



Seattle Parks & Recreation

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 1, 2017
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Holly Miller
Subject: Seattle Preschool Program/Seattle Parks and Recreation Collaboration Overview

Requested Board Action

This is a briefing on Seattle Parks and Recreation's involvement in the Seattle Preschool Program.

Seattle Preschool Program Background and Overview:

The Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) offers high-quality, affordable preschool to children across the City of Seattle and partners with early learning providers to prepare children for school, enable students to achieve pre-academic skills, enable students to develop socially and emotionally, and eliminate the readiness gap for participating children.

In September 2013, the Seattle City Council unanimously adopted [Resolution 31478](#), which supports the goal of creating a program to make voluntary, high-quality preschool available and affordable to all of Seattle's 3- and 4-year-old children.

In May 2014, Mayor Murray and the Seattle City Council proposed a taxpayer-funded levy ([Ordinance 124509](#)) to support a four-year demonstration project. The Mayor also submitted a [Seattle Preschool Program Action Plan](#) that describes the demonstration project and the core guiding principles.

In November 2014, Seattle voters approved the demonstration project which will build toward **serving 2,000 children in 100 classrooms by 2018.**

Program Highlights:

- **Participation will be voluntary** for providers and participants.
- **Tuition will be free** for children from families earning less than 300% of the federal poverty level. Tuition will be on a sliding scale for families earning more than 300% of the federal poverty level with at least some level of subsidy for all families.
- **Classrooms will operate on a full-day schedule** (6 hours/day and 5 days/week).
- **Teachers will receive on-site curriculum support and off-site training** in areas of need, likely including: best practices in inclusion, bilingual education, cultural relevancy, and classroom management.

- **Providers will be required to adopt the approved curricula.**
- **Priority will be given to providers that:** provide more than two classrooms, provide dual language programs, offer before/after school child care, offer summer childcare, are located in neighborhoods with low academic achievement, and are located in neighborhoods with higher concentrations of low-income households, English Language Learners, and incoming kindergartners.
- **A four-year, \$58 million property tax levy** (average annual cost of \$14.5 million).

SPP/SPR collaboration:

In the Spring of 2016, Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) staff met with representatives from the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) and Associated Recreation Council (ARC) to discuss the viability of supporting the SPP program through expanding classrooms at SPR facilities. Six strategies were developed:

Strategies

1. Maximize space utilization at identified facilities which could host SPP classrooms.
2. Work with ARC to convert existing, ARC operated, preschool programs to Pathway and SPP.
3. Identify and prioritize viable preschool locations at SPR facilities.
4. Work with DEEL to address capital investments/projects.
5. Utilize an RFP process to select providers at viable SPR facilities.
6. Engage diverse partners

Facility analysis:

A review was conducted of potential SPR facilities that could host SPP classrooms. Analysis included space licensing, capital improvements, cost estimates, and underserved areas. A prioritized list was developed for viable facilities with an implementation goal over three years.

Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018***
Rainier Community Center	Yesler Community Center	Ballard Community Center
Bitter Lake Community Center*	Carkeek Park ELC	Delridge Community Center
Meadowbrook Community Center*	Northgate Community Center	Alki Community Center
	Rainier Beach Community Center	
	Miller Annex **	

*on capital project list for Fall 2018 completion

** Miller Annex to have 4-classroom capacity.

***pending architectural review and capital cost estimates needed to meet licensing requirements.

Project Status:

1. Mike Schwindeller (PDD) will be the Construction Manager for: Carkeek, Yesler and Northgate (we do not anticipate any Tenant Improvements for Rainier Beach).
2. Working towards a Sep. 4, 2017 project completion date for those sites listed above.
3. Tenant Improvements will likely be done by a combination of Shops day and night shifts depending on capacity for given trade and the need to have unfettered access for certain tasks.
4. ADA work at Carkeek will occur in April-June, includes new ramps, walkway and parking stalls from parking lot to the ELC building entrance.
5. 2018 sites will continue receiving site visits from the Architects.
6. 2018 sites are pending based on final architectural assessment.