

# 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 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 Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) facilities. In addition, the Levy funds three projects in the Seattle Department of Transportation Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including the West Duwamish Trail Development, Burke Gilman Trail Extension, and the Lake to Bay Trail (Potlatch) Development, which is part of the Thomas Street Pedestrian Overpass project. This single budget control level appropriates the Levy-funded SDOT trail projects. Parks' appropriations for the 2008 Parks Levy are more specifically described in the 2014-2019 Proposed CIP document.

The annual cost to property owners for this Levy is approximately \$0.20 per \$1,000 assessed value. Parks manages the 2008 Parks Levy Fund and the majority of the levy funded projects. With these levy resources, the City will acquire new neighborhood park and green spaces; develop new and existing parks, playgrounds, trails, boulevards, playfields, and cultural facilities; and perform environmental restoration at various Parks properties. The 2008 Parks Levy also includes a development opportunity fund for citizen-initiated projects called the Opportunity Fund.

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

**Park and Green Space Acquisition:** The 2008 Parks Levy provides \$36 million for neighborhood park and green space acquisitions. To date, \$17 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.

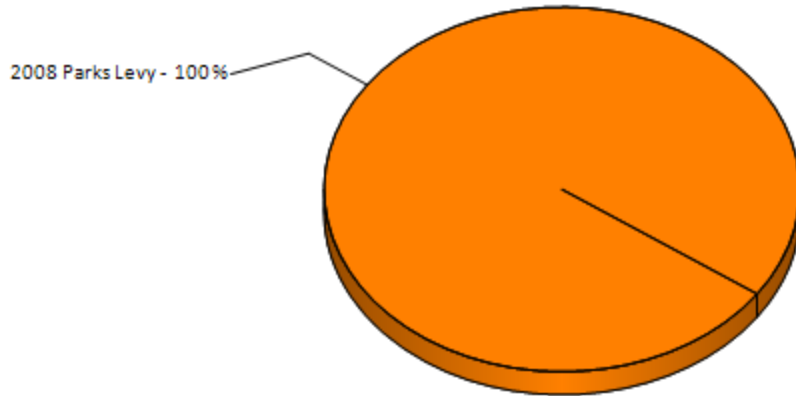
**Park Development Projects:** The levy provides \$87 million for 62 named development projects, three of which are trail projects managed by the Seattle Department of Transportation. To date, \$67 million have been appropriated for development projects. Funds from this category were reallocated to the Opportunity Fund for various 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 provides \$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 \$7.1 million for environmental projects.

**Opportunity Fund:** The levy provides \$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. \$15 million have been appropriated for the Opportunity Fund projects.

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## 2014 Proposed Budget - Revenue by Category



### **Budget Overview**

The 2008 Parks Levy requires the Parks Levy Oversight Committee to make recommendations on the allocation of Levy dollars. Their input helped shape development of the 2014-2019 Proposed CIP, which includes the individual levy projects funded in 2014.

The 2014-2019 Proposed CIP appropriates approximately \$7.9 million from the Levy in 2014, including two development projects. Of this amount, \$425,000 is appropriated in the Environmental Category based on the Levy Oversight Committee's April 23, 2012 recommendation to allocate the Environmental Category's inflation contingency to the Urban Forestry and Green Seattle Partnership projects.

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) manages the three trail development projects identified in the Levy including Belltown/Queen Anne Connections, Lake Union Ship Canal, and Mountains to Sound Greenway. Before SDOT can spend Levy dollars, the funds must be appropriated to SDOT. As a result, the 2008 Parks Levy budget includes a single Budget Control Level (BCL) for this purpose. The three trail projects were fully funded in 2010; one was completed in 2012 and the others will be completed in 2014.

The following tables describe anticipated revenues and appropriations to the 2008 Parks Levy Fund for 2014. As is typical with many capital programs, appropriations for the individual projects are made upfront and resulting expenditures span several years after the budget authority is approved. This front-loaded pattern of appropriations creates the temporary appearance of a large negative fund balance in the early years of the Levy period. However, the Fund's cash balance is projected to remain positive throughout the life of the Levy. Fund balance estimates are computed using values for anticipated capital expenditures, rather than budgeted capital expenditures.

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### 2008 Parks Levy Fund Table

#### 2008 Parks Levy Fund

	2012 Actuals	2013 Adopted	2013 Revised	2014 Endorsed	2014 Proposed
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>23,450,000</b>	<b>28,119,052</b>	<b>48,794,551</b>	<b>53,319,052</b>	<b>42,404,551</b>
Accounting and Technical Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0
Plus: Actual and Estimated Revenues	26,536,351	25,200,000	25,200,000	25,200,000	25,200,000
Less: Actual and Budgeted Expenditures	1,191,800	0	27,730,000	0	0
Less: Capital Improvements	17,651,217	3,860,000	3,860,000	6,596,000	7,931,000
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>31,143,334</b>	<b>49,459,052</b>	<b>42,404,551</b>	<b>71,923,052</b>	<b>59,673,551</b>
Parks Continuing Appr	32,593,411	11,813,441	20,947,116	8,221,441	15,420,116
SDOT Continuing Appr	4,859,591	759,591	759,591	20,591	20,591
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>37,453,002</b>	<b>12,573,032</b>	<b>21,706,707</b>	<b>8,242,032</b>	<b>15,440,707</b>
<b>Ending Unreserved Fund Balance</b>	<b>-6,309,668</b>	<b>36,886,020</b>	<b>20,697,844</b>	<b>63,681,020</b>	<b>44,232,844</b>

