



Minutes|Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

100 Dexter Ave N/Kenneth R. Bounds Boardroom

Remote accessibility via Zoom

Thursday, October 9, 2025

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Flinn, Zhang, Diamond, Chisholm Clare, Lerer, Werner, Meng, Nakamura (co-chair), Baum (co-chair), Bakker

Absent: Mays, Stonecipher, Haile-Leul

SPR Staff and Presenters: Diaz, Catague, Judd, McCann (Seattle Aquarium), Hoff, Burtzos

Welcome, Introductions & Land Acknowledgement

Baum calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and provides logistical instructions for in-person and remote attendees.

Commissioners and SPR staff introduce themselves.

Baum reads the land acknowledgement.

Baum introduces the consent agenda: meeting minutes from the 9/11/25 BPRC meeting and tonight's meeting agenda. Flinn moves to approve both items; Lerer seconds. Baum calls for a vote to approve; the vote is unanimous in favor of approval.

Adopted: 9/11/25 BPRC Meeting Minutes

Adopted: 10/9/25 BPRC Meeting Agenda

Public Comment

The BPRC heard public testimony on the following topics:

- Advocacy for permit reclassification for SPR concessionaire Bywater Sauna

Superintendent's Report

Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, delivers the report.

Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day!

2025 Indigenous Peoples Day Closures for Seattle Parks and Recreation: We wanted to let you know that many Seattle Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed Monday, October 13 in observance of the Indigenous Peoples Day holiday. This will include all recreation programs, community and teen life centers, environmental learning center, indoor swimming pools, Green Lake

Small Craft Center and Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center. Parks, boat ramps, golf courses and ranges and Amy Yee Tennis Center (except for regular programs) will remain open.

Park Activation

Even though summer is officially over, we still have plenty of outdoor park activation to squeeze in before the rain comes and I wanted to share two recent events:

CID Night Market Outreach: On September 27, Community Engagement Ambassadors (CEAs) participated in the CID Night Market at Hing Hay Park to promote SPR programs and recruit for vacant CEA positions. The lively, well-attended event featured cultural performances, food, and vendor booths, drawing a diverse crowd. CEAs engaged with approximately 165 attendees, sharing information about the ambassador role and encouraging interest. A highlight of the evening was the Light Path Banner activity, where participants contributed messages of encouragement for a community art piece. The event was a success, generating significant interest in the CEA program.

Kimchi Life Festival: Experience Education used a 2025 SPR Recreation for All grant to host the Kimchi Life Festival at Cal Anderson Park last month. The event featured community kimchi-making, music, performances, food, and cultural activities, celebrating Indigenous Korean traditions and fostering connection. Highlights included performances by international artist Kim Bong Jun, local Korean artist Bird Over Mountain, and other talented contributors. This event exemplified the grant program's mission to support equitable, community-driven recreation and helped strengthen SPR's relationships with underserved communities.

Recreation

Meadowbrook Pool's 50th Anniversary: Meadowbrook Pool will celebrate its 50th anniversary on October 17 with a day of community-focused festivities. The event will include a community potluck at noon and a free recreational swim in the afternoon, drawing attendees of all ages. Guests will enjoy a nostalgic photo display showcasing the pool's history and shared memories of this beloved community hub. The celebration will highlight Meadowbrook Pool's half-century of service and its ongoing role in fostering connection and recreation.

Golf Course Pilot at Jackson Park: Earlier this week Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) and [Premier Golf](#) in partnership with [Mineral Springs Disc Golf Club](#) (MSDGC) and [NW Disc Golf Association](#) (NWDGA) launched a disc golf pilot program at Jackson Park Golf Course. The course is on Jackson Park's nine-hole Executive Course and will run through April 2026. This green fees from this program will help generate revenue for the Jackson Park Golf Complex.

Fall 2025 Free Teen Swims: No registration needed! Just show up at the pool. Teens will need a completed E-13 form on file (signed by a parent) for health and safety info. All skill levels are welcome. The programs will be at the Rainier Beach, Southwest, Medgar Evers, Evans and Meadowbrook pools. More information, on the locations, times and dates can be found on our website. Additionally, you can call the pool and/or check on their websites to confirm the schedule.

Upcoming Events

Halloween Events: It's that time of year for costumes, treats, and community celebrations. At Seattle Parks and Recreation, we believe everyone should have access to festive fun. That's why we've put together a huge variety of free and low-cost Halloween events at community centers and parks across

the city. There is more information on these events at [Parkways Archives – Parkways](#) or check in with your local community centers for the most up-to-date information.

Green Seattle Day: Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 25, 2025. On this day, volunteers from all corners of Seattle will come together to plant the next generation of trees in our urban forests. This initiative is more than just planting; it's about strengthening our community and ensuring our parks thrive for years to come. More information on this event can be found at: [Green Seattle Day 2025 - Green Seattle Partnership](#)

Fall programs at a park near you! Join a Seattle Parks Naturalist and trained Seattle Urban Nature Guide (SUN Guide) this fall to learn about Seattle Parks and all they have to offer. We offer classes about a variety of topics and for all ages. Learn all about your neighborhood trees, discover owls, beavers and bats that hang out in our parks, or explore the fungi in our forests! You can find dates and locations for these events on our website.

We are planning for several play area renovations and would love to hear from community!

East Queen Anne Play Area Renovation: Seattle Parks and Recreation invites you to join our project team to learn about the project and provide your input on the upcoming play area renovation. Please join us on **Saturday, October 18, from 11 AM - 1 PM** at the park, or take our online survey, located on [parkways.seattle.gov](#), to share your input on the current play area!

Froula Playground Renovation: Please join us on **Saturday, October 25, from 11 AM - 1 PM** at the park. Additionally, we encourage interested parties to take our survey at [Froula Playground Play Area Renovation | Engage Seattle Parks](#) to share your input on the current play area!

Roanoke Park Play Area Restoration: There will be a planning meeting at the park for this project on **Saturday, October 25th from 2:30 – 5:30**. The project will replace the existing play equipment with new equipment that meets current safety and accessibility standards. All improvements will be compliant with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

All three site renovations will include:

- New play equipment (including age 2-5 and age 5-12 equipment)
- New safety surfacing
- New site furnishings
- Repair of existing drainage infrastructure
- Mulch and lawn restoration around the play area
- Pavement repair for accessibility

Kubota Garden Proposed New Visitor Center

Kubota Garden: Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR), in partnership with the [Kubota Garden Foundation](#), invites community members to participate in shaping the future of Kubota Garden by sharing feedback on the design of a proposed new Visitor Center. Join us for an open house on Saturday, October 18, from 11 AM to 1 PM, just inside the Kubota Garden entry gate. Feedback on the plan can also be online through the survey at [engageseattleparks.com/kubota-garden-visitor-center](#).

Our SPR Crews Hard at Work

Madison Beach Bathhouse - The SPR HVAC Shop, in collaboration with Sustainable Operations, is turning up the efficiency and dialing down the emissions at Madison Beach Bathhouse. Together, they're replacing outdated equipment with a new all-electric HVAC system that delivers reliable heating and cooling for the daycare programs, while supporting Seattle Parks and Recreation's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. This upgrade isn't just about comfort, it's about creating a cleaner, safer space for kids, staff, and the community. Big thanks to the crew for combining technical know-how with environmental stewardship to enhance public facilities in a meaningful way!

Foster Island Float Repair: When a float at Foster Island started to sink, the SPR Carpentry Crew stepped in to make things right. They repaired the rotting support beams and added extra flotation underneath, eliminating a trip hazard and restoring safe access along the scenic Arboretum route. Thanks to their thoughtful work, the space is safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

Diaz pauses for questions from the Board.

Flinn asks for clarity regarding former Deputy Superintendent Christopher Williams' replacement. Diaz clarifies.

Public Hearing: Park Operating Hours

Daisy Catague, Deputy Superintendent of Park and Recreation Services, and Brian Judd, SPR Strategic Advisor, host the discussion.

Judd and Catague present relevant Superintendent authority to modify park hours and presents proposed slate of changes SPR is requesting for approval by BPRC.

[The briefing paper for this proposal is attached at the end.]

SPR has learned some lessons from the pilot hours program. Surveys showed general support for pilot hours and permanent changes. Our SPR communications team received no emails raising concerns about changes. The boat ramps returning to 24-hour operation yielding more complaints.

SPR staff hours and expenses spent mitigating vandalism have gone down at several sites with hours change. We attribute this in part to Park Rangers, SPD, and security contractor presence, locking gates. We've had 5,000 Park Ranger contacts with park visitors at sites with recent hours changes; this has helped reduce impacts of littering, noise pollution, alcohol use, and illegal fires.

Catague and Judd explain various categories of park hours changes that the SPR proposal would address [see briefing paper for details]:

1. Establish Permanent Hours at Select Pilot Locations
2. Establish Pilot Hours at Select Parks
3. Establish Pilot Hours at Select Boat Ramps
4. Formalize Changes from 1996
5. Technical Changes (to align with public information)

Judd walks through next steps following tonight's meeting.

Baum refers to Burtzos for public hearing. Burtzos notes that there are no commenters for tonight's public hearing. The public hearing for this subject closes.

Baum opens the floor for questions from the Board.

Diamond asks what metrics SPR will use to assess efficacy of the policy, and what safeguards SPR will use to make sure further changes will not need to be implemented later. Catague notes that community feedback and staff hour allocation will both be key metrics. Judd adds that a future change to SPR's Park Hours Policy will address procedure for changes. Baum asks when this policy will be presented, and how confidently Judd can say that that presentation will be the end of this discussion. Judd hopes for early 2026 and has good confidence that it will end the discussion of hours changes.

Bakker asks for clarification regarding the proposal package. Judd and Baum clarify.

Chisholm Clare asks for clarification specific to Ravenna and Cowen Parks, which currently have different park hours posted. Judd clarifies.

Diamond asks for clarification specific to Froula Park. Judd clarifies.

Baum asks if SPR has received any pushback from the fishing community regarding late night or early morning boat ramp use. Per Catague, there has been no pushback, and SPR is willing to make exceptions for high-use days (i.e., for the beginning of salmon season). Likewise, SPR has coordinated with tribal partners to ensure access.

Baum asks for clarification regarding Don Armeni and Eddie Vine boat ramps being treated slightly differently than other boat ramps. Catague notes that these ramps are co-located with a park and reflect the hours of the surrounding park.

Baum encourages SPR staff to consolidate future recommendations into a single presentation, rather than piecemealing future requests. Judd agrees.

Baum wraps up discussion of the proposed park hours changes and defers to Board members as to whether they feel prepared to vote on the proposal. Lerer notes that while there were questions, he did not observe much disagreement. Lerer moves to approve the proposed park hours changes as proposed. Flinn seconds the motion. Baum calls the vote; by a count of 9 in favor and 1 abstaining, with none opposed, the motion passes.

Adopted: The Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners recommends the adoption of changes to Seattle Park hours by the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation as proposed.

Partnership Spotlight: Seattle Aquarium

Diaz introduces Meg McCann, COO of the Seattle Aquarium, to deliver the presentation.

Good evening and thank you for that intro! I really value the work this board does, and I'm honored to have been invited to join you. My name is Meg McCann, and I am the Chief Operating Officer for the Seattle Aquarium. Like this group, the Aquarium holds a deep commitment to public spaces that are accessible to all, and to inspiring people to connect with the natural world around us.

As many of you know, our campus is owned by the City of Seattle. The nonprofit Seattle Aquarium Society has operated our campus since 2011, but before that, we were operated by the Seattle Parks and Recreation. I am grateful for the long and productive partnership we have shared. Before I get into our work, I want to share our mission: "Inspiring conservation of our marine environment." It guides all we do.

A little refresher for those who are not as familiar with us: We are the largest ocean conservation organization in the Northwest. The Aquarium opened in 1977. That was a big year for us. And, I would say that this past year was perhaps our second-biggest year in terms of reach and impact.

For decades, our campus consisted of Piers 59 and 60, sitting over Puget Sound. And as of August 2024, when our Ocean Pavilion expansion opened, we are now a campus of three buildings. With our bigger campus, we are welcoming over 1 million visitors a year—a mix of locals and tourists—well above any prior rate of visitation.

We are also part of the City's new Overlook Walk, which flows from Pike Place Market directly onto our public roof, and just below us is the newly opened Waterfront Park. These generational additions are bringing many new people to our campus to learn about the ocean and the incredible animals that inhabit it. And they are showing everyone who visits that a healthy ocean is a strong priority for our city and region.

We are making full use of our bigger campus to tell visitors a story about how all of Earth's waters are connected—That whatever you might have learned in grade school about the number of seas, we really have just one world ocean. And we tell that story by showing the connections between our local waters and the tropical waters of the Coral Triangle, across the ocean. We use both digital technology and connections to living animals to tell that story.

Connection is core to our work. We are fortunate to have a team of amazing visitor engagement staff who teach kids of all ages about ocean ecosystems. Our educational space can be adapted to pretty much any marine-themed topic—and we are always finding new ways to activate it.

But, of course, the most exciting aspect of our expansion has been the marvelous animals that call the Ocean Pavilion home. Rhina, our bowmouth guitarfish, is a critically endangered species. Her mother was caught as bycatch and diverted by one of our overseas conservation partners, and when Rhina was born, this pup needed a safe home. We were happy to provide that, and Rhina has been showing the wonder of the Indo-Pacific to thousands of visitors every day.

Here are a few more of the elasmobranchs living in the Ocean Pavilion [pictured]. Elasmobranchs is the category of fish that includes sharks and rays. Here you see—starting at the top left and moving clockwise—an Indo-Pacific leopard shark, a leopard whiptail ray, a blacktip reef shark and a spotted eagle ray. Each one of these individuals represents wild species that deserve our attention and care even if they live in another part of Earth's one ocean. Even if we might never see them in the wild.

It's not just about the animals: We also celebrate the human connection to the ocean, as expressed across our region's diverse cultures and communities. We partner with other nonprofit organizations throughout the region through our Connections program to increase access to the Aquarium and create programming together. We also host Community Days that center various cultures and can include translated talks, art and storytelling—all focused on the ocean. Right now, we are in the middle of a multiweek celebration of Latine culture.

We welcome thousands of schoolchildren and their teachers from across Washington state every year. We provide scholarships for both admissions and bussing to qualifying schools. We also offer a program called Toddler Time, to help our youngest visitors begin to develop a love for marine life. And as kids age, we provide opportunities for them to build skills and strengthen their love of the ocean. Our Youth Ocean Advocates program is for high-schoolers passionate about marine life.

Through the program, they get to meet others with similar interests and spread the word to guests about how we can all help restore a healthy ocean.

Speaking of spreading the word, we are especially excited about the opportunities our new building creates to engage the public—without even buying a ticket. Our oculus viewing window, which can be seen from the public plaza outside our front doors, is 17 feet across and provides a no-cost view of our biggest habitat. Stand under it and look up, and you might see sharks, rays and even a diver!

The building's public art installation is another way to engage our community in a love of the ocean and to honor our place on Coast Salish lands. If you're standing outside our front doors, look down. You will see stunning bronze pieces that tell the Lummi story of Grandmother Rock. The story is one of protection and safety, as a group of little crabs takes shelter under Grandmother Rock during a powerful storm. This installation was created by Lummi artist Daniel Friday.

And if you look up at the oculus, around its perimeter you will see another part of Dan's installation. It is called Spindle Whorl Portal because the shape of the oculus reminded Dan of the "eye" of a spindle whorl, the long pole with a disk near one end that weavers use when transforming raw materials into yarn. Those who enter the building can see stunning, multicolored glass salmon Dan created as the third part of his installation.

The public roof of the Ocean Pavilion is another opportunity for honoring place. It includes a succession of plantings designed by Valerie Segrest of the Muckleshoot Tribe and sandblasted images on the ground that together tell a story about the connection between people and the shoreline. The roof is a place to rest and take in views of the Salish Sea and mountains.

This summer, we launched a new public program called SEA you at the waterfront. Our marine interpreters worked on our public roof and on Pier 62 to welcome passersby and teach them about ocean life. We witnessed many joyful connections between our interpreters and visitors.

Over the summer, our Beach Naturalist volunteers were out on local shorelines across the region, including Pocket Beach, to the north of our campus, which is the location seen here. This was another way to engage with the increased number of visitors to our waterfront. And meanwhile, we are continuing important work to benefit marine ecosystems in the wild. We monitor local populations of sea otters and rockfish. We also use a remotely operated vehicle, or ROV, to monitor the health of local kelp forests. And we are involved in innovative partnerships to restore wild populations of pinto abalone, a local marine snail, and Indo-Pacific leopard sharks in the Coral Triangle. We recently became one of the first aquariums to be a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature for our role in conservation work. The IUCN spearheads many conservation projects worldwide and will broaden the reach of our efforts.

Our offsite Animal Care Center was a critical part of our expansion and supports much of the work I shared today. This facility gave us space to welcome and care for new animals before the Ocean Pavilion habitats were ready. Now it supports a range of conservation projects and our ongoing animal care work.

The next few years will be incredibly busy for us. We're anticipating significantly more traffic along the waterfront in summer 2026 when the FIFA World Cup comes to Seattle. We are planning now around that opportunity, how it will impact our operations and where there is opportunity to share our message of ocean health with new audiences.

And then in May 2027, the Seattle Aquarium will turn 50! What will our future look like? The Ocean Pavilion was the first part of a larger expansion plan that will ultimately include a west-end renovation of Pier 59 and a renovation and expansion of Pier 60. When we turn our focus to the Piers, it will be a tremendous opportunity to think about how we want to share the story of the Salish Sea in new and innovative ways. Now that we have the capacity to serve a larger group of visitors than ever before, the possibilities are incredibly exciting.

Thank you for welcoming me. I'm happy to answer questions.

Meng offers his services as an animal name provider.

Flinn notes that a previous BPRC retreat took advantage of the Aquarium and received a tour of the Ocean Pavilion. McCann adds that the animals are grown, and the exhibits are much fuller now and invites the Board to visit again.

Meng confirms that Pier 59 and 60 are both part of the Aquarium's future plans. McCann and Diaz confirm.

2026 SPR Budget Preview

Michele Finnegan, Sr. Deputy Superintendent of Policy & Finance, delivers the presentation.

SPR really wants to look at the budget centered in our mission, and how to retain as much service delivery and staff capacity to perform those duties as possible. I think we achieved that in this proposed budget. We primarily recommended options for General Fund savings through one-time efficiencies that we identified, and the Mayor supported our approach. We think this is a good news story of a budget.

Our budget is divided into two broad funding sources – General Fund, and Other Funds, which is primarily Park District and the Parks and Recreation Fund. Our proposed budget increases about \$15M over 2025's adopted budget, primarily related to increased staff costs and inflation. There are also some additional investments, which I'll walk through in a bit. We're pushing out bond financing for our major community center projects to align with our schedule, so we don't need to issue bonds until we're ready to construct, and we don't need those bonds until early 2027. This budget continues \$128M of General Fund savings, a little over \$1M above the General Fund floor established in the Inter-Local Agreement (ILA).

Adjustment 1 utilizes one-time Park District funding flexibility to sustain services:

- Aligns debt payments with project schedules (\$4M)
 - Shifts planned debt service for Cycle 2 community centers from 2026 to 2027 to align with updated project schedules
 - Retains \$2.7M to continue planning and design of the Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool project
- Uses one-time fund balance (\$3.5M)
 - Captures underspend from prior year savings

Flinn, Meng, and Baum ask for clarification regarding specific mechanism of bond realignment. Finnegan clarifies.

Baum asks if the existing underspend is the result of the ongoing hiring freeze. Finnegan confirms that this is the primary source.

Diamond asks if the proposed budget addresses existing safety concerns and maintenance backlog. Finnegan defers for later slide. Diamond also asks about any impact on program scheduling. Finnegan notes that unless an alteration from the 2026 Endorsed Budget is specified, there is no change.

Adjustment 2 restores environmental programming reduction from 2026 endorsed budget and shifts to FEPP Levy:

- Environmental Programming \$1.1M/7.35 FTE (9 positions); fully restores and shifts funding from General Fund to FEPP Levy
 - 2026 Endorsed Budget assumed 50% reduction to program
 - 2026 Proposed restores the “endorsed” reduction and shifts these expenses to the FEPP Levy
 - On the capital side, project design to address damage to Discovery Park ELC and Camp Long Lodge is fully funded

Baum asks for confirmation that environmental learning programs will be fully funded to previous levels through this levy. Finnegan confirms.

Adjustment 3 shifts additional K-12 youth support programs to FEPP Levy:

- Red Barn Ranch (\$600K/PET)
 - Shifts funding from PET to continue programming
 - Supports programming and partnerships to invest in youth mental health by providing opportunities for youth to access rural nature experiences at Red Barn Ranch, a SPR-owned property in rural King County
- Out of School Time Programs (\$721K/General Fund)
 - Shifts funding from GF to continue programming
 - Supports programs coordinated by SPR, based out of Seattle Public School sites and offered during after school, lunchtime, school breaks (Mid-Winter, Spring) and Summer

Adjustment 4 restores maintenance reduction from 2025 Adopted Budget:

- Park Maintenance \$515K/3.68 FTE (5 positions)
 - Adds back and enhances maintenance services focused on restroom cleaning
 - 2025 Adopted Budget reduced peak season park maintenance
 - 2026 Proposed Budget reinstates 4 part-time positions with emphasis on restroom maintenance and cleaning
 - Also adds new position focused on continued implementation of SPR’s response to City Auditor’s 2025 Restroom Audit
 - This was funded substantially through the expiration of some Magnuson Park related debt service

The Mayor’s One Seattle Graffiti Abatement Plan was launched in 2022 and is aimed at beautifying Seattle and addressing a surge in graffiti. The plan, now led by SPR in partnership with the Mayor’s Office, addresses graffiti with creativity, action, and community collaboration. The proposed budget adds \$1.6M and 6.0 FTE across SPR, the Office of Arts and Culture, and the Seattle Department of Transportation, bringing the total 2026 investment to \$6.1M.

Adjustment 5 (related) adds ongoing investments and staff in support of the city's One Seattle Graffiti Plan:

- Graffiti (\$1.3M/2.0 FTE)
 - Fully transitions graffiti program to SPR with further enhancements
 - Moves graffiti nuisance code enforcement team from SPU to SPR
 - Transfers graffiti abatement resources on SDOT's parking pay stations
 - Add ongoing funding for enhanced abatement and prevention strategies

Adjustment 6 adds ongoing investments and staff in support of the city's Downtown Activation Team efforts:

- Downtown Activation Team (\$500K/3.0 FTE)
 - Adds new Park Ranger Team to support the citywide effort to keep parks safe and welcoming
 - Sustains SPR's currently unfunded support of citywide team
 - Park Rangers promote the positive use of city parks, educate and assist park visitors, and seek voluntary compliance with laws and rules
 - Adding three Park Rangers to support this initiative will help ensure increased safety across all Seattle's parks

Adjustment 7 includes one-time capital investments to address emergent priorities:

- Park Restrooms (\$2.0M/REET)
 - Supports Restroom Program with additional funds for vandalism response and weatherization to increase public access to restrooms
- Gas Works Park (\$1.8M/Park Fund)
 - Add new funding for safety improvements
- Leschi Moorage (\$1.0M/King County Levy)
 - Adds funding to address funding gap from permitting delays and additional environmental requirements

Flinn asks about the designation of "seasonal" maintenance paired with ongoing restroom weatherization efforts; has SPR considered the increased cost of maintaining additional restrooms year-round? Finnegan confirms.

Baum asks for clarification regarding restroom access. Finnegan notes that this proposal is designed to mitigate the increase in the city's insurance deductible related to vandalism and keeps the overall program on track.

Finnegan notes that the proposed budget does not address an ongoing maintenance issue if not specified.

Lerer asks for clarification regarding additional FTE for graffiti staff. Finnegan clarifies.

Baum notes that despite an environment in which the City is facing a budget shortfall, SPR is not making significant cuts, and expresses his appreciation for the department's budgeting.

Meng thanks Finnegan for the presentation.

There being no further business, Baum adjourns the meeting at 7:58 PM.



Date: October 9, 2025
To: Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners
From: Brian M. Judd, Strategic Advisor
Daisy Catague, Deputy Superintendent of Park and Recreation Services
Subject: 2025 Park Hours Changes Proposal

Action Requested: The Superintendent seeks a recommendation from the Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners (BPRC) regarding a staff proposal to change operating hours for select parks and boat ramps.

Summary: This memo outlines proposed changes to operating hours for some of Seattle Parks and Recreation's (SPR) popular parks and boat ramps. These adjusted hours will address illegal and nuisance behavior at certain locations, incorporate lessons learned from recent pilot operating hours at selected sites, and / or ensure operating hours align with public information.

Background: SMC 3.02 (Administrative Code) establishes rule-making procedures for City agencies including allowances for Emergency Rulemaking (3.02.050) for 60 days or less and notice requirements prior to the adoption, amendment or repeal of any rule.

Summarized in the table below is the municipal code outlining the Superintendent's authority to set park hours and SPR policies that stem from this authority. This briefing focused on the highlighted categories only.

Park Hours	Details	Guiding Code or Policy
4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	All Parks - Unless Otherwise Posted. SMC also provides Superintendent authority to also set specified hours for individual parks or facilities, including 24 hours a day.	SMC 18.12.245
Open 24 hours/day	Kerry Viewpoint, Green Lake Park, Myrtle Edwards Park, a portion of Lake Washington Blvd Path and certain boat ramps are currently open 24 hours a day.	SPR Policy: Park Operating Hours Exception. 4.2
6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	<i>Exceptions to the two options above will be limited to this time frame, unless there are clearly identified extenuating circumstances justifying different hours.</i>	SPR Policy: Park Operating Hours Exception. 4.7
Pilot Hours	Superintendent may establish pilot hours for a park for up to 270 days to address public safety or other issues. SPR is required to file pilot period notice with the city clerk. Public hearing is also required.	SPR Policy: Park Operating Hours Exception Policy. 7.2.3
Permanent Seasonal	Alki, Don Armeni, Golden Gardens, and Eddie Vine. Closed one early from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day.	SPR Policy: Park Operating Hours Exception Policy. 7.2.3

Recommendation: The staff recommendation includes permanent changes to certain park hours and a few 270-day pilots. SPR recommends these changes to:

- Continue responding to community concerns about illegal/nuisance activity at popular summer locations.
- Digest lessons learned from recent, successful operating hours pilots
- Align formal operating hours in City Clerk filings by formalizing previous Superintendent decisions about select sites.
- Align formal clerk filings with current operating hours information on public signs / web sites at select sites.

Recommendation #1: Establish Permanent Hours at Select Pilot Locations

- Earlier this year, following BPRC consideration and a public hearing, the Superintendent established the pilot operating hours in the table below. Staff recommend making these pilot hours permanent based on positive outcomes and community feedback.

Location	Recommended Hours (Current Pilot)	Hours by Policy	Current Pilot Timeframe
Atlantic City Boat Ramp	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	24 hours	May 23, 2025 – February 17, 2026
Fourteenth Avenue Boat Ramp	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	
Stanley Sayers Boat Ramp and Park	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	24 hours	
Sunnyside Boat Ramp	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	24 hours	

Recommendation #2: Establish Pilot Hours at Select Parks

- To address ongoing illegal and nuisance behaviors at these parks, staff recommend establishing similar pilot operating hours to what is currently being piloted at Hoa Mai. During the pilot timeframe, SPR staff will continue developing longer-term solutions for a future BPRC recommendation establishing new, permanent hours at these locations.

Location	Pilot Hours	Hours by Policy	Pilot Timeframe
Hoa Mai Park (continuing)	7 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	May 11, 2025 – February 5, 2026
Lake City Mini Park	7 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	October 2025 – February 5, 2026

Recommendation #3: Establish Pilot Hours at Select Boat Ramps

- SPR staff recommend the following boat ramp operating hours changes to run until the summer seasonal hours begin. These locations are currently set at these operating hours under a 60-day emergency rule enacted in response to community concerns.

Location	Pilot Hours	Hours by Policy	Pilot Timeframe
Don Armeni Boat Ramp	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	Permanent Seasonal ¹	October 2025 – May 22, 2026
Eddie Vine Boat Ramp	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	Permanent Seasonal	

Recommendation #4: Formalize Changes from 1996

In reviewing operating hours consistency in the park system, staff have discovered previous documents showing changes made by the Superintendent in 1996. The June 25, 2009, BPRC meeting meetings document a presentation about operating hours proposals from 1989 - 2009 that included these changes, but a formal City Clerk file cannot be located.

This recommendation aligns with operating hours displayed on signs and web sites for these locations and will involve submitting a City Clerk file to formalize what is already public-facing for these locations.

Location	Hours by Policy	Proposed Change	Notes
Emma Schmitz Mem. Overlook	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	Formalizes 1996 decision
Madrona Playground	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	Aligns with public information
Me-Kwa-Mooks Park	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	
Othello Park	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	

Recommendation #5: Technical Changes

To survey internal consistency, staff have reviewed operating hours information (policy, signs, and web sites) for ~125 park locations. In this initial review, operating hours information discrepancies were found for the locations in the table below.

Since the signs and web sites for each location show 6 a.m. – 10 p.m., we believe a previous Superintendent decision was made to establish these hours, but there is no

¹ **Permanent Seasonal Hours:** In this operating hour category, these two boat ramps are open 4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day and then 24 hours for the remainder of the year. **The recommended boat ramps pilot would be for the period outside of summer months.**

documentation on file with the City Clerk nor are these included in the aforementioned BPRC meeting minutes.

This recommendation will involve submitting a City Clerk file to formalize what is already public-facing for these locations.

These recommended technical changes serve as a preview for an additional, future slate of technical changes coming to BPRC. Staff are currently collecting photos of the rest of our park rainbow signs to see where there are operating hours discrepancies between policy and signage.

Location	Hours by Policy	Proposed Change	Notes
Albert Davis Park	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	Aligns with public information
Dr. Blanche Lavizzo Park	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	
Chinook Beach Park	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	
Denny-Blaine Park	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	
Haller Lake Street End	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	
John C. Little, Sr. Park	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	
Junction Plaza Park	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	
Leschi Park	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	
University Playground	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	
Van Asselt Playground	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners Action:

- 10/9: BPRC Presentation and Public Hearing (and possible vote)
- 11/13: BPRC Recommendation Vote (if no vote(s) on 10/9)
- November: Superintendent decision and SPR updates to signage and websites

Attachment:

- SPR Park Operating Hours Exception Policy. Adopted 1995, amended 2009