



Park CommUNITY Fund

Seattle Parks & Recreation



WELCOME EVERYONE!!!

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WELCOME EVERYONE!!!

1. Where did you grow up? What was one of your favorite things about it?
2. Think of a person, place or experience that has shaped you. How has this changed you?
3. How do you think inequity and exclusion show up in Parks work?



People Updates



Park CommUNITY Fund Team



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Evaluation & Workshop Team



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Thank you Frontline CommUNITY Partners!!

Frontline CommUNITY Partners

- Africa Community Housing and Development
- Cham Refugees Community
- Hip Hop is Green
- Lake City Collective
- Mary's Place Seattle
- Rainier Beach Action Coalition

City of Seattle Commissions

- Indigenous Advisory Council
- Seattle Disability Commission
- Seattle LGBTQ Commission



Today's Agenda:

1. Quick Context-setting on the Park CommUNITY Fund
2. Presentations: Park Equity & Park Development Process

[*BREAK*]

3. Exercise: Clarifying & Identifying Process Pinchpoints
4. Closing & Save-the-Dates



A large, stylized yellow starburst or sunburst graphic with multiple points, centered on the slide. The text "PCF Overview" is overlaid on the center of this graphic.

PCF Overview

Overview

The fund invests in large and small capital projects using participatory budgeting and equitable grantmaking practices. The Seattle Park District allocated dedicated funding for investment in Seattle communities between 2023 and 2028.

Frontline communities work alongside Seattle Park and Recreation (SPR) staff through the process.



Purpose

The Park CommUNITY Fund will advance park equity through a community-led funding process by:



Expanding inclusive access to clean and safe parks that foster healthy people, thriving environments, and vibrant communities.



Closing gaps in access to quality parks and park facilities that disproportionately affect frontline communities.



Centering efforts in partnership and transparency with communities to build ongoing trust, relationships, and investment.



Frontline Communities*

Communities that experience high displacement risks, disproportionate exposure to environmental harms, and a history of disinvestment and lack of green space access; these include:

- Black people
- American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander People
- Tribal communities in the Seattle region
- Communities of color
- Immigrants and refugees
- People with limited English proficiency
- People with disabilities
- People who are trans, non-binary, or gender non-conforming
- People experiencing housing instability or homelessness
- People who have been incarcerated
- People experiencing poverty
- Older adults (65+)
- Youth (14 - 24)

Priority Areas

Geographic areas defined broadly by zip code or neighborhood, where communities of color, immigrants, refugees, people experiencing poverty, and limited-English proficiency tend to live, which are also areas highly impacted by socioeconomic and environmental challenges.



4-Stage Pilot Cycle: 2023-25 Stages

Program Planning and Design

1 Year



Project Selection

6 Months

- Idea Collection
- Project Development
- Final Selection



Project Implementation

1 - 3+ Years

- Project Planning
- Project Design
- Project Construction



Evaluation and Workshop

6 Months - 1 Year

- Program Evaluation
- Community Feedback
- Workshops about Community Advocacy and Park Development

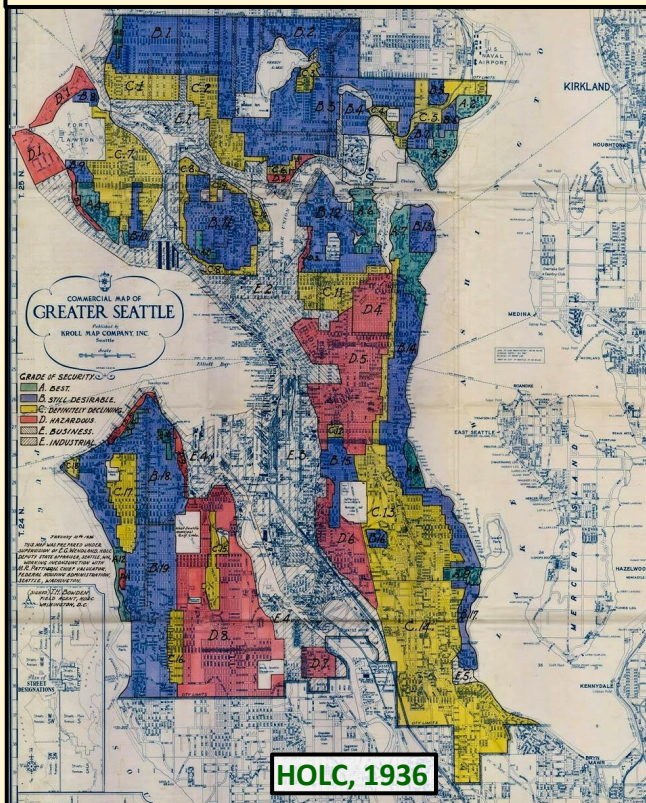




Park Equity

Redlining (Credit Risk), 1936

King County Annexation, 1954

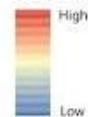


Displacement Risk, 2015

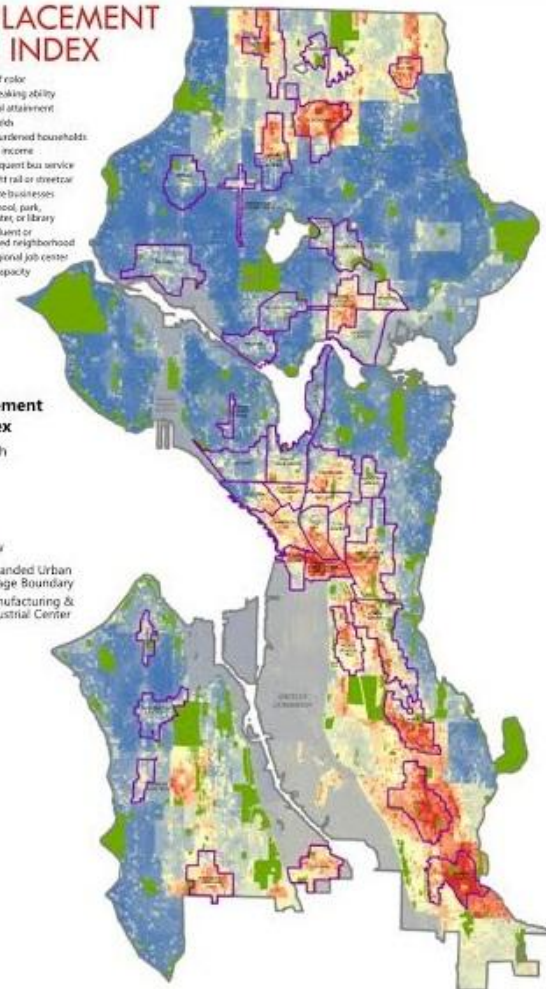
DISPLACEMENT RISK INDEX

Communities of risk:
 Low English-speaking ability
 Low educational attainment
 Renter households
 Housing cost-burdened households
 Low household income
 Proximity to frequent bus service
 Proximity to light rail or streetcar
 Proximity to core-businesses
 Proximity to school, park, community center, or library
 Proximity to affluent or already gentrified neighborhood
 Proximity to regional job center
 Development capacity
 Median rent

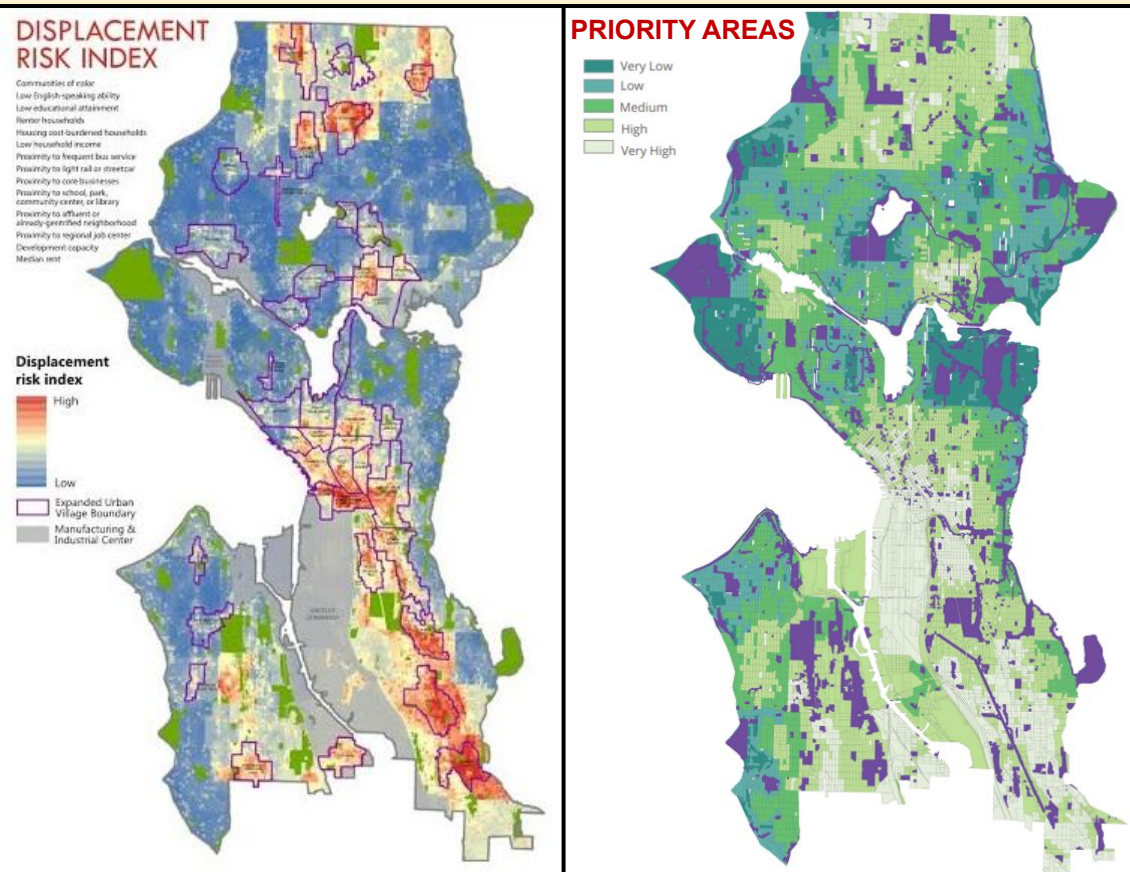
Displacement risk index



Expanded Urban
Village Boundary
 Manufacturing &
Industrial Center



SPR Park Equity: “just & fair access to high-quality parks to build healthier & stronger communities for all”



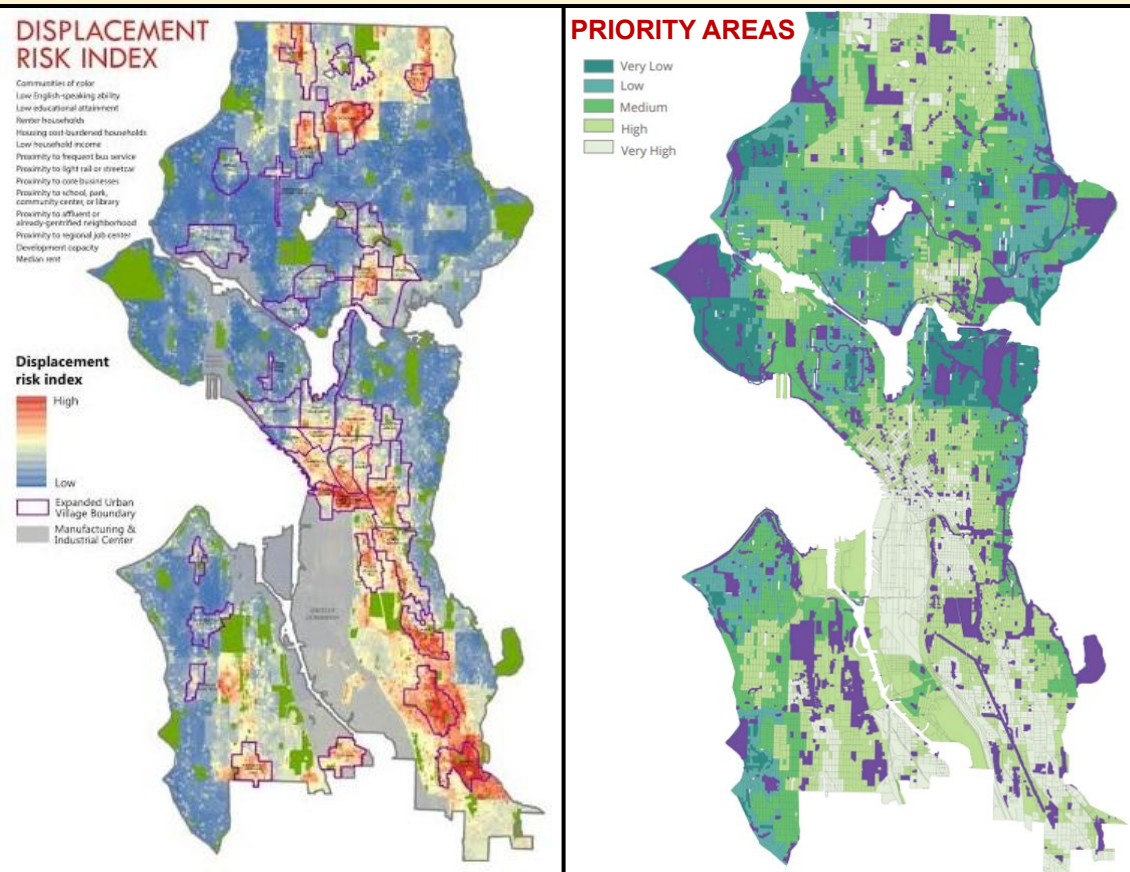
Seattle Park Access Needs*:

- Increased physical access & safety
- More environmental programs, incl. safe/maintained green space
- Simplify complex political process and expand engagement

* From 2016 Equity & Env't Agenda & 2019 Equitable Access to Parks Report



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Park Equity Improves Health Outcomes

- ↑ Birth outcomes & child development
- ↑ Performance at school
- ↑ Mental health & social cohesion
- ↑ Immune function & post-op recovery



- ↓ Obesity, asthma, diabetes
- ↓ Blood pressure, rates of heart disease
- ↓ Stress, anxiety, depression
- ↓ Criminality & aggression

(see Frumkin et al. 2017)

Park Equity Framework:

1. Geographic (Distributional) Equity:

- Fair distribution of benefits and burdens; Prioritizing communities experiencing most inequity

2. Process (Procedural) Equity:

- Transparent, equitable, inclusive participation & decision-making – beginning to end

3. Institutional (Structural) Equity:

- Addressing underlying factors at root of inequities – correcting past harms as well as preventing future ones



Park Equity needs holistic strategy:

Distributional Equity is not just about distance...

- How do you get there? (e.g. Cesar Chavez Park)
- Can you use the amenities (e.g. due to disability)
- Is it culturally accessible:
 - Muslim women & exercise equipment, pools
 - Sense of belonging (e.g. LGBTQ+, immigrants)



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- How do you get there? (e.g. Cesar Chavez Park)
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Procedural & Structural Equity is similarly nuanced:

- Procedural (e.g. expertise & awareness to testify)
- Structural (e.g. In Rainer Beach, past policy allowed a boat ramp, but now other laws prevent swimming)



SMC 18.12.189: No powered watercraft w/in 300' of a swimming beach >>>



Park Equity is intersectional!

Social categories interact to limit power in frontline communities:

- Racial & ethnic discrimination
- Other categories of discrimination, e.g. gender & sexuality, age and disability
- Many of these face economic hardship – often as a result of discrimination

ALL of these identities intersect.

Avoid the Oppression Olympics...



Feedback that preceded PCF

City & Community Conversations showed some positive change at SPR:

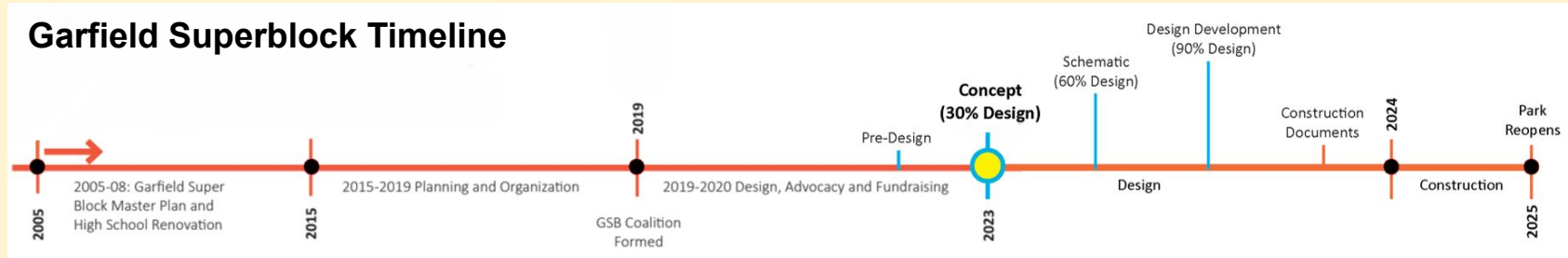
- Funds many projects in equity priority areas
- Embeds equity in capital projects
- Considers community needs during engagement process
- Secures additional external funding for community-initiated projects
- Supportive staff

Lake City Park Opening (2022)



Feedback that preceded PCF

City & Community Conversations also identified areas for improvement:



- Expand long-range planning w/ frontline communities & capacity for community-initiated projects
- Increase inclusive outreach and engagement
- Communicate park development processes and policies
- Build trust with communities by acknowledging past inequities
- Emphasize climate resilience strategies and policies
- Increase maintenance capacity to support expansion of projects and new spaces



Feedback that preceded PCF

Board of Parks & Recreation Commissioners

In 2019, a BPRC subcommittee called to replace the Major Project Challenge Fund to address structural inequities, challenges & barriers:

- Focus on areas w/ historic disparities while remaining open to all communities
- Increase staffing to build trust, rapport & community capacity to navigate process
- Remove match requirement
- Increase program funding & allow for various-size projects





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Park Development Process

Exercise : Identifying Park Process

Pinchpoints

1. Group in Pairs & Triads (with a mix of Parks experience)
2. Walk along the Park Process butcher paper:
 - Write **QUESTIONS** on **YELLOW POST-ITS** (please ID phase!)
 - Even if we answer, write them down so we can track them



Exercise : Identifying Park Process

Pinchpoints

1. Group in Pairs & Triads (with prior park experience)
2. Walk along the Park Process butcher paper:
 - Write **QUESTIONS** on **YELLOW POST-ITS** (please ID phase!)
 - Even if we answer, write them down so we can track them
3. Pairs cluster in two groups to discuss (*groups will switch phases*)
 - Group A: Early Phases I–III (Early Advocacy–Concept Design)
 - Group B: Late Phases IV–VI (Schematic Design–Construction)
4. Moderator will collect your question notes & groups will discuss:
 - Write **PINCHPOINTS** on **RED POST-ITS**
 - Write **WHAT'S WORKING** on **GREEN POST-ITS**





Save-the-Date!

Workshop Series Overview

TODAY Park Development & the Park CommUNITY Fund

- *2-hour In-person workshop* for community input on PCF 2026
- Relationship-building with Parks and among frontline communities

Jan 22 Power Building through the Park CommUNITY Fund

- *1-day In-person workshop* to work on community-identified challenges
- Feedback on Evaluation recommendations

Feb 5 Updates to Park CommUNITY Fund Process

- *½-day In-person workshop* to co-develop Community Partnership Structure
- Clarity on Engagement Consultant & Review Panelist recruitment (Mar–May)



Thank you!



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Project Updates

Recommended Projects

Tier 1: Under \$150k

Central

- Exercise Equipment Replacement at Hing Hay
- Water Bottle Refilling Station at Garfield Teen Life Center

North

- Bathroom Study in NE Seattle Parks
- Outdoor Cultural Space at Green Lake Community Center
- Community Gathering Improvements at Haller Lake

South

- Art Installations and Signage at Hutchinson Playground
- Spray Park Feasibility Study in Rainier Beach
- Kids Basketball Hoops at SE Parks

West

- Covered Shelter Area at Roxhill Park
- Duwamish Art & Signage at Herrings House Park
- Outdoor exercise equipment in South Park

Tier 2: Between \$150k to \$1.5M

Central

- Access Improvements and Plan for Denny Blaine Park
- Black Legacy Community Parks Master Plan in the Central District

North

- Access Improvements at Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center

South

- Covered and Lit Basketball Courts at Be'er Sheva Park



Recommended Funding

Tier 1: Up to \$150k

Project	BPRC Subcommittee Recommendations	Adjusted Recommendations
North	\$290,000	\$240,000
Bathroom Study in NE Seattle Parks	\$40,000	\$40,000
Outdoor Cultural Space at Green Lake Community Center	\$150,000	\$100,000
Community Gathering Improvements at Haller Lake	\$100,000	\$100,000
Central	\$50,000	\$50,000
Exercise Equipment Replacement at Hing Hay	\$40,000	\$40,000
Water Bottle Refilling Station at Garfield Teen Life Center	\$10,000	\$10,000
West	\$450,000	\$450,000
Covered Shelter Area at Roxhill Park	\$150,000	\$150,000
Duwamish Art & Signage at Herrings House Park	\$150,000	\$150,000
Outdoor exercise equipment in South Park	\$150,000	\$150,000
South	\$210,000	\$210,000
Art Installations and Signage at Hutchinson Playground	\$120,000	\$120,000
Spray Park Feasibility Study in Rainier Beach	\$50,000	\$50,000
Kids Basketball Hoops at SE Parks	\$40,000	\$40,000
Total	\$1,000,000	\$950,000



Recommended Funding

Tier 2: Between \$150k to \$1.5M

Project	BPRC Subcommittee Recommendations	Adjusted Recommendations*
North	\$1,200,000	\$1,075,000
Access Improvements at Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center	\$1,200,000	\$1,075,000
Central	\$1,600,000	\$1,100,000
Access Improvements and Plan for Denny Blaine Park	\$700,000	\$400,000
Black Legacy Community Parks Master Plan in the Central District	\$900,000	\$700,000
South	\$1,200,000	\$1,125,000
Covered and Lit Basketball Courts at Be'er Sheva Park	\$1,200,000	\$1,125,000
Total	\$4,000,000	\$3,300,000

Total Funding

Region	BPRC Subcommittee Recommendations Total	Adjusted Recommendations Total
North	\$1,490,000	\$1,315,000
Central	\$1,650,000	\$1,150,000
West	\$450,000	\$450,000
South	\$1,410,000	\$1,335,000
Total	\$5,000,000	\$4,250,000

