

# Board of Parks & Recreation Commissioners Superintendent's Report

---

Christopher Williams, Senior Deputy Superintendent & Chief of Staff  
September 26, 2024



**Seattle**  
Parks & Recreation

Healthy People, Thriving Environment, Vibrant Community

#SeattleShines



# Department Update

- Mayor's Proposed Budget
- Parks Foundation Gala
- Athletic Field Summit on Oct. 9
- Bill Wright Day on Oct. 19
- Hoa Mai Park public safety
- New Senior Advisor





# Parks & Recreational Services: Parks and Environment



Tree crew members assess trees in Green Lake Park



Freeway Park





# Parks & Recreational Services: Recreation

- Drop-in pickleball
- Specialized Programs at Camp Long
- Teen Summer Musical a big hit!





# Parks & Recreational Services: Facilities

- Solar power in parks!



Jefferson Park Picnic Shelter

# Planning & Capital Development

- Overlook Walk to open on Waterfront
- Genesee Park turf replacement
- Lake Washington Blvd. safety improvements
- School District proposal for Wallingford Playfield
- Burke-Gilman Trail repairs
- Bid openings





# Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 28:** First World Flight event at Magnuson Park
- **Oct. 5:** Festival of Fruit in Carkeek Park
- **Oct. 26 - Nov. 2:** Seattle Forest Week
- **Late October:** Halloween events!
- **Fridays, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.:** Walking in Discovery Park



**Discovery Park**  
**Walking Club**  
ADULTS 40 YRS +



# Thank you!



**Seattle**  
Parks & Recreation

Healthy People, Thriving Environment, Vibrant Community



# #SeattleShines Moment: Facility Electrification Efforts

## Detailed Line of Business: Utility Conservation



**2024 Adopted Budget:** \$1,060,078

*(for the entire DLOB, not just the work we're discussing today)*



### Performance Measures:

- # facilities partially electrified – annual goal of 2
- # small buildings converted from oil to electric heat – goal of 4 by 2028



## Seattle Park District Cycle 2 Investments:

- Prepare community centers for decarbonization by shrinking energy use through energy conservation interventions.
- Install electric heat pumps in smaller facilities that currently use oil heat.

# RED BARN RANCH SUMMER PROGRAMMING AND NEXT STEPS

---

Andy Sheffer & Tizai Mauto, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Thursday, September 26, 2024



**Seattle**  
Parks & Recreation

Healthy People, Thriving Environment, Vibrant Community

#SeattleShines





# Red Barn Ranch



# Background

*39-acre site, developed as a recreational camp with farm space in Auburn*

- **1966:** Elgin Baylor purchased property and advocated to develop the Red Barn Ranch to be used as a youth sports camp. Black property ownership in service for Black youth. One of the 50 greatest players in NBA History. He went to Seattle University and played for the LA Lakers.
- **1970:** City purchased Property with RCO funding
- **1971-83:** SPR renovated property & operated youth camp
- **1983-1994:** Site used for contracted recreation uses and education programming, with periodic site closures
- **1995-2011:** Camp Berachah operated equestrian camp
- **2011-14:** Camp Berachah & Seattle Tilth incubator farm
- **2014-18:** Seattle Tilth farm operations alone
- **2018-present:** Site vacant but city engaged various community organizations seeking to develop a vision for sustainable programming at the Ranch.



# CURRENT SITE PLAN



3		
2		
1		
NO.	REVISION -- AS BUILT	DATE

REVIEWED: PARK ENGINEER DATE

All work done in accordance with the City of Seattle Standard Plans and Specifications is subject to the data shown above, and supplemented by Special Provisions.



1011 SW Kickapoo Way, Suite 208  
Seattle, WA 98134  
P: 206.631.8442 | www.oaipps.com



RED BARN RANCH



# Site Areas



Forest

Agricultural Fields

Farm Structures

Lowland

Meadow

Forest

Central Gathering Area

Sports Courts

SE 340TH ST

SE LAKE MONEYSMITH RD









**#SeattleShines**

Image Credit: GGN



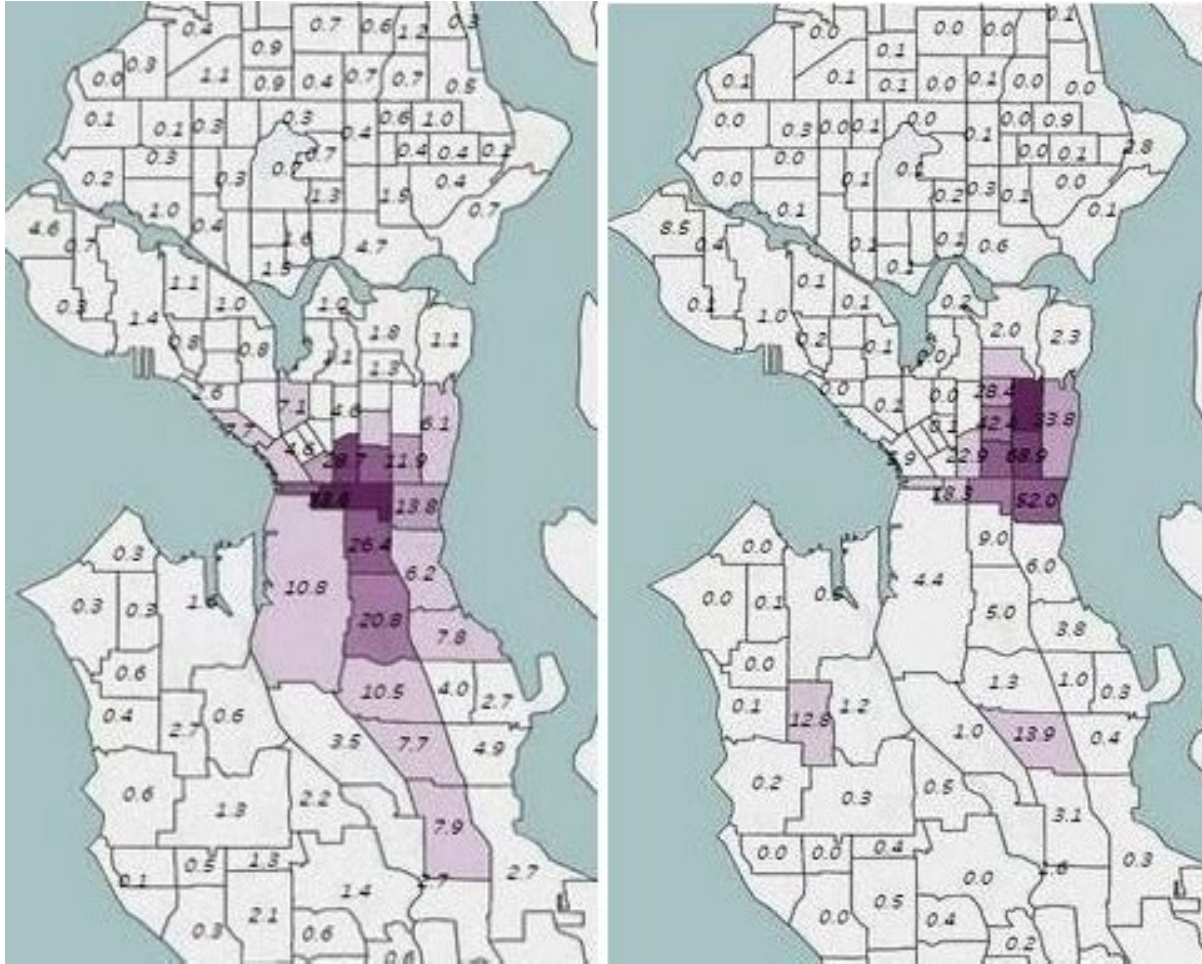
# The vision for Red Barn directly serves the City's Mental Health Initiative through:

- Connection with Nature
- Physical Health Benefits
- Cultural Connection & Identity
- Stress Reduction & Coping Skills
- Community Building & Social Support
- Mindfulness & Reflection



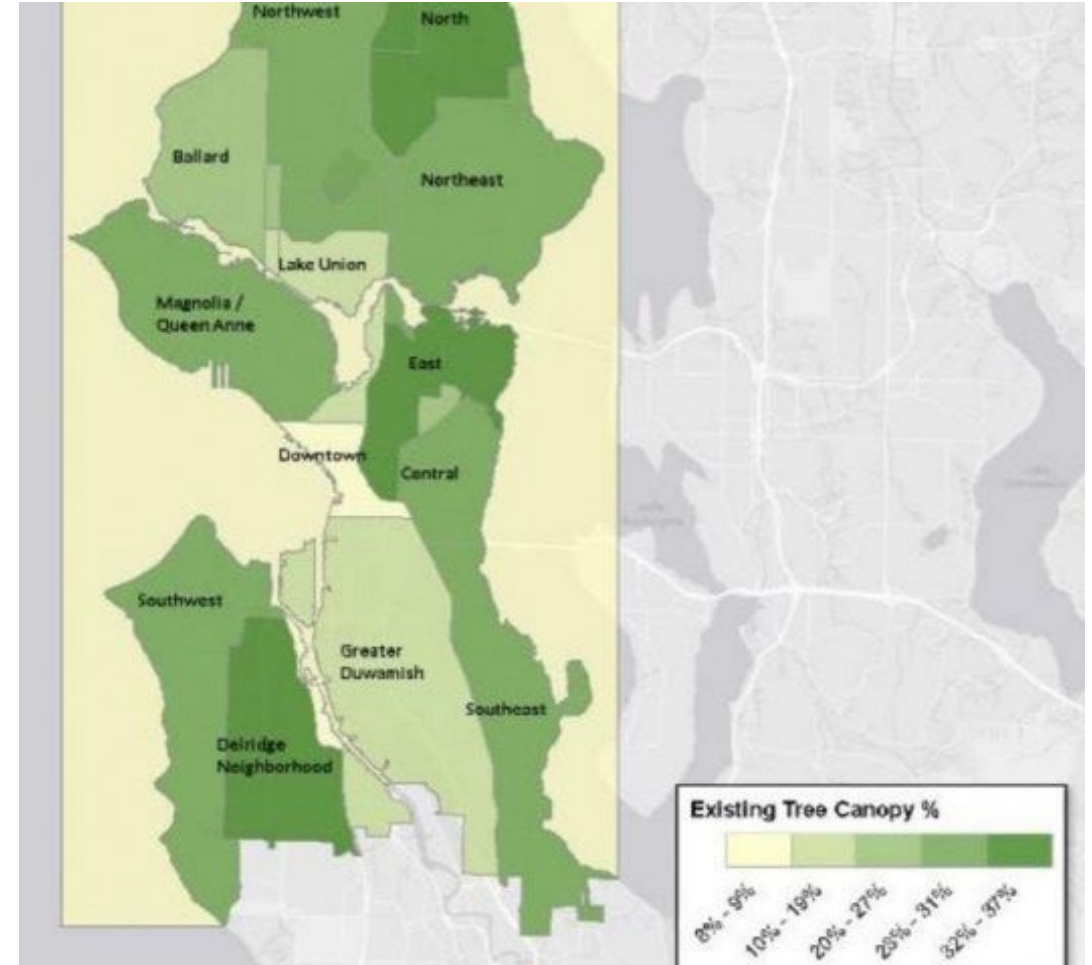


# Legacy of Redlining and Nature Access in Seattle



## Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Mapping Project :

African American (left) and AAPI population (right) in the 1960s are centralized in formerly redlined neighborhoods areas like Downtown and Greater Duwamish, where there is less access to natural resources today.



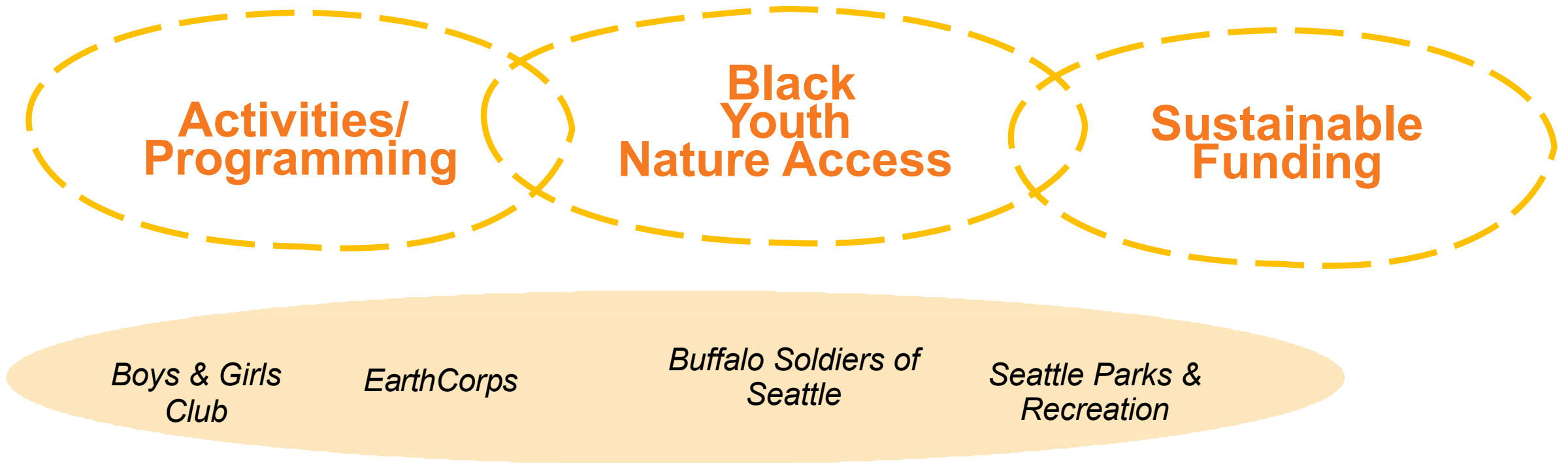
## Seattle Tree Canopy Cover (2017):

The legacy of redlining affects nature access today. Areas with the least tree canopy cover in the city are formerly redlined areas.

#SeattleShines



# Year 1 – Anchoring our Partners



**#SeattleShines**



# Year 1 – Areas of Concentration for Youth Education & Programming



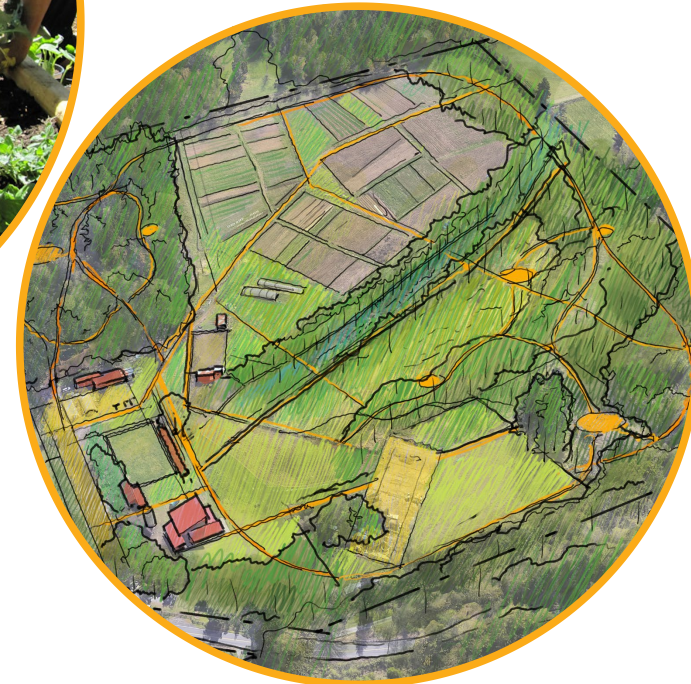
**Buffalo Soldiers Equestrian  
and Youth Development  
Program**



**Environmental Restoration**



**Co-design and Building  
of Community Garden**



**Co-design and Building of  
Community Trail**

**#SeattleShines**





# 2024 – Events and Stakeholder Engagement



**2024 Boys and Girls Club  
Spring Day Camps**





# Looking Ahead > Expand partnerships with schools and black-led organizations





# 2024 Buffalo Soldiers Day & Overnight Camp





Thank You!



**Seattle**  
Parks & Recreation

Healthy People, Thriving Environment, Vibrant Community





# Swim Seattle Initiative: 2024 Report

---

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Mike Plympton, Aquatic Manager & Rebecca Milliman, Strategic Advisor

September 26, 2024



**Seattle**  
Parks & Recreation

Healthy People, Thriving Environment, Vibrant Community



**#SeattleShines**







# swim seattle



Seattle  
Parks & Recreation

## FREE SWIM LESSONS AND MORE!



2

#SeattleShines





# Lesson Access and Drowning Statistics

- Drowning is the #1 cause of death for children ages 1-4
- Drowning death rates for Black people were 28% higher in 2021 than in 2019
- Almost 40 million adults (15.4%) in the US do not know how to swim
- Over half (55%) of US Adults have never taken a swim lesson









# Our Partners



**NO MORE  
UNDER**



**AFRO  
SWIMMERS®**



**Seattle Children's®**  
HOSPITAL • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION



**SPLASHForward**  
Water for All | Water for Life

**W**  
UNIVERSITY of  
WASHINGTON

**Public Health**  
Seattle & King County





# Swim Seattle: A Water Safety and Equity Initiative



- Free Swim Lessons and Priority Registration
- Teen Aquatic Programming
- Community-Specific Outreach, Events and Partnerships





# Swim Lessons

- Free Beginner Lessons + Priority Access for Scholarship-Eligible Families
- Q1-Q3: 1964 free beginner swim lesson series to scholarship-eligible families
- Q1-Q3: 1539 enrollments during priority access (early registration)
- Beach Lessons: 467 free, drop-in lessons offered in Q3 (Summer 2024)



7

#SeattleShines





# Teen Programming

- Free Drop-in Teen Swims that include swim instruction (from beginner to pre-lifeguard), social connections and peer learning. Currently at 4 pools.
- Q1-Q3: 1084 participants
- Lifeguard Training Team: 24 participants in 6-week summer program at beach locations





# Community-Specific Events

- Monthly BIPOC + Allies Swim
- Black Lifeguard Training
- We Come From Mermaids
- Intro to Swim Seattle + Mini Lesson Series
- Ethnic Media/ CEA Outreach Campaign
- Water Safety Day
- Swim Gear Giveaways
- Q1-Q3: 601 participants
- Upcoming: Selective Swim Equity Assessment and Scholarship Registration Event





# Thank you!

