



SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION 2011 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PURPOSE

Seattle Parks and Recreation plans for its acquisition and development projects for the upcoming six years and identifies the demands, needs and priorities in a park development plan. The latest plan, the Seattle Parks and Recreation 2006 Development Plan, is being updated and it is anticipated that this 2011 Plan will be completed by the end of this year. A goal of this Plan is to establish eligibility for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grants.

Seattle Parks and Recreation is interested in hearing about your priorities for public outdoor recreation facilities, including parks, trails, and boating facilities, and about your ideas to preserve and develop facilities in the next six years.

BACKGROUND

Population: Seattle's 2010 population is 612,000 which is an increase of nearly 50,000 people, or 8.6% over the 2000 population of 563,374. The median age is 36 years old. 85% of the population is 18 years or older, while 11% is 65 years or older. Approximately 5% of the population is under 5 years of age. This population makeup will affect the type of park demands in the future.

Most Popular Outdoor Activities in Seattle: In a recent study, the most popular outdoor activities in Seattle were identified as walking, nature activity, picnicking, playground activities, bicycling, swimming, running/jogging, hiking, fishing, basketball, and soccer.

Trends for Future Activities: Nationwide, kayaking, artificial climbing wall, lacrosse, skateboarding, trail running, walking, jogging, and tennis are emerging activities that are gaining in popularity. In a recent study, emerging team sports in Seattle were Ultimate Frisbee, lacrosse, kickball, and dodgeball. Other activities that Seattle residents are interested in pursuing include non-motorized boating, swimming, running/jogging, golfing, ice skating, soccer, basketball, and tennis.

Open Space Gaps: There are some areas of Seattle which lack adequate open space, which is defined as parks, green spaces, trails and boulevards. In 2006, these areas were: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge; University District; Belltown, Chinatown/International District; Downtown (Denny Triangle, Commercial Core, Pioneer Square); Capitol Hill; First Hill; 12th Avenue; and Morgan Junction. The Gap Analysis will be updated and the results incorporated into the 2011 Development Plan.

WASHINGTON RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO) GRANTS

There are a number of grant programs funded by RCO. Seattle has received grants for local parks, water access, urban wildlife greenbelts, boating facilities, and youth athletic fields. The anticipated grant funding ranges from approximately \$1 million to \$18 million total for the different grant categories. These competitive grants are used for programs throughout the State of Washington.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT?

There are a number of ways that you can help shape the future of outdoor conservation and recreation areas in Seattle. Below is a schedule of upcoming meetings. Also, in the upcoming weeks, an on-line survey and a Facebook Discussion will be made available for you to provide input on the 2011 Development Plan. You can also contact Kathleen Conner, Project Manager, if you have questions about the Plan.

Tuesday, February 15, 2011 5:30 to 8:00 pm	Jefferson Community Center Information Table – Mayor’s Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2011 5:30 to 8:00 pm	Magnolia Community Center Information Table – Mayor’s Town Hall Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2011 7:00 to 8:00 pm	Jefferson Community Center Public Meeting on the 2011 Development Plan
Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:00 to 8:00 pm	Bitter Lake Community Center Public Meeting on the 2011 Development Plan
Thursday, May 26, 2011 (time TBD)	Parks Administration Bldg. (100 Dexter Ave. N) Briefing to the Board of Park Commissioners
Thursday, June 9, 2011 (time TBD)	Parks Administration Bldg. (100 Dexter Ave. N) Public hearing on the Board of Park Commissioners

OTHER INFORMATION

Please visit the Seattle Parks website throughout the year as new information becomes available about the Plan: www.Seattle.gov/parks .

The 2006 Development Plan is on-line at:
www.seattle.gov/parks/Publications/DevelopmentPlan .

For more information on specific grant programs and other documents pertaining to outdoor recreation and conservation, see the RCO website: www.rco.wa.gov .

CONTACT INFORMATION

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