

# 2008 Parks Levy

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## Department Overview

In November 2008, Seattle voters approved the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy (2008 Parks Levy), a \$145.5 million, six-year Levy lid lift for park and recreation purposes. A 16-member Citizen Oversight Committee reviews expenditures, advises on allocations for upcoming budget years, makes recommendations on Opportunity Fund expenditures, and performs other duties. The 2008 Levy expired at the end of 2014. In 2016 and beyond, Parks will spend down the fund balance and any outstanding property tax revenues that may be collected.

The 2008 Parks Levy Fund chapter of the budget is an administrative tool to summarize the approved uses of the Levy. Proceeds from the 2008 Parks Levy are used mainly to support property acquisition, as well as capital expansion, development, and renovation of Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) facilities.

Parks manages the 2008 Parks Levy Fund and the majority of the levy funded projects. With these levy resources, the City acquired new neighborhood park and green spaces; developed new and existing parks, playgrounds, trails, boulevards, playfields, and cultural facilities; and performed environmental restoration at various Parks properties. The 2008 Parks Levy also included a development opportunity fund for citizen-initiated projects called the Opportunity Fund.

The 2008 Parks Levy was structured to fund the following major functions:

**Park and Green Space Acquisition:** The 2008 Parks Levy provided \$36 million for neighborhood park and green space acquisitions. To date, \$34 million has been appropriated for property acquisitions. The department has implemented a policy to land bank all newly acquired green space until funding for park development is available. The Seattle Park District (approved by voters in 2014) includes funding to develop 14 land banked parks starting in 2016 and continuing through 2018.

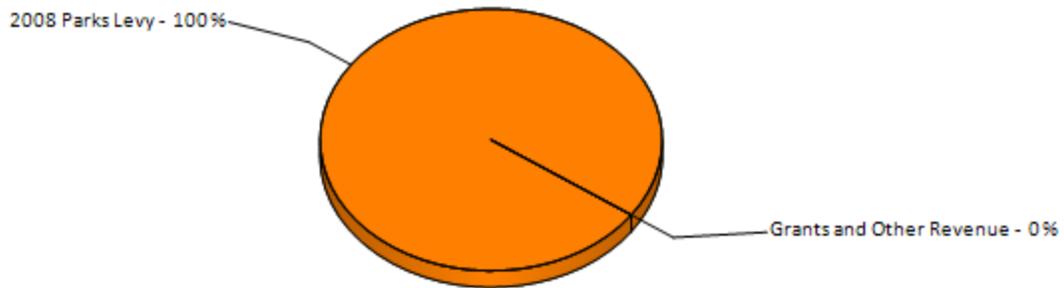
**Park Development Projects:** The levy provided \$87 million for 62 named development projects, three of which are trail projects managed by the Seattle Department of Transportation. To date, \$80 million has been appropriated for development projects. Approximately \$3.4 million of savings were reallocated from this category to fund two more playfield renovations in 2011, and \$9.8 million of inflation contingency funds were reallocated to fund 17 major maintenance projects in 2012.

**Environmental Projects:** The 2008 Parks Levy provided \$8 million for environmental projects, including forest and stream restoration, community garden and P-Patch development, and expanded shoreline access. To date, Parks has appropriated \$8 million for environmental projects.

**Opportunity Fund:** The levy provided \$15 million for citizen-initiated park projects to be recommended by the Levy Oversight Committee. In 2011, the Oversight Committee recommended funding two acquisitions and 13 development projects. In 2013, the Oversight Committee recommended funding three acquisition projects, and 11 development projects. The \$15 million has been appropriated for the Opportunity Fund projects.

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### 2016 Adopted Budget - Revenue by Category



### Budget Overview

The 2008 Parks Levy has expired. Current revenues are derived from delinquent property tax bills. The levy requires the Parks Levy Oversight Committee to make recommendations on the allocation of levy dollars. There are no new appropriations in the 2016 Adopted Budget for the 2008 Parks Levy, but Parks continues to spend down existing appropriations. The City will appropriate any remaining funds through additional legislation as projects are identified.

#### City Council Changes to the Proposed Budget

The Council made no changes to the 2016 Proposed Budget.

### City Council Provisos

*There are no Council provisos.*

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### Revenue Overview

#### 2016 Estimated Revenues

Summit Code	Source	2014 Actuals	2015 Adopted	2016 Endorsed	2016 Adopted
411100	Taxes , Levies & Bonds	24,844,000	1,027,000	1,918,000	130,000
	<b>Total 2008 Parks Levy</b>	<b>24,844,000</b>	<b>1,027,000</b>	<b>1,918,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>
433000	Grants and Other Revenue	2,784,000	700,000	0	0
	<b>Total Grants and Other Revenue</b>	<b>2,784,000</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>27,628,000</b>	<b>1,727,000</b>	<b>1,918,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>
	<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>27,628,000</b>	<b>1,727,000</b>	<b>1,918,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>