

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 reviewed expenditures, advised on allocations, made recommendations on Opportunity Fund expenditures, and performed other duties. The 2008 Levy expired at the end of 2014. In 2017-18 and beyond, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 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 DPR facilities.

DPR 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 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, \$35 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 2020.

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, \$81 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. The \$8 million has been appropriated 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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Budget Snapshot

Department Support	2016 Actuals	2017 Adopted	2018 Endorsed	2018 Proposed
Other Funding - Operating	\$11,628,999	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Operations	\$11,628,999	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Appropriations	\$11,628,999	\$0	\$0	\$0
Full-time Equivalent Total*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

* FTE totals are provided for information purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here.

Budget Overview

The 2008 Parks Levy has expired. Current revenues are derived from delinquent property tax bills. There are no current appropriations for the 2008 Parks Levy, but DPR continues to spend down existing appropriations. The City will appropriate any remaining funds through additional legislation as projects are identified.

Revenue Overview

2018 Estimated Revenues

Summit Code	Source	2016 Actuals	2017 Adopted	2018 Endorsed	2018 Proposed
433000	Grants and Other Revenue	476,069	0	0	2,929,661
	Total Grants and Other Revenue	476,069	0	0	2,929,661
411100	Taxes, Levies, & Bonds	224,283	40,000	21,000	100,000
	Total Taxes, Levies, & Bonds	224,283	40,000	21,000	100,000
	Total Revenues	700,352	40,000	21,000	3,029,661
	Total Resources	700,352	40,000	21,000	3,029,661