

# Pro Parks Levy Mid-Term Report

## *Reporting on the first four years of the levy*



SEATTLE PARKS  
AND RECREATION

### A letter from the Oversight Committee

#### To the people of Seattle,

With gratitude for the thousands of hours you have committed to the Pro Parks Levy, and with pride in what we've accomplished together, we present this report on the first four years of levy activity.

The creation and implementation of this \$198.2 million levy is testament to how much people in Seattle care about parks and open spaces. In the first four years, we have overseen the completion of more than 40 of the 90-plus levy development projects that include neighborhood parks, community centers, trails, athletic fields, off-leash areas for dogs, playgrounds for kids, a mountain bike trail, pedestrian connections, art walks, shelterhouses, and outdoor restrooms. In addition, we have preserved 34 acres of open space. We are constantly amazed by the sustained dedication of people in Seattle who love parks. Of particular note is the hard work you've put in to nominate and support Opportunity Fund projects.

We are especially proud of the values that the levy implementation has demonstrated and carried forward by using sustainable materials in construction projects, teaching Seattle school kids to swim so they can enjoy the water safely for life, teaching thousands of students to enjoy and appreciate our natural world right here in the city, taking care of our fragile forests, and providing places for kids and teens to learn the health benefits and fun of active sports.

We are pleased to oversee a levy program that is right on track, both financially and chronologically, and in which your dollars are being carefully and wisely spent.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to take part in the oversight of levy implementation with the citizens of Seattle who understand that parks serve a wide variety of needs—for quiet contemplation, exercise and fitness, art display, and, as the Olmsted brothers so aptly put it when they designed the backbone of our park system in 1903, for green places to escape the commotion of city life.

Please watch for the upcoming 2005 Annual Levy Report. We look forward to continuing to work with you through 2008, the last year of the levy, to complete projects in your neighborhood that will make a real difference in your life by building community, providing places to gather, and celebrating the diversity that is our greatest strength as a city.

Sincerely,  
Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee

**The Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee. FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: Cheryl Klinker, Russ Brubaker, Joyce Moty, Lisa Chun; BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: Terry Holme, Alec Stephens, Don Harper, Doug Dunham, Jeff Hou, Neal Adams; not pictured are: Alan Alabastro, Maisha Barnett, Philippe Jeoffroy, Sharon Lee, Peter Lukevich, Adrian Moroles.**



# Building a better tomorrow 🌱



## **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

The levy has created welcome opportunities to demonstrate the City's ongoing commitment to sustainability.

Parks now includes sustainable features in all its capital projects, and the Sustainable Building Program involves community members in design discussions, emphasizes efficiency in project lifecycle costs, and increases benefits to people.

These features increase the ecological function of our streams and forests, reduce environmental impacts, lower operating and maintenance costs, and provide healthy, safe places to gather.

## **Environmental Stewardship**

The levy provides funding for Parks to provide environmental education and stewardship opportunities, and to help Parks set a good example for environmental efforts. In the first four years of the levy, Parks has:

- ◆ added environmental elements to summer day camps at all 25 community centers, now serving 500 kids per week;
- ◆ brought 3,500 kids into environmental education programs each year;
- ◆ revised nine "Best Management Practices" guidelines for environmental sensitivity in how Parks does its work, and trained all grounds staff; and
- ◆ leveraged \$350,000 to supplement the program.

## **Art for the Ages**

The 1% for Art Program has been a proud Seattle tradition since 1973, and has brought us some of our most familiar and beloved works, including "Sadako and the Thousand Cranes" at Peace Park, "Hammering Man" at the downtown Seattle Art Museum, and "Black Sun" at Volunteer Park.

Rather than spend one percent of each project's budget on an art piece, Parks opted to host an arts planner from the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs to design an Art Plan for the \$900,000 in available funds.

The plan focuses on creating art that provides a breather from urban life and draws on the natural elements. It includes a fund for major art projects, a fund for smaller art projects, an annual fund for "in-house" artistic enhancements, and funding for a writer-in-residence who has produced stories from the heart about people's experiences in parks.

## **An Opportunity to Fund More**

When Seattle voters approved the \$198.2 million Pro Parks Levy in 2000, it included the Opportunity Fund for unforeseen park development projects and land acquisition opportunities. The Pro Parks Levy Citizens Oversight Committee developed criteria for evaluating and choosing Opportunity Fund projects, based on City Council direction in the levy ordinance.

In general, priority was given to projects that address a park or open space deficiency and are in areas experiencing growth, particularly in City-designated "urban space" or in "revitalization areas."

It provides us the flexibility to consider projects that could not have been contemplated at the time the levy was crafted.

## **Great Value for a Great Investment**

We look at the value of investments in two ways. First is the tangible, usable amenities sprouting up in every Seattle neighborhood. There are newly preserved open spaces, new works of art, new paths to walk, new ballfields and playgrounds to play on, new areas where Fido can romp without a leash, new buildings for public meetings and celebrations, and upgraded restrooms. Each project adds to the quality of our lives and the livability of our neighborhoods.

Second, there's the collective value that the projects bring to Seattle as a city. As we cut ribbon after ribbon, the levy's legacy is taking shape: it's a lasting gift from our generation to the next.



### It's Worth More Than We Thought!

If you think the Pro Parks Levy is worth just its face value of \$198.2 million, it may surprise you to learn that in the first half of its life, levy funds have been matched by more than \$14 million!

- ◆ Private and corporate contributions allowed for enhancements to Flo Ware and Homer Harris parks and Cascade Playground.
- ◆ King County funding made it possible to preserve more land along Thornton Creek, to renovate ballfields, and to acquire land for many new neighborhood parks.
- ◆ The Metro mitigation fund (Alki Community Improvement Fund) helped preserve property in the Me-Kwa-Mooks Natural Area.

### We Couldn't Do It Alone

Beyond all the money taxpayers have provided through the levy, and the funds it leverages, not a single project would be finished without the creativity, commitment, and sweat equity of park neighbors, supporters, and enthusiasts. We thank all the neighborhood organizations, the Seattle Parks Foundation, the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, King County, and all our other public and private partners.

### 2000-2004 Summary 2000 Parks Levy - Financial Progress

(All figures in millions)	Funding			Expense	Balance
	Levy	Other	Total	Total	Remaining
Acquisition	\$26.0	\$9.1	\$35.1	\$23.2	\$11.9
Development	\$102.8	\$4.0	\$106.9	\$36.9	\$70.0
Opportunity Fund	\$10.0	\$1.2	\$11.2	\$4.4	\$6.8
Programming & Operations	\$61.4		\$61.4	\$24.7	\$36.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200.2</b>	<b>\$14.4</b>	<b>\$214.5</b>	<b>\$89.2</b>	<b>\$125.3</b>

### The Big Picture: A Funding Overview

For this levy, funds are collected and expenditures are made every year throughout its eight-year life.

(All figures are in millions)

#### Acquisition

Neighborhood Park Acquisition .....	\$16.0
Green Space Acquisition.....	\$10.0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$26.0</b>

#### Development

Neighborhood Parks .....	\$52.8
Major Neighborhood Parks .....	\$23.1
Playfields and Facilities.....	\$17.9
Trails.....	\$9.0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$102.8</b>

#### Acquisition & Development

<b>Opportunity Fund .....</b>	<b>\$10.0</b>
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#### Environmental Stewardship, Maintenance and Programming

New Park/Green Space Maintenance .....	\$7.6
Environmental Stewardship.....	\$9.7
Enhanced Park & Facility Maintenance.....	\$5.3
Recreational Programming .....	\$16.9
Zoo Programming.....	\$21.8
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$61.3</b>

<b>Use of Funds Total .....</b>	<b>\$200.2</b>
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#### Projected Funding Sources

Levy proceeds .....	\$198.2
Interest earnings.....	\$2.0

# Enhancing the lives of our most vulnerable populations 🌱



## Teen Leaders

*“I didn’t go to school ‘cause I never had any school supplies, but since I got this backpack with all these supplies, I guess I’ll try school this fall.”*

— A homeless teen high school dropout

They are our future, and we owe them the best as they learn life skills and leadership, fulfill their service learning obligations, and become life-long learners. To do this the levy provides funding for a Teen Development Leader at each of Parks’ 26 community centers.

The levy enables Parks to offer regularly scheduled activities for teens at every community center; they draw almost 4,500 teens every year and up to 1,600 per week across the city. The leaders have helped the teens form program partnerships with advisory councils, local businesses, and nonprofit agencies, that now range from eight to 35 per site each year. Partnerships with other Parks staff such as naturalists and the trails crew offer real world work experience and instruction about our natural wonders. The value lies in programs that build esteem and personal strength during the difficult teen years.

## Learn to Swim

In a city surrounded by water, it makes sense for children to learn water safety and how to swim early in life. The levy’s Learn to Swim Program provides a voucher for free swim lessons for every 3rd and 4th grader in Seattle schools, public or private. Since it began, 22,613 students have completed the



lessons. Of these, about 65 percent are new to swimming, and 30 percent ask for a free swim suit, which indicates financial need. Partners in this effort are the Regional Drowning Prevention Coalition, Children’s Hospital, and Public Health – Seattle & King County.

## Youth/Teen Development Fund

This innovative program creates new partnerships with outside agencies by offering a 50 percent match that enables other program providers to put on programs, many of them in Parks facilities. This \$150,000 per year fund enables Parks to reach underserved populations of kids between 5 and 18, and has resulted in more than 40 partnerships each year. The fund supported the multi-ethnic Festal activities at Seattle Center, the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center summer teen musical, and the Mexican teacher visit to South Park Community Center.

## Older Adults

Mary Ann’s doctor advised her to “get active” as part of her arthritis treatment, so she took up line dancing for the fun, exercise, genuine social opportunity, and affordable prices. That was eight years ago. Today she’s a volunteer leader at the dance classes, and she’s the first to advise class members to “stick with it.”

As baby boomers race toward their retirement years, it’s prudent to assess the upcoming need, identify populations and recreation preferences, and plan for new programming. The levy allows Parks to do just that. In addition to bringing about a 50 percent increase in programming for older adults between 2002 and 2004, Parks went to work to forge more partnerships with businesses, Group Health Cooperative, Senior Services of Seattle/King County, Merrill Gardens, the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, and the Health Promotion Resource Center; to sponsor health fairs; to hire more older adults; to support the “Sound Steps Walking Project” with walking maps and other guides; and to reach out to people who haven’t historically participated in programs for older adults.



**Zoo's Wildwise Program**



**Teen Programming**

### Youth Transportation

*"Wow, I've never been in the wilderness before!"*  
 — A teen on a camping trip with the National Park Service in the North Cascades.

Key to kids' participation in positive programs is getting them there. The levy provides needed funding to operate and maintain community center vans and to buy bus, ferry, and train tickets. Transportation is available to all teens regardless of their economic status, and to date has enabled 2,800 kids to get to summer field and camping trips; 6,000 to get to school year field trips; and 2,400 to regional outings. 11,000 kids have had rides to events and programs with the National Park Service, EarthCorps, the Pacific Science Center, the Experience Music Project, the Olympic Park Institute, Power of Hope, the Points of Light Institute, and other partners.

### Kids Program Access

*"As a single mother and student, I would not have made it through without the care at Montlake Community Center. The Before and After School Program scholarship gave me the ability to look for work."*  
 —Parent of Before and After School Program participants

From 2001 through 2003, Pro Parks Levy funding enabled Parks to provide scholarships for the Before and After School Program for more than 1,000 children, at a cost of about \$670,000.

### Zoo Programs

*"We really appreciate you visiting our school and helping us learn animal skills. Thanks for making nature fun!"*  
 —Wildwise Program Student

The Woodland Park Zoo has been able to draw ever more children to its Forest Explorers, Save Our Amazing Raptors (SOAR), and WildWise programs — 7,900 since the levy's start.

And for the reduced-lunch program, the numbers are a true indicator of economic need: The Zoo has served 43,542 kids with education programs that let them explore the natural world and learn the importance of conservation.

### Wading Pools

The levy bolsters this immensely popular summer program by funding an increase in the number of hours per day and the number of days per summer that Parks can operate selected wading pools around Seattle. This fun, safe summer program offers staff who meet all training and certification requirements under the State Health Code for Water Recreation Facilities. It keeps kids safe and cool, saves water, reaches a diverse population, and helps neighbors meet and get to know each other.



**Wading Pools**

# Maintaining our parks to a higher standard 🌿



**Freeway Park**

## **Tree Maintenance: Third Crew**

The addition of a third tree crew has added greatly to Parks' capacity to maintain and care for the 140,000 trees that stand in high-use developed parks. It increases by 50 percent Parks' ability to maintain them by establishing maintenance cycles, tree work tracking systems, and a system for managing trees that may pose a hazard.

In the first four years of the levy, Parks has accomplished a 48 percent increase in completed work orders; inspected every tree in 45 parks, a task not possible before; and moved from an emergency-only response system to a 10-year pruning cycle.

These actions help Parks catch up with years of deferred maintenance, which improves the health and longevity of Seattle's 1.3 million trees.

## **Natural Areas Crew**

This crew adds capacity that supports Parks grounds crews in restoring natural areas, building and maintaining trails, and supporting volunteer stewardship efforts.

To date, the crew has restored 9.6 acres of land, planted and cared for 5,300 plants and trees, supported almost 11,000 hours of volunteer work in more than 100 parks, and provided the sole on-the-ground support for Mayor Nickels' Green Seattle Partnership.



**Green Lake Park**

## **Landscape/Athletic Field Maintenance Crew**

This crew increases Parks' ability to keep its landscapes and ballfields in top condition, which is labor-intensive work. To date the crew has finished 34 ballfield projects, performed extra maintenance on heavily used fields every six to eight weeks, and supported six major volunteer efforts. In addition, they have finished 38 landscape projects that involve renovating shrub beds, pulling out invasive plants, mulching, pruning, installing paths, seeding, and aerating. This funding allows Parks to maintain specialty gardens at a higher level of care, increase safety and playability of ballfields, and meet partners' and neighbors' needs by supporting volunteer projects.

## **Enhanced Park Maintenance**

The levy provides staffing that means Parks can clean parks and restrooms more often during seasons and times of day when



The newly developed Facility Inspection Manual provides a rating system to measure the cleanliness of buildings and to lay out what is expected of the crews, and the presence of these staff allow recreation staff to focus on delivering programs and customer service.

### Cleaner Pools

“The locker room is much cleaner now,” wrote one happy customer. “Please thank the maintenance person.” Seattle’s pools have long needed more staff to keep pools pristine and to provide weekend support in case any of the complex systems go awry. Levy-funded staff do that and more: using a newly developed Pool Inspection Manual that calls for visual and written inspections and standards, they deep-clean buildings, support events, and help meet demand at high-use pools.

### New Facilities Costs

As new park properties are acquired and as new park projects are finished, levy funds also provide for their maintenance.

they’re most heavily used. The number of parks cleaned during peak use times has increased from 52 in 2002 to 98 in 2004. The crew performs stepped-up litter pickup and trash collection, supports community events, and deep cleans wading pools and park entrances. It has added the equivalent of about 10 people, and combining crews has brought about efficiencies. The crews, who now wear uniforms that identify them as Parks employees, bring a welcome presence to parks and help park users by answering questions.

### Community Center Cleaning

Parks deploys the new custodial staff funded by the levy efficiently, to make Parks facilities as clean as possible, especially in preparation for times when they are the busiest. They focus on high-use areas such as entries, restrooms, meeting rooms, gym floors, and windows. They also mop, vacuum, dust, clean walls, stock supplies, and support events.



# Acquiring new parks & building new ones



## UNIQUE TO SEATTLE

*“Only in Seattle,” one observer noted, “would they make parks out of landfills, military bases, and airspace over freeways.” The levy has provided opportunities for other creative ways to form partnerships, raise money, and build parks. Here are a few.*

### Homer Harris Park

This park redefines the word “neighborhood.” Today, because of one very generous donor, the Pro Parks Levy, and the hard work of the Seattle Parks Foundation, there is an inviting new green space in the Central Area where there was none before. Homer Harris Park brings to life a key element of the Central Area Neighborhood Plan and honors one of Seattle’s most beloved figures, Dr. Homer Harris. Featuring a plaza and a play area designed to challenge users both mentally and physically, this park drew more than 100 people to its design process. Dr. Harris, one of Seattle’s most respected athletes and physicians, had a stellar football career at the University of Iowa after he was discouraged from applying to the University of Washington because he is African-American. A stint in the Army and medical school followed, and Dr. Harris recently retired after 43 years of practicing dermatology for two generations of Seattleites.

### International District Chinatown Community Center

Long a dream of the International District-Chinatown neighborhood and a key item in its 1998 neighborhood plan, this brand new center opened to great celebration in September 2004. This new community gathering place was funded by the Levy Opportunity Fund and the 1999 Community Centers Levy. Co-located in Phase II of International District Village Square with family housing, a branch library, offices, and retail spaces on a former parking lot, the center offers a full array of programming for people of every age, much of it culturally attuned to

the neighborhood — martial arts, sports, arts and crafts, and special family events.

### Magnuson Park Off-Leash Area

This largest of Seattle’s 11 off-leash areas brings joy to the hearts of dogs and owners alike at this premier Seattle park that blossomed from a former Naval air station. Here are nine acres where dogs can romp and play while their owners relax and socialize, and it’s the only off-leash area where dogs can swim. It features wheelchair-accessible trails, open areas, and a separate area for those who don’t want to mix it up with the big dogs. Shoreline improvements include boulders and driftwood logs to stabilize the beach, shrubs and grasses in the meadow, and paved areas to accommodate the heavy traffic.

### Mineral Springs Park

This distinctive Northgate-area park combines art and sport in a harmonic blend that just works. It is home to one of Seattle Parks’ only two disc golf courses, where enthusiasts can play on a course designed to protect the vegetation and show off the art. Natural and structural “screens” protect nearby people, homes, and cars. The Aurora-Licton Neighborhood Plan recognized this park as one that needed attention, and it took only three community meetings to reach consensus on a design. The design preserves features from the site’s history as homes and small farms, and the landscaping suggests that history through stone walls, steps, small ponds, and exotic plants.

The art walk features “Cloud Stones,” hemispheres with organic themes intended to reflect the movement of the clouds overhead, by renowned artists Stacy Levy. It offers a relaxing stroll with points of interest where visitors can pause.



**Mineral Springs  
Park**



**Homer Harris Park**

**Smith Cove Acquisition**

This 7.3 acre gem in Interbay is an example of how, with community resolve, we can turn a property with a history (in this case, U.S. Navy property) into a space everyone can enjoy. With the help of King County and the Shoreline Park Improvement Fund, this two-part property will become a neighborhood destination. The 2.4 acre upper park, opened in 2004 and named for the late Magnolia park enthusiast Ursula Judkins, provides a sweeping view of Elliott Bay and downtown Seattle. The lower park, almost five acres, is a level site between the Magnolia Bridge and the Elliott Bay Marina. Improvements provide for interim use of the north end of the site for youth sports.



**Ursula Judkins Viewpoint**

available for community gatherings, and a panoramic view of downtown and the Space Needle. Funded by the Neighborhood Matching Fund, King County, the levy, and other community-generated grants, it is the product of the neighborhood’s vision, and will serve this high-density community well.

**Belltown Cottage Park**

Sometimes people walking by Belltown Cottages do a double-take: what are these tiny cottages doing in the middle of Belltown? The project sprang from the heart of this growing neighborhood. The landmark cottages are the last of 11 houses on the site, built in 1916, that represent a typical housing style that dotted the Denny Regrade from the 1850s to the 1920s. The park represents years of tireless work and fund raising by the Friends of Belltown P-Patch, and features art installations, a 40-plot P-patch, a pathway, and a gathering space. The cottages, restored to their original condition, house writers-in-residence from Richard Hugo House, an urban writers’ retreat based on Capitol Hill.



**Ward Springs Park**



**Ward Springs Park**

**Ward Springs Park**

This petite park at the base of Queen Anne proves the power of a neighborhood in action. What was once a water pumping station is now a stunning neighborhood gathering place complete with a curved path, an open lawn, landscaping, state-of-the-art play equipment, a renovated historic brick pumphouse



**Licton Springs Park**

**PRESERVING WHAT WE VALUE**

*As a young city in a stunning environment, we place special value on history and views. Here are a few places where we've "walked the walk."*

**Fremont Peak Park Acquisition**

Parks acquired this plum of a property after a neighbor noticed that it was for sale, using private and foundation grants, the Neighborhood Matching Fund, the Opportunity Fund, and King County Conservation Futures Tax funds. Parks will develop the park with Levy Opportunity Funds and Neighborhood Matching Funds. To take full advantage of the view over Puget Sound, the Lake Washington Ship Canal, and the Olympic Mountains, the park will feature a viewing platform, landscaping, wooded areas, a meadow, walkways, and a terrace to catch the evening sunset.

**Hiawatha Playfield Entry Improvements**

This historic park, part of the Olmsted design and Seattle's largest playfield for many years, has been witness to the construction of the adjacent Hiawatha Community Center, the addition of a track, many generations of play by West Seattleites of all ages, and now this levy project that provides new landscaping, irrigated shrub beds at the entry, and new furniture and light standards that recall the original Olmsted plan.

**Horiuchi Park**

This new park provides a place for Central Area neighbors to enjoy the view of Mt. Rainier and the Rainier Valley, and honors with its name the late C. Paul Horiuchi, one of Seattle's best known and respected artists, for his invaluable cultural contributions to the life of the city. Before he gained recognition as an artist, Horiuchi owned an auto body shop just two blocks from the park on 12th Avenue near Fir Street. Community

Development Block Grant funds provided for the stairs leading to the site from Boren Avenue, a small plaza, a path, new trees, landscaping, and irrigation.



**Paul, Jr. and Bernadette Horiuchi**

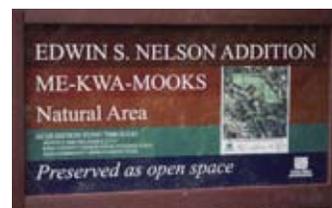
**Licton Springs Park**

This Northgate-area park once was home to a healing center for Native Americans who built sweat lodges and bathed in the mineral waters of the springs. After settlers arrived in Seattle, they too bathed in the springs. The site was a picnic area until E.A. Jensen bought the site and built a spa, and it became a park in 1960. Licton Springs still flows, if only from a concrete basin into pipes that lead to the city's storm sewer system. The park has a large play area, upgraded in 1996. The Levy Opportunity Fund provided the money to replace the "Iron Springs" walkway, one of three in the park, with a new one that is accessible to people with disabilities. The very active Friends of Licton Springs will continue to care for the park's wetland.

**Me-Kwa-Mooks Natural Area**

Since 1993, when the city adopted the Green Space Policy to encourage preservation of green spaces, park neighbors, the Me-Kwa-Mooks Jacobsen Alliance, the Cascade Land Conservancy, the Alki Community Council, and Seattle Parks

have worked to preserve 3.5 acres in this treasured West Seattle green space. The benefits Me-Kwa-Mooks brings include preservation of natural landscapes

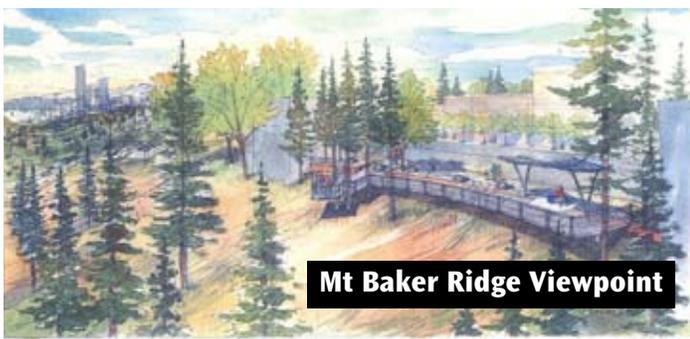




**New Jefferson Park Pathway**



**Hitt's Hill Park**



**Mt Baker Ridge Viewpoint**

and habitat, natural buffers between different land uses, a reduction in noise and air pollution, natural drainage, and less need for built storm water systems.

### **Mt. Baker Ridge Viewpoint**

Another priceless view preserved for public enjoyment, Mt. Baker Ridge Viewpoint provides a vista westward to downtown, Elliott Bay, and the Olympic Mountains. The Opportunity Fund provided for the purchase of the land. This determined community received Neighborhood Matching Funds to plan and design the park, and are working hard to complete their fund raising for the construction.

## **MORE THAN A PARK**

*Some parks serve many purposes and tell the story of who we are as a community. Here are some examples that received well-deserved attention from the levy.*

### **Carkeek Park Improvements**

This wilderness park that features everything from an environmental learning center to a children's play area to woods, trails, and Puget Sound waterfront, underwent changes that provide

the public with better amenities and improved the trails to reduce siltation in Piper's Creek, a salmon-spawning stream. Trail improvements, coupled with neighborhood planting efforts, create a solid path that helps keep people and pets out of the creek.

New signage helps visitors navigate the park's geography and ecology; improved habitat allows for more native wildlife; and removal of invasive plants helps implement the forest management plan. Without community support and generous volunteers who "grew" this levy project, much of the work could not have been done.

### **Rainier Playfield**

At this active, much-used playfield, newly completed pathways, signage, and landscaping make the field safer, more usable, and much more attractive. The levy made possible signage that leads pedestrians along the safest and most convenient route, and entryways to the park that are clearly marked.

### **Jefferson Park Pathway**

This destination Olmsted park on Beacon Hill is in for some changes in the near future. When Seattle Public Utilities buries and covers the reservoir starting in 2006, about 12 new acres of usable park land will appear. The new 2/3-mile pedestrian/jogging pathway provides a great place to exercise, and links the southern portion of Jefferson Park.

### **Hitt's Hill Park**

This brand new park in southeast Seattle began life in the city as the site of the Hitt's Fireworks Factory, which made pyrotechnic history from 1905 until it closed in the late 1970s. When the community identified the site as a priority and a rare opportunity, Parks acquired the property. The Levy Opportunity Fund, the Neighborhood Matching Fund, the King County Natural Resources Network, and other sources paid for the trails, viewpoints, landscaping, park entry, and signage that make this a woody urban sanctuary.



**Graham Hill School Playground**



**Magnuson Community Garden**

## BUILDING COMMUNITIES

*Possibly nothing brings a community together like a shared vision of something that will improve it. To us, that's the definition of a park, and here are some remarkable collaborations.*

### Bergen Place Park

This vibrant spot in the heart of Ballard's business district was dedicated by King Olav of Norway in 1975. After 25 years the canopied park was showing its age, and a renovation project was included in the Crown Hill/Ballard Neighborhood Plan.

The newly renovated park, now a plaza open to the sun, features a kiosk, long curved benches, new landscaping, electricity, and new artwork. On the plaza surface, granite stones identify the five Scandinavian countries and display design motifs typical to each, and one includes historic information about Norway. Jen Dixon's "Witness Trees" evoke organic forms from Scandinavian and Ballard history.



**Bradner Gardens**

### Bradner Gardens Park

Another salute to community imagination and determination, Bradner Gardens invites the visitor like no other place in Seattle. This charming Mt. Baker park features wildlife habitat, Seattle Tilth, a 61-plot P-patch, a kids' garden, a pavilion, a play area, a basketball court, Master Gardener theme gardens, and arbors designed and built by University of Washington architecture students.

Here the most utilitarian items become art: a bench is a salmon, garden tools form a trellis, and the restroom wall is a mosaic! The community building, which received a 2003 Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects, is available for community get-togethers.

### A.B. Ernst Park

This once unusable steep Fremont hillside is now a spiraling path of permeable concrete and a community amphitheater that, curiously, invites temporary unscheduled art exhibits that are there one day and gone the next. The artful garden-bed walls, landscaped with native plantings, provide seating. The amphitheater, which seats 150 to 200 people, offers a view of downtown Seattle. This new park also serves as a pedestrian connection between N 34th and N 35th Streets.

Situated next to the historic Fremont Library, this park was suggested in the Fremont Neighborhood Plan, and the levy paid for its planning, design, and construction. Its name honors A.B. Ernst, an early 20th century Park Board member who was instrumental in implementing Seattle's Olmsted parks plan.

### Wallingford Play Area

This much-loved and heavily used neighborhood park, identified in the Wallingford Neighborhood Plan for an upgrade, has taken on a new look.

The levy and the Neighborhood Matching Fund provided funds to renovate the park entrances and wading pool, install



**Wallingford Play Area**



**Linden Orchard Park**

brand new play equipment, and create new overlooks at the west entrance to the tennis courts, new landscaping, a perimeter walking path with benches, and new picnic tables, benches, and lamp posts. The Friends of Wallingford Playfield have also created a vibrant native plant garden on the park's western border.

**Linden Orchard**

This neighborhood gem is the remnants of an original homestead, and now features

lawn area, a P-patch, new fruit trees, edible landscaping, a universal access ramp, a neighborhood gathering area, and a children's play area. Funding for the acquisition came from the levy, King County, and the State of Washington; funding for development came from the levy, the Neighborhood Matching Fund, and community-generated contributions.

**Magnuson Community Garden**

Where once there was a parking lot, there is now a magnificent garden. Funded by the levy, the Neighborhood Matching Fund, and private donations, it offers an amphitheater for performances, wheelchair-accessible pathways, a native plant nursery and demonstration garden, a children's garden, an orchard, a 135-plot P-patch, and a tranquil garden. The garden supports food banks with produce from the P-patch and orchard, and encourages people to enjoy an environment that demonstrates beauty, community, healthy living, and stewardship.

**Graham Hill School Playground**

With apologies to Joni Mitchell, a parking lot became paradise at this site. The school playground serves the community as a park whenever school is not in session. Using levy funds, Neighborhood Matching funds, Parks Gray to Green funds, a King County Youth Sports Facilities grant, and community commitment, the site now beckons with a grass playfield, three council rings, play equipment, native plantings, and benches.

**Counterbalance Park**

A long-term goal of Queen Anne neighbors is a park in the bustling Uptown area, which supports dense retail and residential uses. An inclusive site selection process led to the purchase with levy and King County Conservation Futures Tax funds of a site at the intersection of Queen Anne Avenue N and Roy Street.

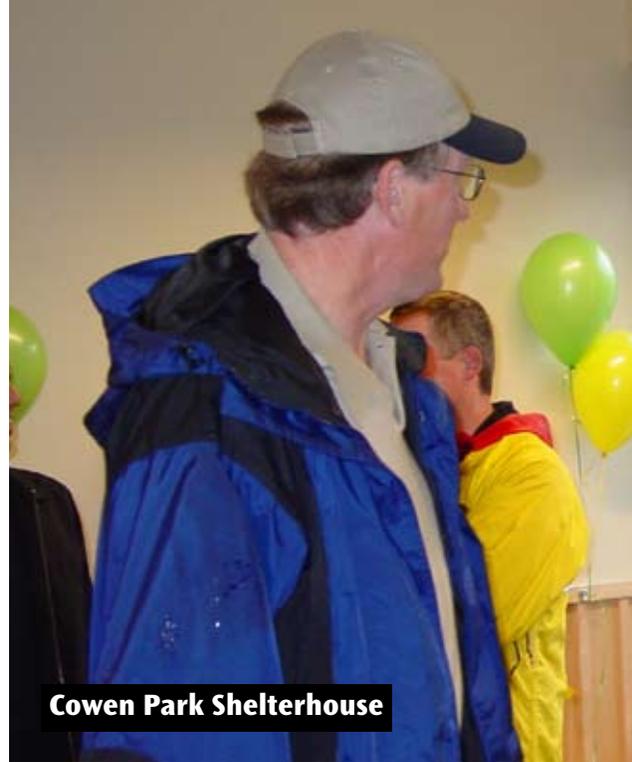
A community process is under way to design this new park. It promises to be a sophisticated urban space next to the historic Counterbalance, which in early Seattle used counterweights to pull trolleys up the hill.



**Queen Anne Park at Uptown**



**Greenwood Park**



**Cowen Park Shelterhouse**

## SUSTAINING OUR LEGACY

*The levy has provided opportunities for Parks to implement its sustainable design and development practices, which lower maintenance costs, reduce impacts on the environment, increase ecological function in parks, and increase visitors' health and safety.*

### **Cowen Park Shelterhouse**

The grand old building in this Olmsted park, built in 1909, once provided shelter for trolley riders and park visitors and a bandstand above the picnic shelter. As it fell into disrepair, the neighborhood made its renovation a priority. The levy made that renovation a reality and it's open for community use, offering a 500-square-foot activity room, restrooms, and office space on the lower level, and a viewing terrace above.

### **Alki Bathhouse**

This important bit of Alki history is a remnant of the Pavilion built on the site in 1911 that provided showers, lockers, a gym,



**Alki Bathhouse**



club rooms, a café, and a viewing balcony. It was partially demolished in 1955 and unused until local artists began using it as a studio and classroom in the late 1990s. The Friends of Alki Bathhouse raised money for the renovation, and with other funding from the levy and the Neighborhood Matching Fund, breathed new life into the building with a multipurpose space, a pottery studio, a multi-media art studio, and restrooms with exterior entrances. The community now heads to the bathhouse to enjoy exercise classes, environmental programs, language and music classes, Log House Museum events, community meetings, teen events, and parties.

### **Golden Gardens Bathhouse**

In its stunning Puget Sound location at Golden Gardens Park, the Bathhouse underwent a complete facelift with levy and Neighborhood Matching Fund dollars. While it once provided showers and locker rooms for beachgoers, it now offers the



**Genesee Playfield**

community a multifaceted space for teen programs, environmental classes focusing on the beach's marine environments, new outdoor areas for active use or contemplation, and an ideal spot for community gatherings.

**Meadowbrook Playfield**

Levy funds made possible the renovation of Fields 2 and 3 at Meadowbrook for better, safer softball and baseball play. The work, which was sensitive to nearby Thornton Creek, included grading the field surfaces, installing new soil and drainage and irrigation systems, replacement of fencing, installation of safety fencing, replacement of the infield surface, and new turf.

**Genesee Playfield**

The first levy project to be completed, these beautiful and playable fields are now in great demand. Funded by the levy, the Cumulative Reserve Fund, and a grant from King County, the project includes conversion of Field #2 from grass to FieldTurf, safety fencing, reconfiguration of the parking lot, improved pathways for pedestrians, curb bulbs, a crosswalk to improve safety at busy S Genesee Street, and state-of-the-art lighting for Fields 1 and 2.

**Roxhill Park Wetland Development**

At this historic headwaters of Longfellow Creek the low wetland peat bogs were covered with dirt from nearby construction in the 1960s. The 1992 Longfellow Creek Watershed Action Plan called for re-establishment of the wetlands, and in 1996 the Westwood Community Council began planning for it. The levy provided funding for restoration of three bogs that add three acres



**Roxhill Park Wetland**

of wetlands and more than 40,000 new native plants, a new ballfield with an improved irrigation system, accessible picnic areas, trails and bridges, and a gathering space. The Friends of Roxhill Bog now support the continuing restoration with monthly work parties.

**Greenwood Park**

The Greenwood community first proposed this site, the former Otani Greenhouses, for a park 50 years ago, and included it in the Greenwood/Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Plan. Design and construction funding came from the levy, the Neighborhood Matching Fund, and a grant from King County. This beautiful park offers a meadow, a children's play area, walkways around the edge, a plaza, a restroom, a trellis that pays tribute to the Interurban Trolley, concrete seating, fencing, benches, picnic tables, planters, and interpretive signage. It also features a drainage swale that Seattle Public Utilities hopes to connect to Piper's Creek to provide water quality benefits.

**Woodland Park Zoo.**

Levy funding has enabled the zoo to finish some projects and take on others as it moves forward on its Long-Range Physical Development Plan. Since the start of the levy, the zoo has finished interpretive features at the Snow Leopard exhibit, a remodel and nets for the Wetlands exhibit, completed the relocation of the Red-Crowned Cranes, and reconfigured the Elephant Barn to accommodate the protected contact protocol.



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**FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATIONS AVAILABLE**

The Pro Parks Levy Mid-Term Report is also available in eight other languages. You may view copies by visiting the webpages listed below for each language, or you can call (206) 233-7929 and have one sent to you.

Este informe se encuentra disponible en español. Para ver una copia del informe, puede visitar [www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/report/Spanish.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/report/Spanish.pdf) o puede llamar al (206) 233-7929 y solicitar que se le envíe una copia.

Ang report na ito ay mayroon sa Tagalog. Upang makita ang kopya ng report, maari kang bumisita sa [www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/report/Tagalog.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/report/Tagalog.pdf) o maari mong tawagan ang (206) 233-7929 at humiling ng kopya na ipadala sa iyo.

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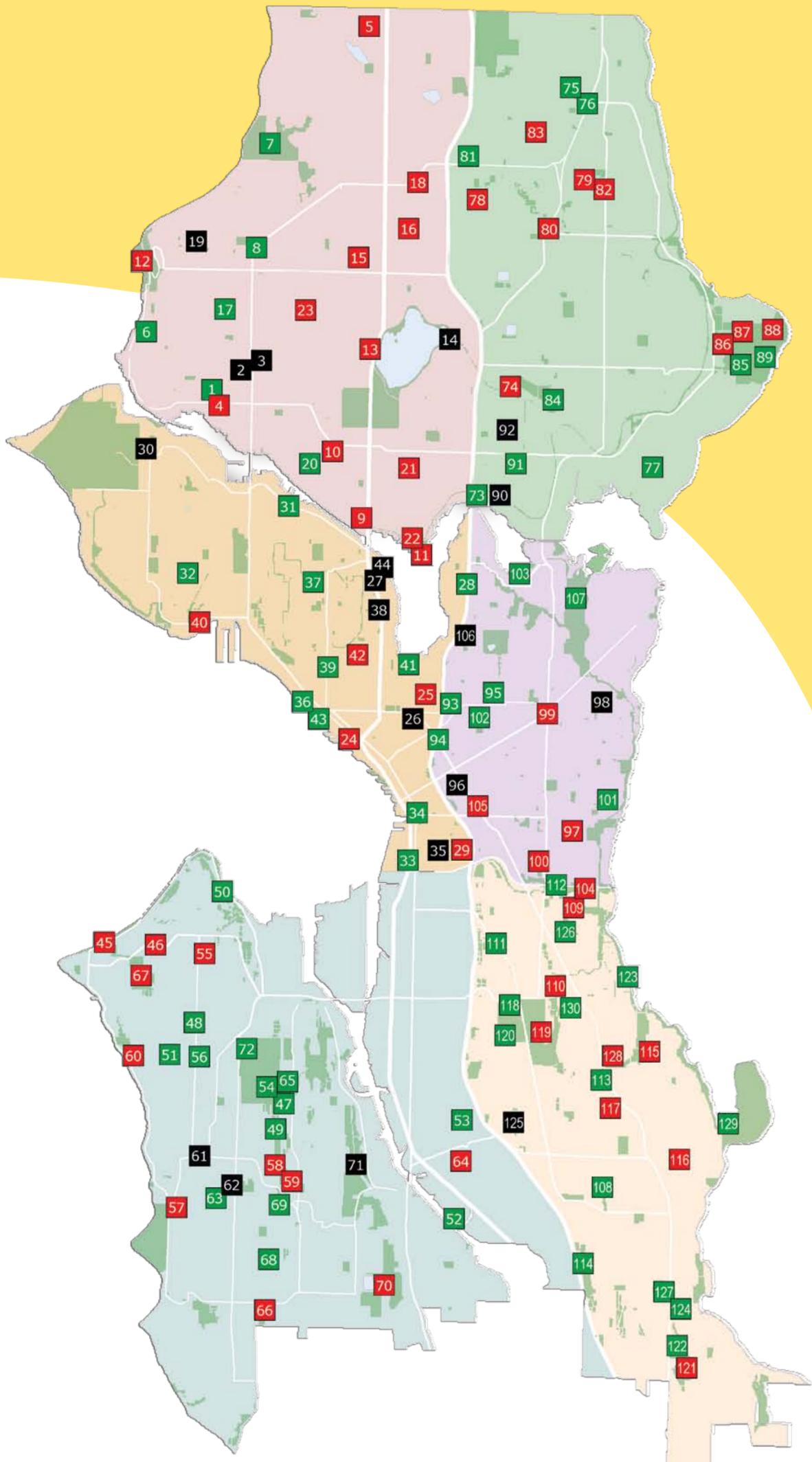
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Use this map to identify projects in your neighborhood. Watch your mail for meeting invitations, and join us in shaping your investment in Seattle's park system. Look for the most up-to-date information about your project online: [www.seattle.gov/parks/pro Parks/map.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/pro Parks/map.htm)

### Project Status Guide

- Underway (being acquired, or in planning or construction)
- Completed acquisition or construction project
- Future Project

# Pro Parks Acquisition and Development Projects

## Northwest

1. Ballard Commons Park
2. Ballard Open Space – Opportunity Fund
3. Ballard Park (Monroe Substation)
4. Bergen Place Park
5. Bitter Lake Reservoir Open Space
6. Burke-Gilman Trail
7. Carkeek Park
8. Crown Hill School Open Space
9. Ernst Park (Fremont Park)
10. Fremont Peak Park
11. Gas Works Park
12. Golden Gardens Bathhouse
13. Linden Orchard (Green Lake Open Space)
14. Green Lake Park
15. Greenwood Park
16. Licton Springs Park – Opportunity Fund
17. Loyal Heights Playfield
18. Mineral Springs Park (North Seattle Park)
19. North Beach Ravine
20. Ross Park Shelterhouse
21. Wallingford Playfield
22. Wallingford Steps
23. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Pocket Park



Solstice Park

## Southwest

45. Alki Bathhouse
46. Nantes Park
47. Brandon Mini-Park
48. Dakota Place Park
49. Delridge Open Space
50. Duwamish Head Greenbelt
51. Ercolini property – Opportunity Fund
52. Gateway North – Opportunity Fund
53. Georgetown Playfield
54. Greg Davis Park
55. Hiawatha Playfield/Community Center entries
56. Junction Plaza – Opportunity Fund
57. Soltice Park
58. Longfellow Creek Legacy Trail
59. Longfellow Creek Trail
60. Me-Kwa-Mooks Natural Area
61. Morgan Substation
62. Myrtle Reservoir
63. Orchard Street Ravine.
64. Oxbow Park (Georgetown Park)
65. Puget Boulevard Commons
66. Roxhill Park
67. Schmitz Park
68. Southwest Community Center
69. Sylvan Way
70. Westcrest Park
71. West Duwamish Greenbelt
72. West Seattle Stadium

## Northeast

73. Northlake Park
74. Cowen Park
75. Lake City Civic Core
76. Lake City Mini Park
77. Laurelhurst Community Center
78. Maple Leaf Community Garden – Opportunity Fund
79. Meadowbrook Field
80. North Open Space
81. Northgate Park
82. North Teen Life Center
83. Pinehurst Pocket Park – Opportunity Fund
84. Ravenna Creek Daylighting
85. Magnuson Park Athletic Fields
86. Magnuson Park building improvements
87. Magnuson Community Garden
88. Magnuson Off-leash Area
89. Magnuson Park wetlands

90. University District/Burke-Gilman area improvements
91. University District – Opportunity Fund
92. University Heights Open Space

## Central East

93. Bellevue Substation
94. Plymouth Pillars Park
95. Capitol Hill Park
96. First Hill Park
97. Flo Ware Park – Opportunity Fund
98. Harrison Ridge Greenbelt
99. Homer Harris Park
100. Judkins Playfield
101. Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area
102. Cal Anderson Park (Lincoln Reservoir)
103. Montlake Community Center
104. Mount Baker Ridge view property – Opportunity Fund
105. Horiuchi Park (formerly Spruce and Squire Park)
106. St. Mark's Greenbelt
107. Washington Park Arboretum

## Southeast

108. John C. Little Sr. Park
109. Bradner Gardens
110. Cheasty Boulevard
111. Chief Sealth Trail
112. Colman School Parking Lot
113. Columbia Park
114. East Duwamish Greenbelt
115. Genesee Playfield
116. Graham Hill School playground – Opportunity Fund
117. Hitt's Hill Park – Opportunity Fund
118. Jefferson Park (Beacon Reservoir)
119. Jefferson Park Pathway
120. Jefferson Park Tennis Courts
121. Kubota Garden
122. Kubota Garden Natural Area
123. Lake Washington Boulevard
124. Mapes Creek Walkway – Opportunity Fund
125. Maple School Ravine
126. Martin Luther King Jr. Park
127. Rainier Beach Public Plaza
128. Rainier Playfield
129. Seward Park Annex
130. York Park

## Central West

24. Belltown Cottage Park – Opportunity Fund
25. Cascade Playground
26. Denny Triangle – Opportunity Fund
27. Dexter Pit Park
28. I-5 Colonnade
29. International District/Chinatown Community Center – Opportunity Fund
30. Kiwanis Ravine Natural Area



IDC Community Center

31. Lake Union/Ship Canal Trail
32. Magnolia Elementary Field
33. Mountain to Sound Greenway
34. Pioneer Square Area Parks
35. Pioneer Square/International District – Opportunity Fund
36. Thomas Strat Overpass (Lake Union to Elliott Bay Trail)
37. Queen Anne Boulevard
38. Queen Anne Greenbelt
39. Queen Anne Park
40. Smith Cove
41. South Lake Union Park
42. Ward Springs Park (4<sup>th</sup> and Ward Park)
43. Waterfront Connections at Belltown and Lower Queen Anne
44. Westlake Greenbelt



Magnuson Off-leash Area