

2008 Parks Levy



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 (DPR) 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 reflects SDOT's trail projects funded by the Levy.

DPR's appropriations for the 2008 Parks Levy are more specifically described in the 2013-2018 Adopted CIP document.

The annual cost to property owners for this Levy is approximately \$0.20 per \$1,000 assessed value. DPR 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,

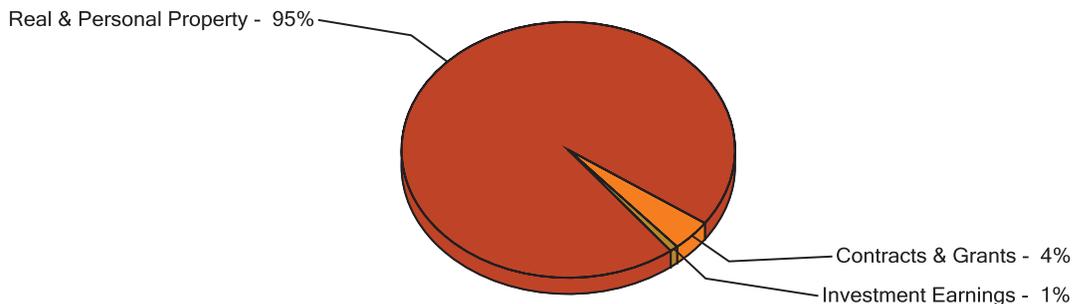
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trails, boulevards, playfields, and cultural facilities; and perform environmental restoration at various DPR properties. The 2008 Parks Levy also includes a development opportunity fund for citizen-initiated projects called the Opportunity Fund.

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

- **Park and Green Space Acquisition:** The Levy provides \$36 million for neighborhood park and green space acquisitions. To date, DPR has appropriated over \$17 million 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, \$63 million has been appropriated for development projects. Funds from this category have been reallocated to the Opportunity Fund for various projects. Approximately \$3.4 million of savings has been 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 Levy provides \$8 million for environmental projects, including forest and stream restoration, community garden and P-Patch development, and expanded shoreline access. To date, DPR has appropriated \$6.3 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. DPR has appropriated \$7.5 million for these projects, in addition to the appropriations from the Park Development category for the playfield and major maintenance projects.

2013 Adopted Budget - Revenue by Category



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Budget Overview

The 2008 Parks Levy requires the Parks Levy Oversight Committee to make recommendations as to how Levy dollars are allocated. Their input helped shape development of the 2013-2018 CIP, which includes the individual Levy projects being funded in 2013 and 2014. The Oversight Committee will make the second and final round of recommendations for the Opportunity Fund in 2013.

Approximately \$3.8 million is appropriated from the Levy in 2013, including initial funding for five development projects scheduled to start in 2013. Of this amount, \$800,000 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 Community Garden- P Patch Development project (\$427,000) and the Urban Forestry, Green Seattle Partnership project (\$983,000 from 2013-2015).

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 that Department. In order to do this, the Levy budget includes a single Budget Control Level (BCL) for this purpose. The three trail projects were fully funded in 2010; one is expected to be completed in 2012, the others in 2014.

The following tables describe anticipated revenues and appropriations to the 2008 Parks Levy Fund for 2013 and 2014. As is typical with many capital programs, appropriations for the individual projects are made up-front 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.

City Council Changes to Proposed Budget

There were no changes made to the 2013-2014 Proposed Budget.

City Council Provisos

There are no Council provisos.

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2008 Parks Levy Fund Table

	2011 Actuals	2012 Adopted	2012 Revised	2013 Adopted	2014 Endorsed
Beginning Fund Balance	22,038,655	23,450,000	28,528,701	28,119,052	24,579,052
Plus: Actual and Estimated Revenues	24,350,181	24,374,000	26,536,351	25,200,000	25,200,000
Less: Actual and Budgeted Expenditures/Parks	17,216,794	28,728,000	15,592,000	24,640,000	10,188,000
Less Actual and Budgeted Expenditures/SDOT	643,341	5,509,000	1,592,000	4,100,000	739,000
Ending Fund Balance	28,528,701	13,587,000	28,119,052	24,579,052	38,852,052
Reserved Fund Parks Continuing Appropriation	35,947,411	35,947,411	32,592,411	11,813,441	8,221,441
Reserved Fund SDOT Continuing Appropriation	6,451,591	6,451,591	4,859,591	759,591	20,591
Reserved Fund Parks Planned Expenditures Pending Anticipated Appropriations	0	0	0	6,000,000	5,000,000
Total Reserves	42,399,002	42,399,002	37,453,032	18,573,032	13,242,032
Ending Undesignated (Over Appropriated) Fund Balance	(13,870,301)	(28,812,002)	(9,333,980)	6,006,020	25,610,020