



September 6, 2022

Honorable Andrew Lewis, President
Seattle Park District Board
600 4th Avenue, 2rd Floor
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear President Lewis,

I am excited to transmit to you and the other members of the Seattle Park District Board my proposal for the renewal of the Seattle Park District. This proposal reflects my deep commitment to a world class park system rooted in equity, access, and safe spaces for all Seattle residents.

Following months of community and stakeholder engagement, this plan will invest approximately \$115 million per year toward ensuring Seattle's nearly 500 parks, playfields, and community centers remain welcoming places for recreation, learning, and healthy communities. The proposal prioritizes core maintenance needs while making critical investments toward safety, climate action, youth opportunities, and equity. Key investments include the following:

Clean, Safe, and Open Parks

- Expands community center hours to evenings and weekends for an 8% increase of total operating hours
- Makes all 129 public restrooms open and accessible year-round by 2028 (60 additional that are currently open only seasonally)
- Adds a new staff team of 5 employees to respond quickly to graffiti and vandalism
- Includes a 20% increase in play area renovations (6 additional)
- Builds Seattle's first dedicated Pickleball facility (6-8 courts at the new site)

Safety for All Communities

- Reestablishes a robust Park Ranger program, adding 26 Park Rangers (for a total of 28) to enhance safety and promote voluntary compliance of park rules
- Increases enforcement of leash and scoop laws to 7-day coverage

Advancing Climate Action

- Includes funding to plant and establish an additional 600 trees to increase urban tree canopy and mitigate heat islands and restoring funds to the Green Seattle Partnership
- Decarbonizes an additional 6 community centers and other SPR facilities, contributing to the One Seattle "resilience hub" strategy to combat growing impacts of climate change

Driving Equity through Improvement

- Doubles the number of Community Engagement Ambassador hours to 6,000 hours
- Doubles the size of the Equity Grant Fund (from \$1M to \$2M) to support community-driven park improvement projects in under-resourced neighborhoods
- Increases the capacity of the Seattle Conservation Corps (a job training program for adults experiencing homelessness) to employ 10 additional individuals (total of 60 annually)

Youth Opportunities

- Funds 20,000 hours of youth employment per year, serving 80 youth annually
- Creates new Youth Opportunity Fund
- Increases teen development programming by 20%

Capital Investments

- Land Banked Park Development Projects: Smith Cove Phase 1, West Seattle Junction, 48th and Charleston, Morgan Junction, Wedgwood, and A.B. Ernst Park
- Amy Yee Tennis Center Renovation
- Loyal Heights Community Center Renovation
- Lake City Community Center Renovation
- Green Lake Community Center Renovation
- 8th and Mercer Community Center Tenant Improvements

This proposal is informed by input from parks stakeholders, staff, the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, and community members. I believe that it reflects the priorities and values of our community.

Thank you for considering this proposal and I look forward to continued work with you in renewing our commitment to Seattle's amazing park system.

Sincerely,



Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor of Seattle

Attachments:

- Appendix 1: Mayor's Proposed Six Year Financial Plan
- Appendix 2: Summary of Investments: Mayor's Proposed 6-Year Financial Plan
- Appendix 3: One-Time Capital Projects: Planning Assumptions
- Appendix 4: Other Budget Context