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Budget Action Title: Pass C.B. 117623 amending the Department of Parks and Recreation's fee schedule

Councilmembers: Budget Committee

Staff Analyst: Tony Kilduff

Council Bill or Resolution: C.B. 117623

Date		Total	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Budget Action description:

C.B. 117623 amends the Department of Parks and Recreation’s fees for a number of its services and facilities for 2013 and 2014. In all cases fees set for 2013 remain in effect in 2014. The proposed changes include:

- New admissions fees for the Volunteer Park Conservatory and the Japanese Garden;
- Swimming pool rates for:
 - Recreational swim;
 - Fitness swim;
 - Swimming instruction; and
 - Competitive training
- New fees for the Camp Long Challenge course;
- Langston Hughes rental rates; and
- Space rental rates at Magnuson Park.

Fees are primarily based on a combination of comparables, benefit assignment guidelines, and cost recovery goals. This approach to fee setting was adopted by the Council in 2010 after extensive review in 2008 and 2009 of the existing approach, and was the basis for a substantial revision to the fees and charges in 2011 and 2012.

Besides the benefit assignment guidelines and cost recovery goals noted above, some fees are adjusted based on a comparison to fees charged by other local park and recreation providers. The most prominent example of this approach in 2013 is the swimming pool fees. The proposed fee increases were developed after a survey of 2012 fees at pools in Bellevue, Issaquah, Federal Way,

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Mercer Island, Redmond, Renton, Shoreline, King County (Evergreen Pool and the King County Aquatic Center) as well as Everett, Mountlake Terrace, Lynnwood, and Tacoma. These pool fees have been used in previous year comparisons related to fee setting.

New fees are being proposed for the use of the new Camp Long Challenge Course as well as the various renovated spaces in the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center (LHPAC). In both cases, fees associated with other facilities were considered in these new fees. However, direct comparisons to similar type facilities is challenging because of the uniqueness of both LHPAC and the Challenge Course. For the Camp Long challenge course, Parks considered fees charged by Bellevue Parks, Camp Sealth, Highline School District, Cispus Environmental Learning Center. For Langston Hughes, Parks considered facilities such as the Broadway Performance Hall, the ACT Allen Theatre, Town Hall, the Palace Ballroom, Mount Baker Community Club, the Kirkland Performance Center and others.

The fee changes at Magnuson are mostly to bring the rate into line with other Parks facilities.