

SEATTLE PARK DISTRICT
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION 75

A RESOLUTION adopting the 2026 Seattle Park District Budget.

WHEREAS, in accordance with RCW 35.61.040, formation of the Seattle Park District became effective and its boundaries established as of August 19, 2014, upon certification of results of the August 5, 2014, election; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle Park District is a metropolitan park district, authorized under chapter 35.61 RCW, with statutory powers including the power to levy and impose various taxes and fees to generate revenues to maintain, operate, and improve parks, community centers, pools, and other recreation facilities and programs; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2014, King County certified voter approval of the Seattle Park District, a district with the same boundaries as The City of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2014, an interlocal agreement was executed that established the responsibilities of The City of Seattle and the Seattle Park District in performing and funding Park District services as amended and restated on July 6, 2021 and November 20, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the interlocal agreement between the City and the District describes the process by which the City and District will develop and approve annual budgets, and the District Board wishes to approve the budget in a manner consistent with its charter and bylaws and the interlocal agreement; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SEATTLE PARK DISTRICT, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Adoption,

2 A. In accordance with Article VI, Section 6.1 of the Seattle Park District adopted bylaws,
3 the Board of Commissioners shall adopt an annual budget each year by resolution.

4 B. The expenditure allowances for the Budget Summary Levels (BSLs) in Attachment A
5 to this resolution are adopted and constitute the appropriations for the Park District annual
6 budget for 2026.

7 C. The expenditure allowance for each BSL in Attachment A may be used only for the
8 purpose listed in Attachment A for that BSL unless otherwise authorized by the Board of
9 Commissioners of the Park District through resolution.

10 Section 2. The Park District 2026 Budget is consistent with the appropriation authority
11 for Park District funded programs in City departments as approved and passed by the Seattle
12 City Council for the 2026 Adopted Budget. The management and expenditure of the Park
13 District funds shall be consistent with parameters outlined in the 2023 amended and restated
14 interlocal agreement between the Park District and the City of Seattle.

15 Section 3. Attachment B to this resolution shows the revised spending plan for the Park
16 District for 2026 that reflects changes made to 2026 expenditures. This information is for
17 planning purposes only and complies with Section 4.3 of the amended and restated interlocal
18 agreement between the Park District and the City of Seattle.

19 Section 4. Unexpended appropriations. To be consistent with existing City of Seattle
20 budget practices, appropriations provided in the Park District budget for operating and
21 maintenance expenses that remain unexpended or unencumbered at the close of the fiscal year
22 shall automatically lapse unless otherwise authorized by the Park District Board of
23 Commissioners via resolution. Any appropriations provided in the Park District budget for

1 capital outlays remaining unexpended or unencumbered at the close of the fiscal year shall
2 remain in full force and effect unless otherwise abandoned by the Park District Board of
3 Commissioners via resolution.

4

1 Section 5. This resolution takes effect on passage.

2 Adopted by the Seattle Park District the _____ day of _____,

3 2024, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of

4 _____, 2025.

5 _____

6 President, Seattle Park District

7 Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2025.

8 _____

9 Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

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11 Attachments:

12 Attachment A – 2026 Seattle Park District Operating and Capital Budget by BSL

13 Attachment B – Seattle Park District Financial Plan 2023-2028

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**Resolution 75 Attachment A – 2026 Seattle Park District Operating and Capital
Budget by BSL**

Budget Summary Level (BSL)	2026 Adopted Budget		Budget Summary Level Purpose
Parks and Facilities Maintenance and Repairs	Operating	46,824,920	The purpose of the Parks and Facilities Maintenance and Repairs Budget Summary Level is to repair and maintain parks, park buildings, and park infrastructure.
Leadership and Administration	Operating	6,496,568	The purpose of the Leadership and Administration Budget Summary Level is to provide executive, community, financial, human resource, technology, and business support to the department.
Departmentwide Services	Operating	6,865,010	The purpose of the Department-Wide Services Budget Summary Level is to provide management and operations of services that span across multiple lines of business within Seattle Parks and Recreation such as partner relationship management, emergency operations, and security services.
Recreation Facility Programs	Operating	22,356,039	The purpose of the Recreation Facility Programs Budget Summary Level is to provide active and passive recreation services to Seattle residents through the direct management, maintenance, and operation of programs and facilities and by leveraging partnerships.
Zoo and Aquarium Programs	Operating	5,474,587	The purpose of the Zoo and Aquarium Budget Summary Level is to support contracted non-profit partners ability to provide services to the community through operations of the Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Aquarium.
Waterfront*	Operating	7,596,578	The purpose of the Waterfront Budget Summary Level is to fund and track the annual operation and maintenance costs of the Seattle Waterfront.
Fix it First	Capital	33,766,464	The purpose of the Fix It First Budget Summary Level is to provide for major maintenance, rehabilitation, and preservation of parks, forests, facilities, and related infrastructure.
Maintaining Parks and Facilities	Capital	1,845,706	The purpose of the Maintaining Parks and Facilities Budget Summary Level is to improve existing P-Patches and dog off-leash areas as set forth in the first six-year planning cycle of the Seattle Park District.
Building for the Future	Capital	5,229,575	The purpose of the Building for the Future Budget Summary Level is to develop new parks and facilities, to acquire new park land, and to improve existing parks and facilities
Subtotal Operating	Operating	95,613,702	
Subtotal Capital	Capital	40,841,745	
Total 2026 Appropriations		136,455,447	

**Note that the 2023 Adopted Budget transferred operation and maintenance of the Waterfront from Seattle Parks and Recreation to Seattle Center. Therefore, the related Park District appropriation is included in Seattle Center’s Budget annually starting in 2023.*

	Queen Anne Community Center Debt	-	-	-	-	1,336,042	-	-	1,336,042	-	1,000,903	1,486,967
	Debt Service Contingency	-	-	-	-	521,000	-	-	521,000	-	888,375	1,319,793
	Urban Forestry (Restoration)	2,433,594	2,433,594	2,530,938	2,530,938	2,632,175	2,632,175	2,632,175	2,737,462	2,737,462	2,846,961	2,960,839
Capital Total		48,475,483	48,475,483	50,943,672	50,943,672	52,051,941	46,317,706	46,317,706	44,876,616	40,841,745	45,401,983	51,823,386
Total Expenses		115,826,936	116,526,936	123,190,549	127,450,290	127,358,614	130,633,613	132,640,778	131,305,416	136,455,447	135,254,848	146,008,942
Total Revenues Less Expenses		2,616,000	1,916,000	-	1,041,481	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes:

2023 Adopted

* At the end of Cycle 1, the Smith Cove Phase 1 Project had \$2.6M in appropriation that was to be backed by Cycle 2 resources (unspent Cycle 1 resources for this project were reallocated to respond to the COVID pandemic). The 2023 Adopted Budget right sizes this project in 2023 and provided additional resources to complete the project in Cycle 2.
NOTE: While this revenue rightsizing was not reflected in conversation with the BPRC, funding to complete Smith Cove Phase 1 was considered a pre-commitment.

2024 Adopted

The 2024 Proposed financial plan includes \$700K in the Waterfront Maintenance (Seattle Center) line of business to reflect the one time appropriation of unspent funding for maintenance of the waterfront per the transition agreement between SPR, Seattle Center, and Office of the Waterfront and Civic Projects. The technical carry forward of that funding was approved in Ordinance 126725, and MPD Resolution 59. The underspend is from Cycle 1 which included a small annual allocation of waterfront maintenance funding that was not fully utilized based on the timing of the waterfront project.

The 2024 revised budget includes several budget neutral changes across lines of business directly tied to proposed change requests and a correction to a 2023 error in an operating line of business reporting structure.

2024 Revised

The 2024 Revised includes the retroactive payment and 2024 implementation of the Annual Wage Increase (AWI) and Market Adjustments as outlined in the agreements between the City and the Coalition of Unions or other standalone unions for personnel costs in the department's baseline budget. This includes salary, FICA, Medicare, retirement, overtime and temporary labor. The retroactive AWI payment is partially backed using one time fund balance. It also includes related adjustments to expected healthcare billing for all city departments to help meet the costs associated with the bargained wage increases. Finally, the 2024 Revised budget reflects a Council budget amendment to the 2024 adopted Park District financial plan that reduced the employer retirement contribution rate from the proposed budget for certain city departments (RETIREMT CBA-SPR and G-903-A-2 and SDOT-101-A-3).

2025 Adopted

The 2025 Adopted includes the ongoing implementation of the Annual Wage Increase (AWI) and Market Adjustments as outlined in the agreements between the City and the Coalition of Unions or other standalone unions for personnel costs in the department's baseline budget and makes related technical adjustments to align with updated citywide central costs across every operating line of business. The Aquatics detailed line of business also reflects the last year of the planned three year revenue subsidy in Cycle 2 (2023-2025).

The financial plan makes ongoing changes to certain operating detailed lines of business to achieve GF savings including:

- Arts in the Park: Shifts the program from MPD to Ad Tax starting in 2025.
- Center City Activation: Shifts the Busker Program to Ad Tax starting in 2025 and the Concierge Program to Payroll Tax starting in 2025.
- Outdoor Park Activation: Reduces the program by \$200K including 1.0 FTE and related programming dollars starting in 2025.
- Rec For All: Consolidates the program with Get Moving and reduces granting dollars by \$200K starting in 2025.
- Community Center Operation: This detailed line of business includes a technical adjustment only to allow for an equivalent amount of GF realignment from the above reductions to Art in the Park, Center City Activation, Outdoor Park Activation, and Rec For All. Those programs do not have GF. Therefore, the Community Center DLOB is being used to make a budget neutral swap of the MPD with GF.
- Grounds Maintenance: The 2025 financial plan includes an ongoing GF alignment in this detailed line of business offset with a commensurate amount of capital reductions as noted below. Note that the total amount also includes about \$442K needed to balance remaining inflationary cost increases in the Park Fund.

The financial plan makes ongoing changes to certain capital detailed lines of business to achieve GF savings including:

- Acquisition: Reflects the ongoing scaling back of the Acquisition Program to \$1M annually (reduction of \$440K).
- Major Maintenance-Other: Reflects the ongoing ~\$2M reduction to the Major Maintenance program. Note 2025 reduces ~\$2.5M which then levels out at about \$2M annually thereafter.
- Community Fund: This reflects the ongoing scale back of the CommUNITY Fund to Cycle 1 levels (reduction of \$1M).

The financial plan makes one time changes to achieve GF savings.

- Interest Earnings: The Grounds Maintenance detailed line of business includes a one time \$2.4M realignment with GF backed by the one time appropriation of interest earnings on the MPD fund.
- Green Lake Community Center Debt: Year 1 of the debt service appropriation savings related to the shift of 8th and Mercer Community Center bond issuance to 2026 used to offset GF (\$1.947M)
- Mercer Community Center Debt: Year 1 of the debt service appropriation savings related to the shift of Green Lake Community Center bond issuance to 2026 used to offset GF (\$591K)

The financial plan makes technical adjustments to align the Cycle 2 Community Center renovations with planned debt issuance resulting in one time savings which is being redirected to certain capital projects with known funding needs.

- Lake City Community Center Debt: Year 1 of the debt service appropriation savings related to the shift of Lake City Community Center bond issuance to 2026 being moved to the Athletics Fields DLOB to support Soundview Conversion (one time only in 2025).
- Queen Anne Community Center Debt: Year 1 of the debt service appropriation savings related to the shift of Queen Anne Community Center bond issuance to 2026 being moved to the Athletics Fields DLOB to support W. Queen Anne Conversion (one time only in 2025).
- Debt Financing Contingency: The debt service contingency is being moved to the Community Center Renovations DLOB to support ongoing planning and design work for Green Lake Community Center (one time only in 2025).

The following changes were made by City Council to the 2025 Proposed MPD Financial Plan

- SPR-003-A-1: Increase SPR by \$775,000 Metropolitan Park District Fund (2025) for capital costs and community staffing costs for the Garfield Super Block Park Project. The change is reflected in the Administration and Support DLOB (+\$75,000) and the Park Features DLOB (+\$700,000).
- SPR-010-A: Increase SPR by \$100,000 Metropolitan Park District (MPD) Fund (2025) and \$100,000 MPD Fund (2026) to support enhanced programming at existing late night programming for teens. The change is reflected in the Teen Programming DLOB. Note this is an ongoing investment and reflected from 2025-2028 in the financial plan.
- SPR-013-A: Increase SPR by a total of \$1.5 million MPD, Park and Recreation Fund, and GF over 2025 and 2026 for the turf conversion of a softball field at Lower Woodland Park; and decrease SPR by \$1.5 million over 2025 and 2026 by removing resources from MPD for land acquisition, Park and Recreation Fund for ongoing restoration of positions, and GF for temporary restoration of positions. The MPD portion of this CBA is reflected in the Acquisitions DLOB (-\$434,000) and the Athletic Fields DLOB (+\$434,000) in 2025 and (-\$564,000)/(\$564,000) in 2026 in the same DLOBs.

2025 Revised

The 2025 Revised includes \$700,000 in one time carry forward resources to cover anticipated expenses for one-time vehicle purchases SPR made in 2024 but did not receive. The vehicles were delivered to SPR in 2025 and carry forward resources were necessary to cover the costs. The vehicles were planned as part of the ramp of Park District Cycle 2 specifically to support enhanced maintenance of public restrooms. It also includes \$1.3M in one time carry forward resources to support continuing ramp up of waterfront maintenance and operations.

2026 Adopted

The financial plan makes budget neutral technical adjustments to certain operating detailed lines of business including:

- Citywide adjustments for standard cost changes (i.e., rates from FAS, IT, SDHR, health care and other central cost factors)
- Adjustments to the base budget to reflect the updated Annual Wage Increase (AWI) increment for 2026. Also adjusts the retirement rate assumed in the base budget based on the updated actuarial valuation for 2025.
- The use of the AWI and retirement adjustments to fund two positions to address bottlenecks in Human Resources and Accounting impacting Cycle 2 service delivery.
- Pay rate adjustments within the Coalition of City Unions Bargaining creating compression or inversion within 5 non represented supervisor and senior level titles across the City.
- The alignment of baseline resources to rightsize the funding for up to three Animal Control Officers as part of the Park Safety program funded by the MPD.
- The appropriation of Waterfront fund balance in 2026 to support the continuing ramp up of waterfront maintenance and operations associated with the grand opening in 2025.

The financial plan makes one time changes to achieve GF savings including:

- A one time allocation of MPD underspend generated in part by the citywide hiring freeze and a lower than forecasted payout of the one time AWI retroactive payment last year.
- The technical 'swap' to decrease General Fund and backfill with Park District resources is done in the Grounds Maintenance detailed line of business.

The financial plan makes on time technical adjustments to align the Cycle 2 Community Center renovations with planned debt issuance resulting in one time GF savings and the redirection to certain capital projects with known funding needs including:

- The shift of planned debt service for the five Cycle 2 community center renovation projects from 2026 to 2027, bringing the appropriation in line with updated project schedules. The 2026 endorsed budget assumed the issuance of \$151M in bond funding for the community center projects and related contingency and ~\$6.7M in appropriation to cover related debt service.
- The cumulative changes in planned MPD debt service appropriation outlined above is offset by \$2.7M for the Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool project to continue funding planning and design in preparation for construction in late 2027/early 2028. This approach is consistent with FAS practices to limit debt financing to the construction phase of projects.
- A change in assumed bond financing for the Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool renovation to allow the project to be completed in one phase versus two as originally planned. While this change is not reflected in the financial plan, the associated debt service changes are reflected in 2027 and 2028 which are partially supported by the elimination of the planned debt issuance for unreinforced masonry in 2027. This change is being make as the department awaits citywide URM policy direction.
- The debt service appropriation in 2027 and 2028 is updated to reflect debt service rate assumptions provided to CBO for planning by the Office of City Finance.