

# Board of Parks & Recreation Commissioners Superintendent's Report

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AP Diaz, Superintendent

January 23, 2025



**Seattle**  
Parks & Recreation

Healthy People, Thriving Environment, Vibrant Community

**#SeattleShines**



# Department Update

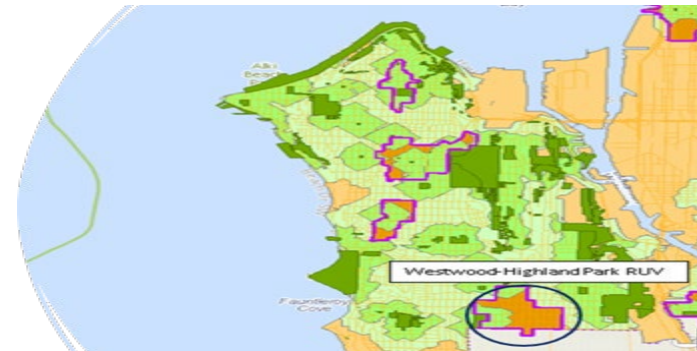
- Budget
- Park District Board
- 17<sup>th</sup> & Walker Acquisition
- Reimbursement of CFT funding for the Westwood-Highland Park Acquisition
- Storm response
- Happy Holidays!



**Denny Park**



**17<sup>th</sup> & Walker Acquisition**



**Westwood- Highland Park  
RUV**

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# Parks & Recreational Services: Parks and Environment / Facilities



# Parks & Recreational Services: Recreation

- Expanded hours at teen centers
- Seattle Teen Late Night & Cam Wilder Gym Takeover



# Parks & Recreational Services: Recreation

## MLK Day March and Celebration

- 175 youth participants
- Festival and Activities
- Youth-Led March



# Parks and Capital Development

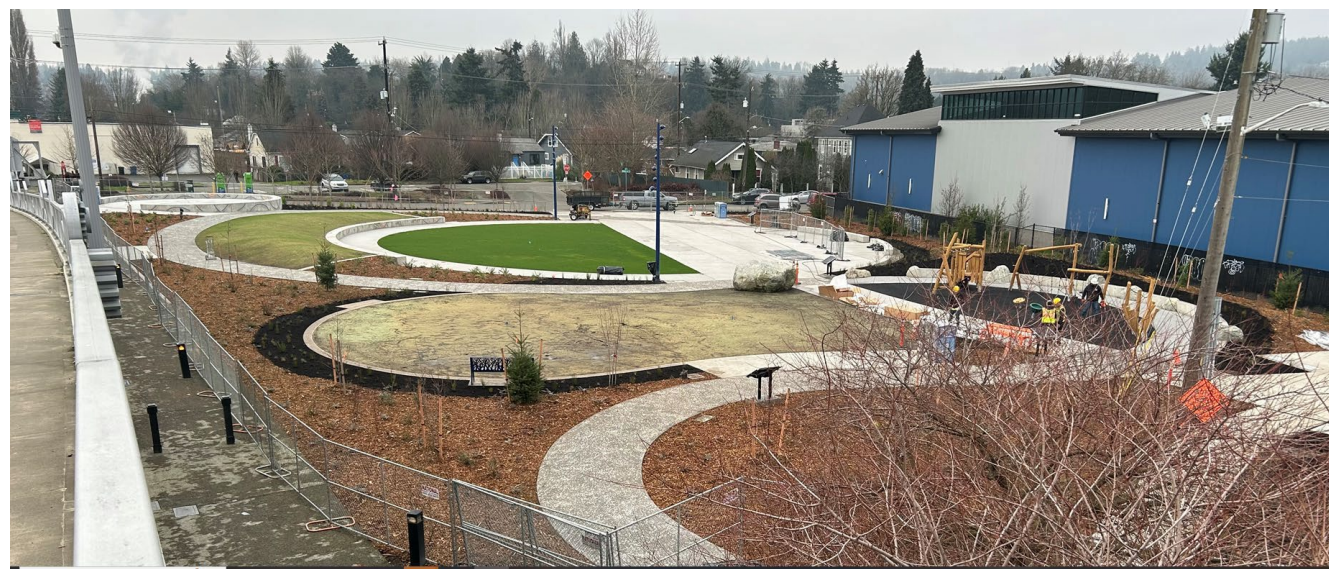
Camp Long Fire Damage



After Stabilization Work



# Park Project Updates



South Park Plaza



Prayer Paddles Installation

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# Upcoming Events

## Pancake Breakfasts

| Site                           | Date                      | Time             |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Bitter Lake Community Center   | February 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 9 a.m. – 12 noon |
| Loyal Heights Community Center | March 2 <sup>nd</sup>     | 9 a.m. – 12 noon |



## Public Meeting: Be'er Sheva Park Play Area Design

| Location                              | Date                     | Time              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands | February 8 <sup>th</sup> | 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. |

# Thank you!



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# Use and Scheduling of Outdoor Athletic Facilities

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Policy Development Briefing, Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

January 23, 2025



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# Briefing Objectives

1

Present changes to Use  
and Scheduling of  
Outdoor Athletic  
Facilities policy

2

Share the how and why  
we revisited and  
revised the policy

3

Receive approval to  
move forward in  
updating revised policy  
with City Clerk's Office

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The logo for Seattle Shines, featuring the text "#SeattleShines" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the text is a stylized graphic consisting of several horizontal bars in yellow, orange, red, green, and blue, arranged in a slightly overlapping, stepped fashion.

# Internal Review Team

- Lisa Nielsen (Athletic & Event Scheduling Mgr)
- Christopher Powell (former Sr. Athletic Scheduler)
- William Bartram (former Sr. Athletic Scheduler)
- Chris Delaune (Sr. Athletic Scheduler)
- Shalandra Shippentower (Sr. Athletic Scheduler)
- Shanyanika McElroy (Strategic Advisor)



# Why Update the Policy?



Better align the policy to our current use and scheduling processes.



Create clarity for our community organizations on how SPR schedules and allocates athletic field time on our SPR and SPS field inventory.



Five Critical Points:

1) Field maximization

2) Historical use

3) Capital improvements

4) Joint Use Agreement

5) Scheduling prioritization

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# Proposed Updates

**1) Disaggregate policy components from procedure and remove outdated, specific and irrelevant information**

**2) Clarify historical field use and scheduling prioritization**

**3) Incorporate capital improvement accommodations**

# Disaggregation of Policy and Procedure

## Retained in Policy Document

- Prioritization of youth
- Scheduling prioritization
- Historical use
- General scheduling guidelines

## Moving to SOP

- Regular and special hours for certain athletic fields
- Permitting seasons and seasonality of sport use on fields
- Expanded detail of JUA
- Expanded detail of historical use
- New field time allocation process

# Use and Scheduling Hierarchy

## Seattle Public Schools

- Priority during times established through the Joint Use Agreement.
- Details are determined through the Joint Use Agreement between SPS and SPR

## Community Historical Use

- After JUA times, priority for outdoor athletic fields shall be granted to permit holders with a documented history of regular or long-standing field use.
- Historical use will be determined based on the frequency and duration of previous bookings.

## Remaining Field Capacity

- Priority will be given to requests based on the order in which they are received.
- SPR youth programs
- Community youth programs
- SPR adult programs
- Community adult programs.

# Stakeholder Engagement & Equity Analysis

- Surveyed top 100 historical user groups and gathered demographic data
- Field allocation analysis and survey findings were brought to two different committees for equity analysis – Change Team, and Equity Committee
- Outcomes:
  - One avenue identified is to equitably allocate new field time that occurs through lighting additions and turf conversions. This field time is not already allocated.
  - New Field Time Allocation process will be part of new scheduling procedures.

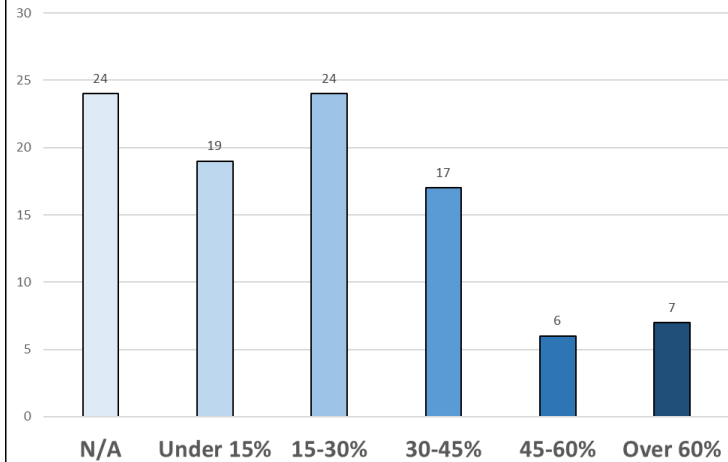


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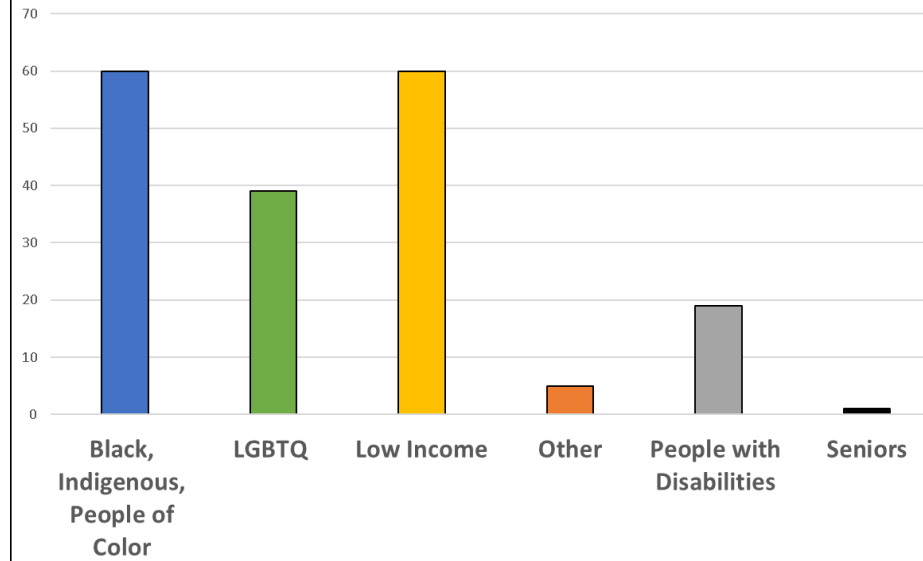


# Athletic Field User Group Demographic Survey

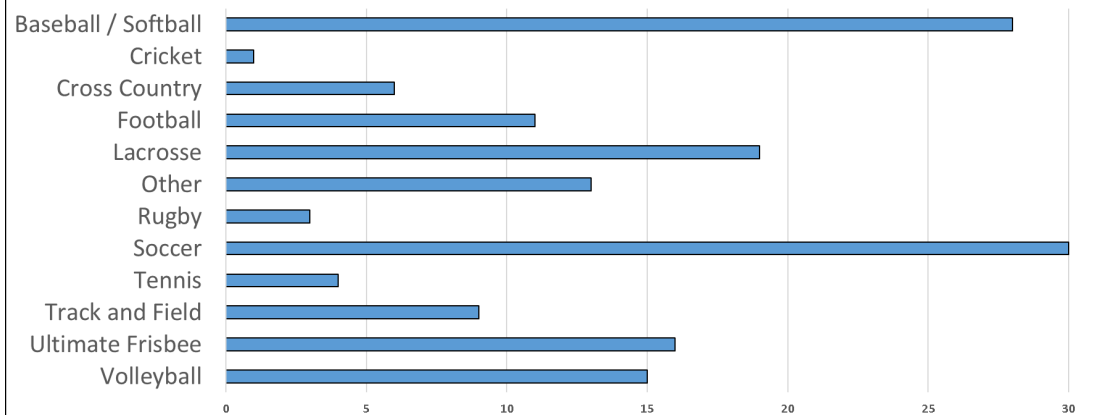
Number of Organizations with Percentage of Underserved Participants



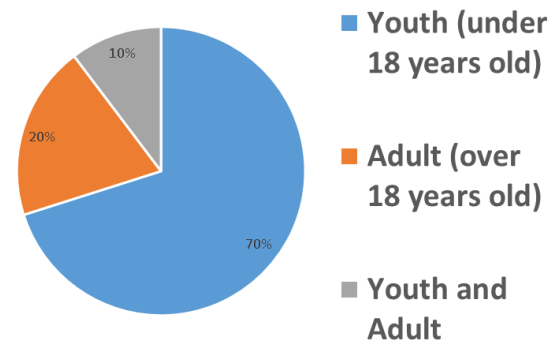
Underserved Populations Represented



Number of Organizations Offering the Sport



Age Groups Served

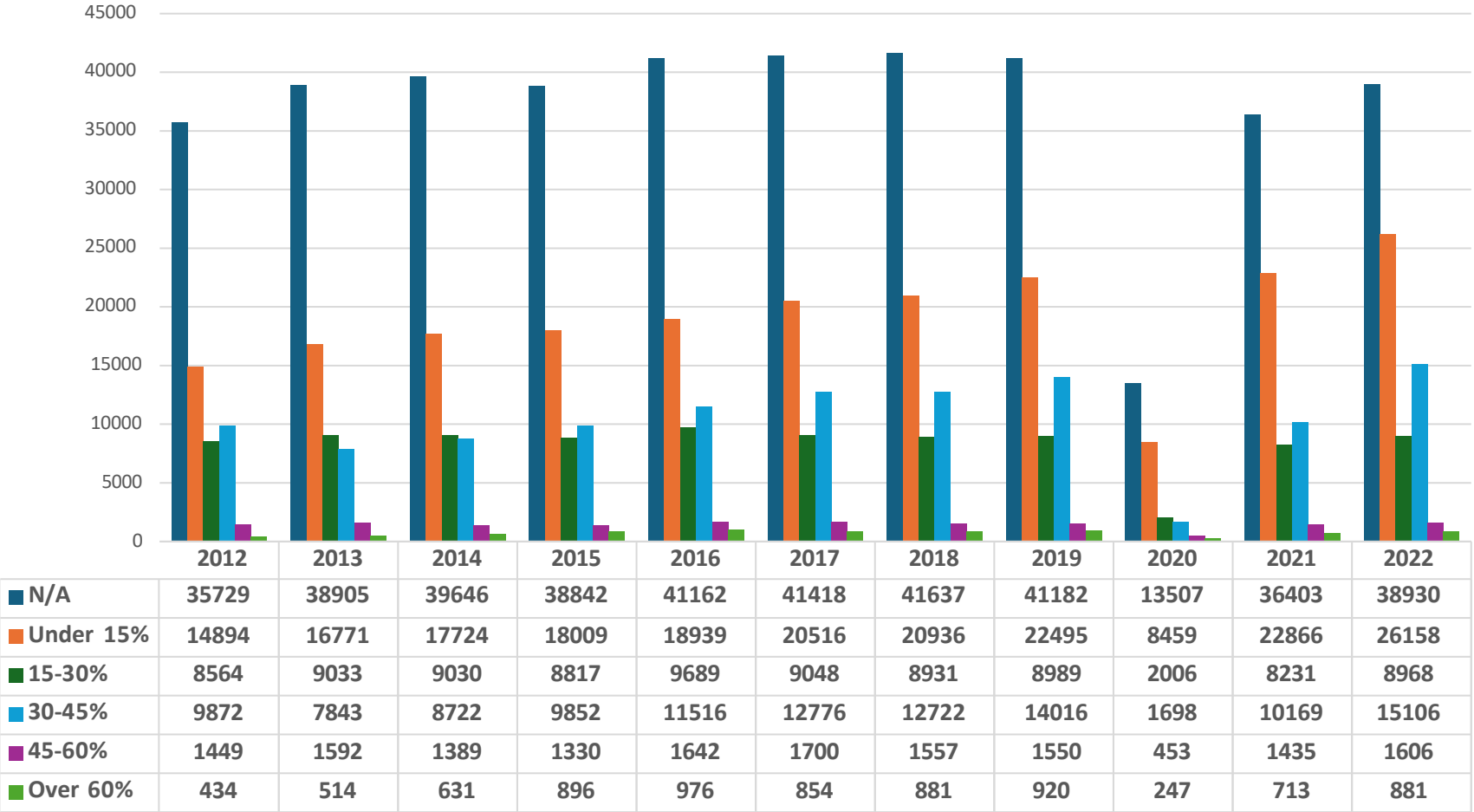


- Spring 2023
- **115 organizations contacted**
- **94 responses – 82%**
- Excluded SPS/JUA
- Included private schools
- Groups average from 4 to 20K hours per year
- 
- **70 of 94 (75%) respondents provided demographic data**
- BIPOC, LGBTQ, Low Income
- Soccer, baseball/softball, lacrosse, ultimate
- Mostly youth-serving organizations

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# User Group Survey + Data Set Stats

Annual Totals - Hours of Reservations  
by % Underserved



- Lots of N/A
- Use by <15% increases 11,000
- Use by 30-45 increases 5,000 hours
- 15-30% & 45-60% relatively flat
- Use by >60% doubles, but only 447 hours

| Category | # Participants | # Groups |
|----------|----------------|----------|
| N/A      | 18443          | 24       |
| <15%     | 7997           | 19       |
| 15-30%   | 15889          | 24       |
| 30-45%   | 77444          | 17       |
| 45-60%   | 2280           | 6        |
| >60%     | 425            | 7        |

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# Strategic Plan Action High Level Findings

- 2002 Use and Scheduling of Outdoor Facilities policy is outdated and irrelevant
- 90% of survey group respondents listed "availability of local fields" as their main obstacle to gaining access to fields
- 24 of 94 (25.5%) survey group respondents neglected to answer demographic questions
- Historical users have majority of field time available, leaving not much left after roll overs annually; historical users often acquire more and more hours each year

- Average % Playfield Utilization

- Spring 2022 (March-May)
- Weekdays between 4-9pm, including holidays
- Seattle Parks, lighted, synthetic playfields

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Monday    | 83% |
| Tuesday   | 90% |
| Wednesday | 90% |
| Thursday  | 91% |
| Friday    | 85% |

- Youth groups are not incentivized to return not-needed rentals, due to low cost, challenges to retain historical use
  - Youth rates: \$16/hour on synthetic, \$10.50 on grass
  - Adult rates: \$81/hour on synthetic, \$60/hour on grass

# Wrap-Up Review

- Key adjustments will bring the Use and Scheduling of Outdoor Athletic Facilities policy into alignment with current practices and scheduling procedures
- Clarity on historical use policy and scheduling procedures
- Current historical user groups:
  - No change to current field allocations
  - New/additional field time after capital improvements
- Anticipated positive impact for new or emerging user groups (ideally minority and underrepresented) gaining new field time in our inventory
- Critical path for implementation of new field time allocation prior to Soundview PF project completion
- Added process for scheduling team



# What are your thoughts?

- Questions?
- Please submit feedback to:  
[Lisa.Nielsen@seattle.gov](mailto:Lisa.Nielsen@seattle.gov)



# 2025 Sub-Committees: Staff Recommendation\*

## **Naming**

- Stafford Mays
- Elise Chisholm  
Clare
- Amaiya Leonor

## **CommUNITY Fund**

- Whitney Nakamura
- Steve Lerer
- Ammanuel Haile-Luel

## **Performance**

- Tricia Diamond
- Ryan Baum
- John Flinn
- Phillip Meng

## **Exec Committee** (Co-Chairs through 3/31)

- Justin Umagat
- Amy Brockhaus

\* Joshua Seyfried not included as term ending 3/31/2025