

Park Board Guiding Principles

Seattle's world-class parks, recreation and green space system is essential civic infrastructure, contributing to the physiological, ecological, social and aesthetic quality of our city. Recent research confirms that Seattle's parks, recreation and green spaces are vital to our community's public health, economic competitiveness, sense of community, environmental stewardship and social cohesion.

To continue these indispensable services into the next century, Seattle's Board of Park Commissioners should steward a long-term, comprehensive parks, recreation and open space vision for our city. Transcending Seattle Parks Department-owned and managed properties, this long-range plan will need to be implemented through strong, strategic partnerships throughout the community, including other public agencies, non-profits, the private sector and volunteers.

The Board of Park Commissioners is an advisory body that provides a citywide, long-term perspective, grounded in the Board's guiding principles below:

Actively Participate in Core Functions

- Guide, oversee and steward a long-term parks, recreation and open space vision for the City.
- Actively seek out and engage the public regarding the management of the parks, recreation and open space system.
- Understand how the parks, recreation and open space system links to other critical city initiatives and goals.
- Work collaboratively with appropriate City agencies and entities to create and maintain a world-class parks, recreation and open space system.
- Seek and share information and ideas from national and international park, recreation and open space leaders to bring emerging best practices and innovations to Seattle's parks, recreation and open space system.
- Educate the public, elected officials and other entities on the multiplicity of benefits that are afforded by Seattle's parks, recreation and open space system, and the opportunities and threats to this system that require widespread support.
- Advocate for the parks, recreation and open space system.
- Protect park and open space assets for long-term, public parks, recreation and open space uses.
- Share the Parks and Recreation Department mission, vision and values.

Develop Creative Funding and Programming Partnerships

- Strengthen existing partnerships with the Associated Recreation Council, the Seattle Parks Foundation, the Green Seattle Partnership and others.
- Advocate for stable system-wide City funding, augmented by creative funding partnerships.
- Seek partnerships with other agencies, non-profits and citizens groups that create, manage and maintain green infrastructure spaces throughout the city, or that provide access to our existing parks and recreation assets.
- Help foster creative and constructive working relationships with parks volunteers.

Conduct Business in Professional Manner

- Conduct Park Board business in an open and transparent manner.
- Undergo training and orientation of the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative framework and apply its principles and tools in every policy, procedure and budget consideration to the park, recreation and open space system.
- Respect differing viewpoints and conduct discussion in a respectful manner.
- Offer well-reasoned and fully considered recommendations to the Mayor and Council that are rooted in the long-term vision for Seattle's parks, recreation and open space system.