



Park CommUNITY Fund

Seattle Parks & Recreation



WELCOME EVERYONE!!!

1. What was your earliest memory?



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2. Think of a person, place or experience that has shaped you. How has this changed you?



WELCOME EVERYONE!!!

1. What was your earliest memory?
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?



Today's Agenda:

1. Presentation: Park System Overview
2. Exercise: Navigating the Park Development Process
[Lunch & Walk to Be'er Sheva Park]
3. Exercise: Power mapping for the Parks Process
4. Exercise: Leverage Lab
5. Practical: Design Your Ideal Park – Then Fight for It
6. Closing & Save-the-Dates



Goals & Motivations for Today!

1. GOALS: What are we trying to achieve?
 - Align staff & community on Park process challenges
 - Community Advocacy & Organizing Strategies
2. MOTIVATIONS: What's in it for y'all?
 - Power-building to solve persistent park inequities
 - Deepening frontline community partnerships
 - Exercising Collective Advocacy "muscles"



People Updates



Park CommUNITY Fund Team



Rachel Banner

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Recreation



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Evaluation & Workshop Team



Rob Baird

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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



Announcements & Advocacy Ramps:

1. City Parks & Open Space Plan
2. Park District Fund Renewal
3. Park CommUNITY Fund updates
 - Incorporating PCF Eval Recommendations
 - Community Partnership Restructuring
 - Community Contracts Description (1-pager)



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Park System Overview

How Parks are funded

Available here:
openbudget.seattle.gov/



City of Seattle Open Budget

Operating Budget Summary

Operating Budget

\$7.26 Billion

Operating Budget

This budget provides the funds for Seattle's services.

[Explore Operating Budget](#)

Capital Budget Summary

Capital Budget

\$1.63 Billion

Capital Budget

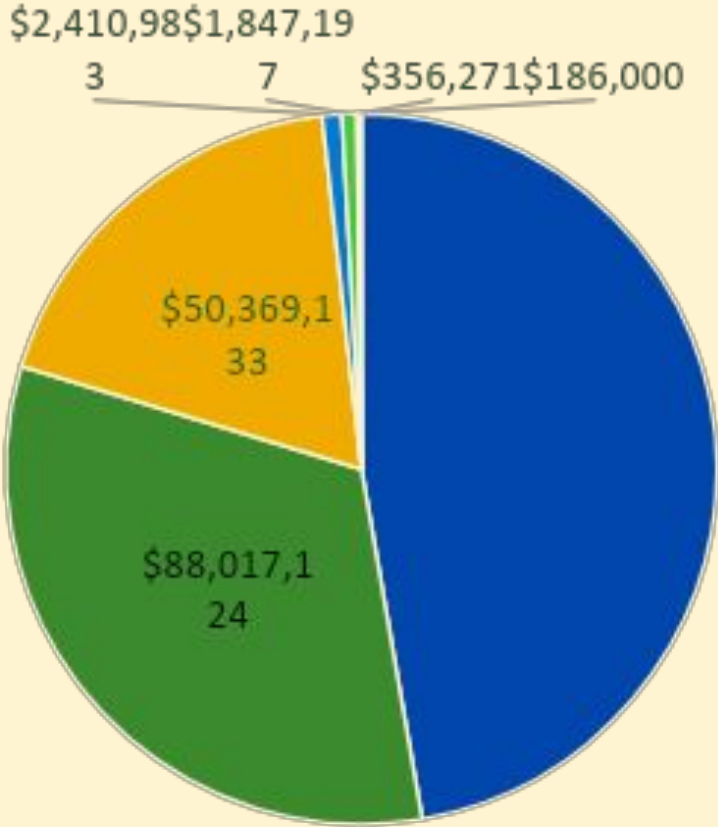
These funds go toward one-time infrastructure and improvement projects.

[Explore Capital Budget](#)



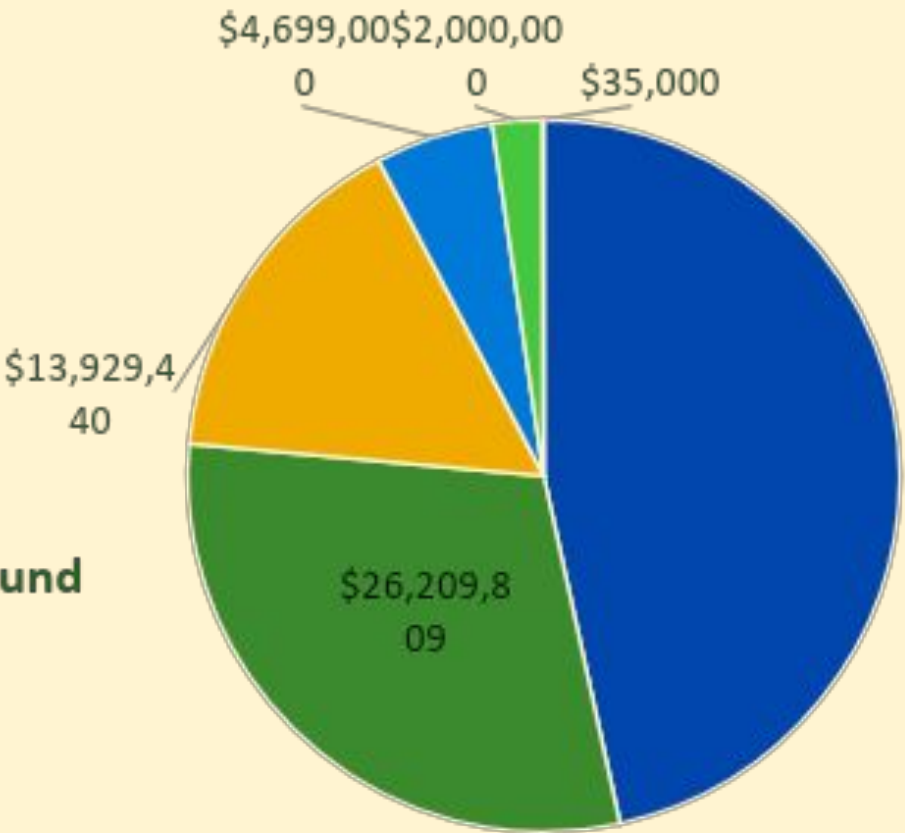
Park & Recreation Operating Budget

- General Fund
- Seattle Park District Fund
- Park And Recreation Fund
- FEPP Levy 2025
- King County Parks Levy Fund
- Sweetened Beverage Tax Fund
- Payroll Expense Tax



Park & Recreation Capital Budget

- Seattle Park District Fund
- REET II Capital Fund
- REET I Capital Fund
- Park And Recreation Fund
- King County Parks Levy Fund
- Unrestricted Cumulative Reserve Fund



Park & Recreation Capital Budget

- **Seattle Park District (\$128.86 M)**
 - Separate Tax District
 - 6 – year budget cycle
 - Approved by Council
- **General Fund (\$128.34 M)**
 - City of Seattle General Tax
 - 2 –year budget cycle
 - Mayor and Council apportioned
- **REET Capital Fund (\$40.14 M)**
 - Real Estate Excise Tax - tax on the sale of real property
- **Park & Recreation Fund (\$55.7 M)**
 - Fees and Grants





Park Equity

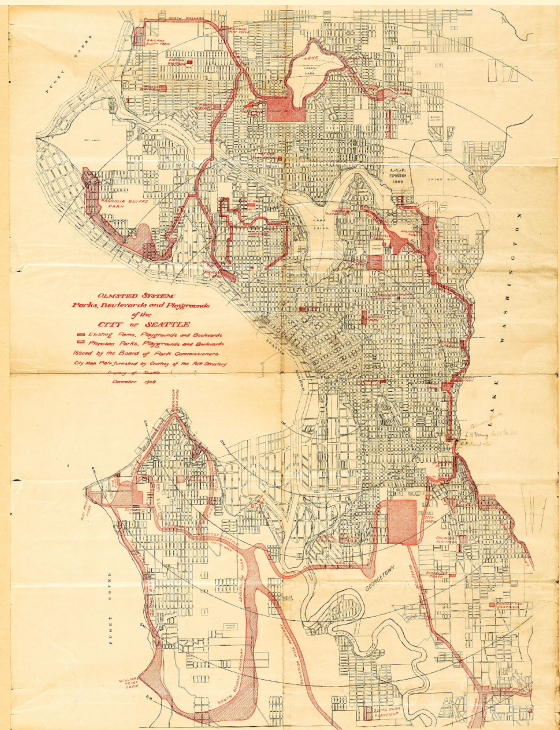
1908 Olmsted Park System >> 1936 HOLC (Redlining) Maps >> 2015 Displacement Risk

King County Annexation, 1954

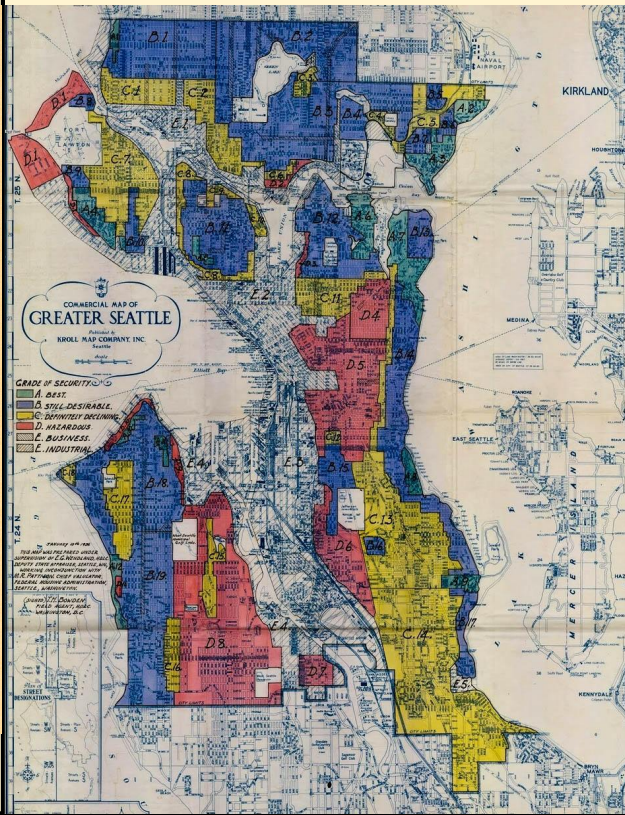


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King County
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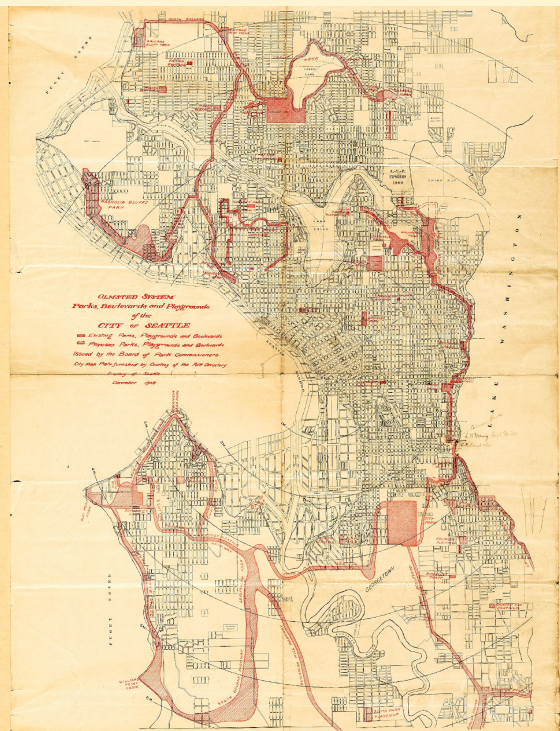


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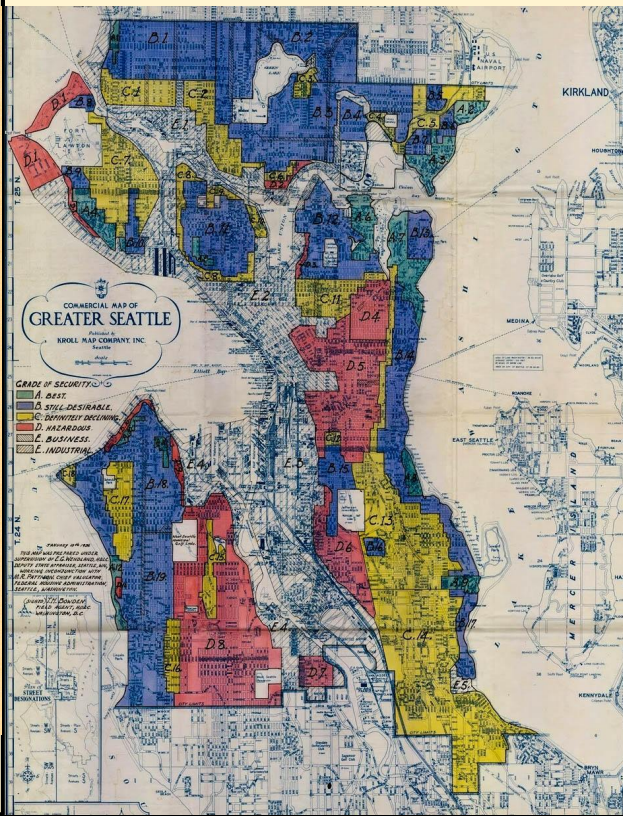


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DISPLACEMENT RISK INDEX

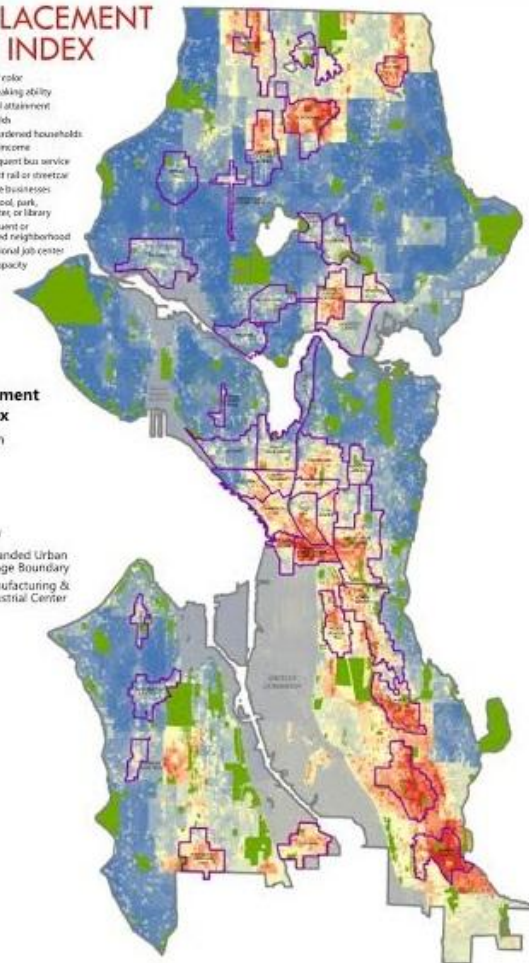
Communities of color
Low English-speaking ability
Low educational attainment
Renter households
Housing cost-burdened households
Low household income
Proximity to frequent bus service
Proximity to light rail or streetcar
Proximity to core businesses
Proximity to school, park, community center, or library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

Displacement risk index

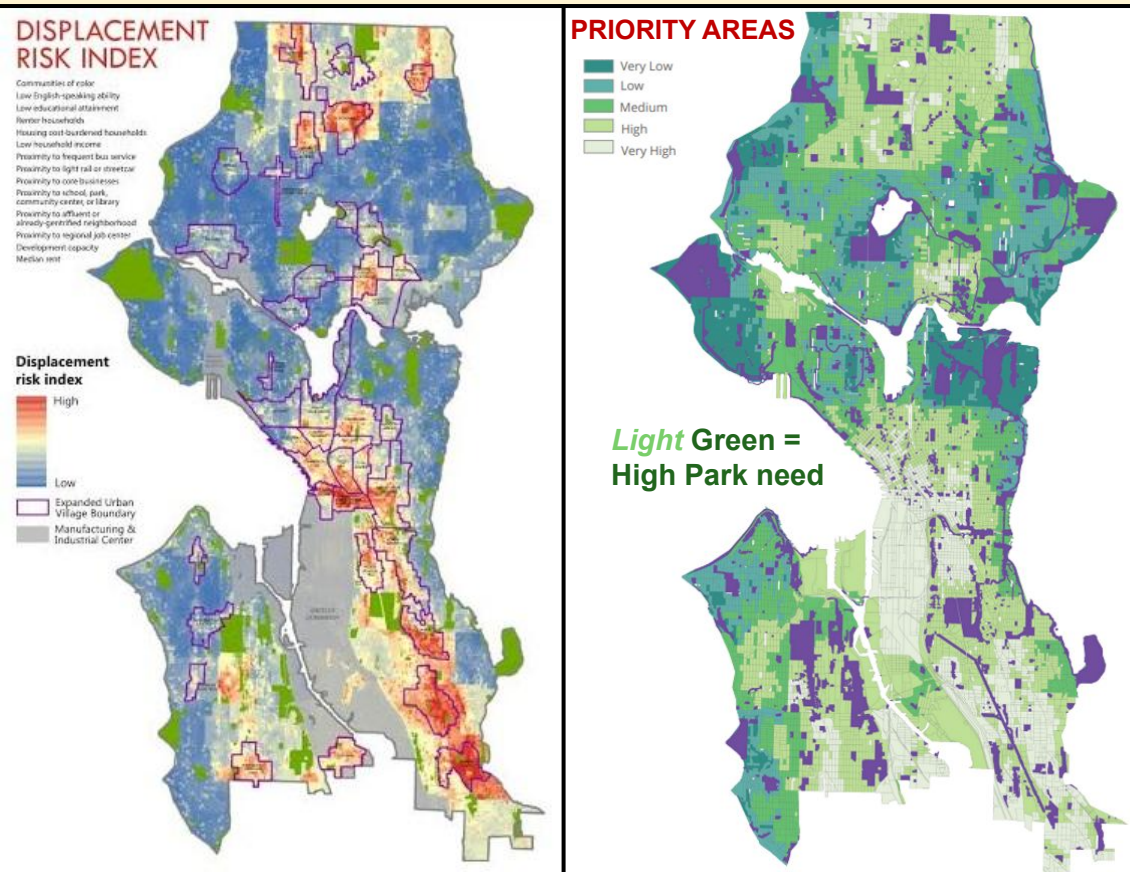
High

Low

Expanded Urban
Village Boundary
Manufacturing &
Industrial Center



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



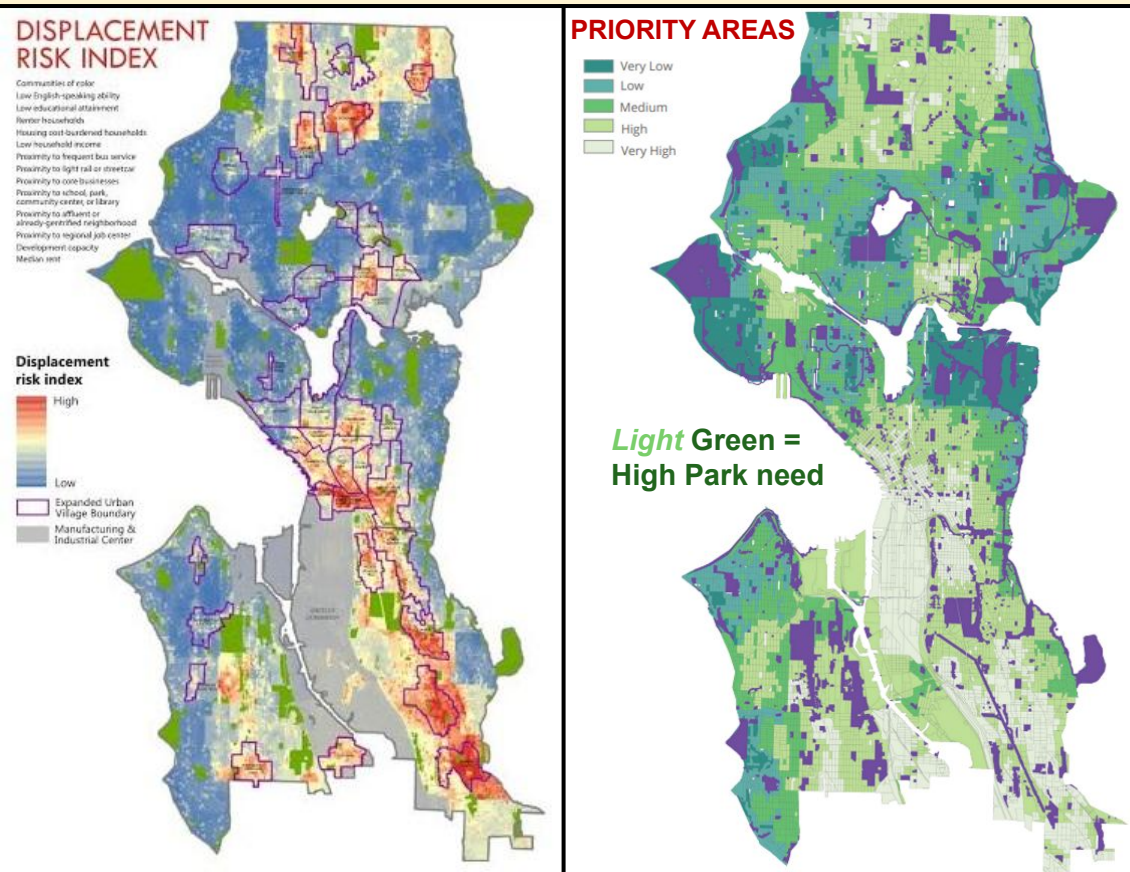
Seattle Park Access Needs*:

- 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



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



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Park Equity Framework:

1. Geographic (Distributional) Equity:

- *Fair distribution of benefits/burdens; Prioritizes most impacted communities*

2. Process (Procedural) Equity:

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

3. Institutional (Structural) Equity:

- *Addresses underlying factors at root of inequities – corrects past harms and prevents future ones*





Park Process Improvements

Exercise : Identifying Park Process

Pinchpoints

1. Review the “Generalized Park Development Process”
2. Journal: How do YOU see yourself involved in this process
3. Share in Pairs/Triads
4. Discuss in Pairs:
 - What are strategies employed by community?
 - What are the range of roles in play?
 - What are the greatest needs you’ve seen?





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**What we
heard...**

1. Creating a vision plan, Ideating for short/long term strategies
2. A 3rd party/middle entity to steward advocacy work across the city
3. Information about how SPR operates, opportunities for community groups to form to support priorities (e.g. Friends of ...)
4. Understanding community's role in fundraising
5. Listening to community need and prioritizing need in design



Power mapping the Park Process

1. Cluster as pairs around the plots
2. ID players & factors: people, funders, orgs, elected officials, agency staff, policies, social or enviro issues, others?
3. Discuss & use dots to indicate: **Red** = Barrier; **Yellow** = Challenge that could become an asset; **Green** = Asset
4. Place on power map to indicate Hi or Lo Equity or Power



Leverage Lab: Power points & tools

1. Cluster as pairs by park project or goals
2. Discuss leverage points & power-building tools relevant to your park project/goals.
3. Recall the power map and consider questions like:
 - Who/what needs to move?
 - Who/what needs to be organized?
 - What do they care about?/What are they limited by?
 - What pressure or incentives can you apply?



Leverage Lab: Power points & tools

Leverage Point Examples:

1. Site selection/prioritization
2. Community desire/capacity
3. Emerging situations
4. Design priorities
5. Fundraising
6. City Budgeting & Planning
7. Advocacy w/ electeds

Powerbuilding Tool Examples:



Exercise : Power-building Practical

- 1. Pairs cluster into 2–3 groups and ID following roles:**
 - Facilitator: Make sure all voices heard & keep folks on track**
 - Notetaker: Track ideas and questions**
 - Reporter: Notetaker + others in group**
- 2. Agree on a park project (real or imagined) to pursue**
- 3. Design overarching strategy & develop a few tactics**
- 4. Roleplay one of your tactics!**



Sample Power Tactics

- Talking points for a meeting with a parks official
- Call script for your councilmember
- 2-minute public comment (or a series of them)
- Solidarity or support ask to another org
- Demand letters (to whom? Key message?)
- Grant-writing (targets, vision, outline)
- Community-driven Neighborhood Frameworks



Takeaways for a “Power-building Toolkit”

What are you taking away from the exercises today?

What are your favorite leverage tools & tactics?

Are there pitfalls or risks to consider?

Have we missed areas that you feel are important?



Power-building actions staff are considering:

1. Park process cheat sheet
2. Power mapping templates
3. Sample talking points & public comment strategy
4. Case studies of community-driven parks
5. Publicly accessible “Community Resource Folder”





Save-the-Date!

Upcoming opportunities!

Feb 5 Updates to Park CommUNITY Fund Structure

- *1/2-day workshop* to co-develop Community Partnership Structure
- Clarity on Engagement Consultant & Review Panelist recruitment

Mar-May Apply to be a Park CommUNITY Fund Consultant!

- Sign up to be notified of recruitment

Sum '26 Target launch for next Park CommUNITY Fund Round

- Start gauging interest in your neighborhood
- Attend community meetings for recruitment



Thank you!



**Park
CommUNITY
Fund**

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A large, yellow, multi-pointed starburst graphic is centered in the background. The text "Project Updates" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the starburst.

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

