

Seattle Park District FAQ

What is the Seattle Park District?

In 2014, Seattle voters approved a proposition that created the Seattle Park District (also known as a metropolitan tax district), which collects a portion of property taxes to fund parks and recreation services. In 2021, the Park District collected \$0.21 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for a total of \$54,668,868.

What does the Park District fund?

The Park District funds park and facility maintenance, recreation programs, land acquisition, park improvements, new park development and other improvements included in a six-year financial plan. The first financial plan covered the six years from 2015-2020. It's important to note that the Park District is one of many funding sources that support the operations and work of Seattle Parks and Recreation. Examples of Park District-funded services, programs and activities are included in the Cycle-End Report (see link below) and in Park District annual reports, which are available at www.seattle.gov/seattle-park-district.

How are funding decisions made?

With input and recommendations from the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners (BPRC), the community, the Mayor's Office and City Council, SPR staff develop a six-year financial plan to guide Park District spending. In the spring of 2022, BPRC is involved in a public process to prioritize spending for the next six-year cycle, 2023-2028. The Park District Board will approve the financial plan later in 2022.

What are the priorities for Park District funding?

Broadly speaking, spending priorities are based on the Seattle Parks and Recreation's (SPR's) Strategic Plan, SPR values of *Healthy People, Healthy Environment, Strong Communities*, and *Organizational Excellence*, and a departmentwide commitment to equity, access, and race and social justice.

What's the difference between the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and the Park District Board?

The 15-member Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners provides community oversight to ensure that SPR spends Park District funds equitably and transparently to complete projects and programs in the six-year plan. This board also advises SPR, the Mayor's Office and City Council on parks and recreation policies and initiatives in general. In 2021, the Board merged with the Park District Oversight Committee, the original community oversight body for the Park District, to improve efficiency and eliminate duplication. The Park District is officially governed by the Seattle City Council acting as the Park District Board, which votes on annual adjustments to the six-year funding plan. Governance and oversight are described in the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the Park District.

What is the role of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners in the process?

In the spring of 2022, the BPRC will engage in a public process to help prioritize proposed projects and programs to be funded by the Park District. Working in subcommittees organized by proposal topic, Board members will develop a set of recommendations for the SPR Superintendent for his or her review; the Superintendent will submit the plan to the Mayor and his administration by the end of June. The BPRC process will also integrate public comment gathered through a "community conversation" to help ensure SPR leaders are in alignment with community needs and expectations.

When will the new plan be completed?

The tentative timeline is as follows:

- Mid-May 2022: BPRC recommendations to the Superintendent
- End of June: Superintendent recommendations to the Mayor
- End of November: Final plan approved by the City Council as part of the City budget

Note: Adjustments to the recommended plan submitted by the BPRC may be made by the Superintendent, and subsequently, by the Mayor and City Council before the final plan is approved in November.

Where can I get more information?

- [Interlocal Agreement ordinance](#)
- [Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement](#)
- [Park District Cycle-End Report](#)
- [Cycle-End Report Appendices](#)
- [Seattle Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan](#)
- www.seattle.gov/seattle-park-district
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