



Department of Parks and Recreation

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 21, 2008

TO: Timothy Gallagher, Superintendent; and
Board of Park Commissioners

FROM: Eric Friedli, Manager, Policy and Business Analysis

SUBJECT: **Summer 2008 Beach Fires at Alki Beach and Golden Gardens**

Requested Board Action

No action is requested at this time. The Board was provided a briefing on the beach fire program in June 2008. The purpose of this memo is to provide a summary on the beach fire program for 2008.

Background

The Alki summer beach fire program operated from June 8 through September 30, 2008. The Golden Gardens program ran from May 23 through October 24, 2008. These programs include staffing during the evening hours to educate park visitors about the rules and procedures for beach fires and to help enforce the park rules. Program staff was on-site at Alki Beach and Golden Gardens from 2:30 pm to 11 pm. Golden Gardens staff worked a ten hour shift (2 pm to 12:30 am) between July 8 and August 19. Attachment 1 summarizes the staffing levels and other related costs.

Certain behaviors continue to be a challenge including parking at Golden Gardens, alcohol consumption at both parks, and burning of inappropriate material that cause hazards and illegal fires. Parks staff is effective at eliminating illegal fires when they occur and report that most people are cooperative when it is pointed out that alcohol is not permitted. The Seattle Police Department (SPD) is contacted regarding incidents such as fights and significant parking issues.

Overall, the beach fire program was successful in preventing illegal fires, use of illegal burn materials and enhancing the general adherence to park rules. Attachment 2 provides a review of data collected for the beach fire program.

Plans for 2009

No changes are planned for the number of fire rings or for general operating protocols.

Parks staff will review with Seattle Police challenges experienced in 2008 and further develop a plan for response.

To further educate and encourage the public to burn only clean wood, Parks anticipates issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the first quarter of this year for a pilot program for a concessionaire to sell firewood to the public for use at the beaches. A successful concessionaire will have exclusive right to sell firewood that meets Parks' standards and specifications at Alki Beach and Golden Gardens. The primary goal of this RFP will be to implement some level of influence and control, via a permitted concessionaire, in the use of environmentally friendly firewood at our beaches. The RFP is expected to advertise in February with proposals due in March. Following the implementation of the pilot, Parks will evaluate and make recommendations for the following season.

Attachment 1

**Beach Fires 2008 Cost Summary –
Alki (15 wks) - Golden Gardens (22 wks)**

Elements	Alki		Golden Gardens	TOTALS
Program Schedule				
Week day	2:30 p.m. – 11 p.m. W/Th/Fr		3:30 – 12:00 a.m. Th/F/M	
Week end	2:30 p.m. – 11 p.m. S/Su		3:30 – 12 am S/Su 2 pm – 12:30 am 7/8-8/19	
Program Costs				
Staff/ FTE	1,338 hours / .64 FTE		2,640 hours / 1.27 FTE	3,978 / 1.91
Seasonal staff costs	\$27,380		\$55,800	\$83,180
Equipment / material costs	\$316		\$1,639	\$1,955
GRAND TOTALS	\$27,696		\$57,439	\$85,135

Attachment 2
2008 Beach Fire Program Review

	Alki	Golden Gardens	
Program Dates	6/8 – 9/30	5/23/08 – 10/24/08	
# of Fire Rings			Totals:
2007	6	11	17
2008	5	13	18
Staff			
Utility Laborer	1	1	2
General Laborer (Seasonal)	1	2	3
SEASON TOTALS			
Legal Fires			
Rings in Use at Start of Shift (3:30 pm)	16	None	16
Rings in Use at Close of Shift (10:00 pm)	319	1350 (All in use)	1669
Occurrences of Illegal Fuels removed from Fire Rings.	56	770	826
Illegal Fires (fires started outside of rings in sand)			
Found at Beginning of Shift	5	0	5
Burning At Some Point in Shift	73	770	843
Staff Prevented	84	330	414
Total Illegal Fuel Removed	523 Lbs	4,400 lbs	4,923
Other			
Number of Portable Grills	38	Did not track	
Number of Legal Fires With Manufactured Logs	64	None identified	