



City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

News

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Mayor's budget to invest in City assets and facilities *Investments support Senior Centers, Community Centers, Parks facilities and Roads*

SEATTLE – Mayor Mike McGinn today stood at Magnuson Park's Building 30 with his acting deputy Parks superintendent and community stakeholders to announce that his upcoming 2012 Proposed Budget will allocate a number of revenue sources to invest in the maintenance, preservation and improvement of City-owned facilities like community centers and streets. These types of investments have suffered in recent years as a result of the Great Recession and weak Real Estate Excise Tax revenue collections.

"Even in a time of constrained revenue, we are making an extra effort to invest in existing community infrastructure and assets, such as senior and community centers, parks facilities, and our streets. These investments will pay dividends to Seattle residents now and well into the future," said Mayor Mike McGinn. "I thank all the community stakeholders and city staff who worked together to help make today's announcement possible. I'd especially like to recognize the collaborative effort between my office, the City Council and the 2008 Parks Levy Oversight Committee to reinvest excess Levy dollars to help the City address our ongoing maintenance and operation funding challenges."

Magnuson Park's Building 30, a 1930s hangar remaining from the old Sand Point Naval Air Station, is an important community asset. It houses offices for Parks and a number of non-profit tenants, including the Friends of the Library, and is the site of the very popular Friends of the Library semi-annual book sale, an important source of revenue for The Seattle Public Library. In 2010, the Department of Planning and Development and the Seattle Fire Department restricted the use of the facility because the building is not up to code. The mayor's 2012 Proposed Budget commits \$5.5 million in bond financing to renovate the west wing and hangar to bring the facility up to code and allow for expanded facility rental opportunities. The revenue generated by Building 30 after the improvements are made will cover 60 percent of the \$641,000 annual debt service payments on the bonds, starting in 2013. The General Fund will cover the remaining 40 percent, or approximately \$260,000, depending on how actual Building 30 revenues perform. The interest-only debt service payment in 2012 is estimated at \$212,000, and will be covered by the General Fund.

“Magnuson Park’s cultural element is long overdue for new artist workspace and a safe place for community groups to gather,” noted Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata. “Renovating Building 30 provides the best opportunity in the park for achieving that and I look forward to working with the Mayor and with the Council to move this project forward.”

Further support for the long-term investments announced today come from a few different existing revenue sources in the mayor’s proposed budget:

- **\$1.9 million for new roofs at six city-owned facilities in 2012;**
 - Central Area Motivation Program
 - Central Area Senior Center
 - Northwest Senior Center in Ballard
 - Southeast Health Clinic
 - South Park Community Service Center
 - Teen Mother Center

- **Savings from the 2008 Parks Levy, resulting from an advantageous bidding climate for - \$9.8 million for 17 Parks asset preservation projects for 2012;**
 - Ballard Community Center Roof Replacement
 - Beacon Hill Playground Comfort Station Renovation
 - Comfort Station Renovations- 2008 Parks Levy (sites to be determined)
 - Evers Pool Roof Repairs
 - Fairmount Park Playground Comfort Station Renovation
 - Fairmount Park Playground Fence Replacement
 - Garfield Community Center Roof Replacement
 - Green Lake Bathhouse Roof Replacement
 - Lower Woodland Playfield Tennis Court Lights Replacement
 - Loyal Heights Boiler and Electrical System Replacement
 - Madrona Playground Shelterhouse Restrooms Renovation
 - Matthews Beach Park Bathhouse Renovation
 - Queen Anne Pool Plaster Liner Replacement
 - Rainier Beach Playfield Play Area Renovation
 - Rainier Beach Playfield Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement
 - Seward Park Water System Replacement
 - Van Asselt Community Center Gym Roof Replacement

Parks & Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee Chair Pete Spalding said, “After several months of discussion the Parks & Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee chose to re-allocate approximately \$10 million from the Inflation fund within the Levy. We chose a set of projects that were on the Parks Department’s Major Maintenance backlog. We then held a Public Hearing on this proposal. After hearing from the public, the Mayor’s office and Council Member Bagshaw we voted to move this set of projects forward for funding with these re-allocated funds.”

- **Proceeds from the sale of the Rubble Yard property to the Washington State Department of Transportation in mid-2011 – \$3 million of the \$19.8 total proceeds are being spent in 2011 to support critical surface street repair needs. The mayor’s 2012 Proposed Budget recommends using an additional \$6.7 million in Rubble Yard proceeds in 2012.**

- Rubble Yard proceeds will also be used to improve the City's preparedness for winter storms, including the installation of temperature sensors on seven bridges to enhance the City's capabilities to prevent and respond to the traffic snarling resulting from iced bridge surfaces during the cold winter months. This investment is particularly important as the winter of 2011-2012 is projected to be colder and wetter than normal.
- Rubble Yard proceeds are also allocated in the 2012 Proposed Budget to preserving SDOT core services such as street cleaning, bridge painting, neighborhood traffic control, and freight spot improvements; high-capacity transit planning; the Mercer West project; and the relocation of the former Rubble Yard operations to a new location.
- Further plans for the Rubble Yard proceeds are described in greater detail in the mayor's proposed budget to be submitted to Council on September 26th.

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