Made of wood, some pieces are waterlogged and rotten—particularly the walkways along the edge of the bleachers. The wooden light poles are old and outdated.



Southwest – South



 **Southwest Pool**

2801 SW Thistle St, 98126



Southwest Pool features good lighting and ventilation, an automated pool cover, and other energy efficiencies. This pool offers women-only swims and swim lessons, and has a hot tub.



 **West Duwamish Greenbelt** W Marginal Way SW & Highland Park Way SW, 98106



The West Duwamish Greenbelt is the largest greenbelt in the city and is home to foxes, red-legged frogs, hawks, and bald eagles. The greenbelt encompasses the extended forest along the eastern slopes of West Seattle, visible from I-5. The Nature Consortium and other community partners have been working to restore the greenbelt, and in 2009, a Neighborhood Matching Fund grant funded removal of invasive species, planting of native species, and the installation of stepping stones. However, this greenbelt still needs a lot of work.





Westcrest Park and West Seattle Reservoir

9000 8th Ave SW, 98106



Along with the oldest contiguous stand of old-growth conifers within the city, Westcrest currently features a great panoramic view of the skyline, a flat open meadow with a walking path (on top of the now-underground reservoir), a dog off-leash area, and a beautiful community garden. The Parks and Green Spaces Levy is supplying about \$3.5 million for improvements to this park which, when completed, will require expanded maintenance work and new maintenance funding. The project will transform the 20 acres of open space on the reservoir lid into a new neighborhood park and gathering space—inherently increasing maintenance costs. While this expansion will benefit the community, the site does not have future maintenance funds available.

