



# Parks and Recreation Committee

## Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2025

4:00 PM

\*Hybrid Meeting\*  
City Council Chambers

Commence: 4:04 PM

Adjourn: 5:43 PM

Members:	Present	Excused	Unexcused
Iris Guzmán, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Kwon	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mohamed Egal	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other City Council Members Present: Senayet Negusse

Staff Present: Mary Tuttle, Parks & Recreation Director; Michael Fitzpatrick, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director; Jessica Newton, Parks & Natural Resources Supervisor; Larissa Arroyo, Administrative Assistant III; Elby Jones, Urban Forestry Coordinator

Others Present: Victoria Love, Green Cities Coordinator; Brice Maryman, MXM Landscaper

1. Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM by Deputy Mayor Iris Guzmán.
2. Roll Call	Roll call was taken. See above.
3. Approval of Minutes	Minutes from the June 12 Meeting were approved as written.
4. Public Comment	None.
Riverton Heights Park Project Update	<p>Mike Fitzpatrick, Deputy Parks &amp; Recreation Director provided a design update on the improvements to Riverton Heights Park. Mike presented the 90% design development drawings and updated estimates on the construction budget. He is anticipating 100% development drawings in October 2025.</p> <p>The updated timeline shows the Spray Park ribbon cutting to be in June 2026, the Spray Park will be operating safely during the final construction phase for a project completion in September 2026.</p>

	<p>Mike presented 60% vs 90% design drawings completion's comparable expense estimates and addressed the gap within the projected expenditures, and the CIP fund balance.</p> <p>Mike explained how the project was under budgeted in its inception and how the project has experienced additional increases due to inflation, and ROW improvements costs triggered by constructing a permanent overflow parking.</p> <p>The funding gap does not include the projected \$1M estimated for Seattle City Light's work of underground utilities. The project can move forward with park improvements and have the undergrounding by Seattle City Light completed later. Mike presented the option of reallocating funds (\$5,060,471) from North SeaTac Park ballfield/ turf improvements to Riverton to relieve the budget deficit.</p> <p>Mike proposed an alternative for parking improvements. The Committee agreed for Mike to further explore the alternative option of having seasonal parking on site, specific to the spray park's seasonality. This would bring substantial cost savings to the project and provide a "test space" to evaluate the need of permanent parking. Mike has confirmed with SeaTac Planning/Permitting this concept is possible.</p> <p>The Committee recommended Mike provide an update, with the change from permanent year-round parking to seasonal parking and the total cost savings at the September 11<sup>th</sup> Parks &amp; Recreation Committee meeting.</p>
<p>5. Tree Replacement and Retention Standards Presentation</p>	<p>Jessica Newton, Parks and Natural Resources Supervisor gave an update on the Tree Retention &amp; Replacement proposed Park Code Amendment and Ordinance and provided answers to the Committee's questions and concerns from the last Committee meeting. The Ordinance updates will include reformatted components, simplified language within subsections and a section on monitoring, enforcement and penalties.</p> <p>This Ordinance only applies to public park lands owned and/or managed by the City of SeaTac's Parks and Recreation Department. It would also apply to the removal of trees by the Port of Seattle on land that is leased to the City of SeaTac.</p> <p>The City needs the Tree and Replacement Ordinance adopted before the anticipated scheduled removal of 33 trees in SeaTac Des Moines Creek Park in the first quarter of 2026 to ensure that the mature trees that are removed are replaced appropriately.</p> <p>The "Approved Trees List" is being developed and will be posted on the website.</p> <p>Committee comments included being in favor of publishing standards for tree retention in public areas and emphasized wanting to see the Tree List include more native conifer trees, rather than non-native</p>

	<p>deciduous trees; they commented that non-natives trees included on the list should be non-invasive and contribute to biodiversity.</p> <p>Committee raised the following suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Committee is against a list full of dwarf trees as it's not a fair replacement to the mature tree it is replacing. They would like included language indicating that "if the replaced tree does not survive it will need to be replaced with another tree."</li><li>- Committee would like to determine priority areas based on heat map and low canopy tree areas. A question arose whether it would require planting as close to the tree's location as possible, and if we cannot replant native trees in the exact location where the removal occurred, if we can require that the tree be planted in priority areas.</li></ul> <p>The Committee approved to move this as an Action Item at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> RCM.</p>
<p>6. Urban Forestry Updates</p>	<p>Elby Jones, Urban Forestry Coordinator, presented an overview of the Urban Forestry program for the City of SeaTac. They manage the ecological restoration and urban forestry crews - Partners in Employment (PIE) and Washington Conservation Corps (WCC). This winter they planted roughly 1,500 trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Part of their role is applying for grants, they received \$100K grant for the Urban Forestry program, and with the grant they purchased over 6,000 trees, shrubs, and plants for SeaTac Parks.</p> <p>With the grant the Natural Resources Program was able to purchase a trailer to house and transport tools to volunteer events and fund a portion of the Urban Forester's administrative time and WCC.</p> <p>Elby oversees the Environmental After-school program in partnership with the City of Burien, for Tyee HS youth. The fall session will run from September to early October.</p> <p>Elby introduced Victoria Love; Victoria works in a 2-year position for King Conservation District and splits time between the City of Burien and City of SeaTac. Victoria administers the payments to after-school program and paid forest stewards. There are 4-5 paid forest stewards, and they do 2 events per year; all hours are tracked.</p> <p>Some of Elby's other responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Monitoring and updating current tree inventory, facilitates tree canopying maps.</li><li>- Senior plant walks</li><li>- Tree complaints</li><li>- Tree Risks Assessments in parks &amp; ROW</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Provides staff training</li><li>- Working with Jessica Newton on drafting the Tree Retention and Replacement Ordinance for Parks</li></ul> <p>Presentation was informational only.</p>
7. Update on Current CRF's	<p>Parks &amp; Recreation Director Mary Tuttle gave the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- North SeaTac Park Acquisition Discussion: Port and City staff are continuing to work collaboratively on vetting and identifying all options available to preserve the park in perpetuity and serve as a buffer to airport operations. The joint work group has developed a scope and a timeline with the goal of completing vetting September 18, 2025.</li><li>- The CRF to increase cultural offerings was workshopped by Recreation staff. They are currently planning to give a presentation at the October A&amp;F Committee meeting because after reviewing the initial budget, they discovered there is no additional budget for 2026. The Committee asked about using Veteran's Human Levy funding; Mary shared it was possible but that the Senior Program would have to stop their outreach at the senior community sites.</li><li>- 2023 CRF regarding Tree Replacement and Retention was not added to our list, Mary would like to hold off until Jonathan's return to address.</li></ul>
8. Director's Update	<p>Parks &amp; Recreation Director Mary Tuttle gave the following updates:</p> <p>Thank you to our team for closely watching the weather this week. They saw potential for storms and winds and made the recommendation to move the event to the Community Center due to Tier 2 storm.</p>

	<p>Kudos to the Recreation team for thinking quickly through that and making the recommendation to move their event to the Community Center!</p> <p>Garden Story Time – will be August 22nd at 12:30pm. We are grateful for the partnership with the Garden and King County Library System.</p> <p>Barks &amp; Rec Event on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 3-6pm at Grandview Off-Leash Dog Park. PSA – Dogs must be up to date on their vaccinations.</p> <p>Our partners at SeaTac BMX wrapped up our summer camp this week. SeaTac youth had a segment of their camp at the racetrack. Kids who had never been on a bike before were riding their bike on the track, with smiles on their faces. We are very grateful for the partnership; last year there was an ask to our partners to see if we could have SeaTac kids involved, and SeaTac BMX hired a program director that immediately started doing outreach within the community.</p>
	<p>The meeting was adjourned at <u>5:43</u> PM.</p>