

2014 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

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68	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Long-term plan for DPR's athletic fields

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Burgess; Conlin

Staff Analyst: Kathy Nyland

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

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent requests that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) develop a long-term, master plan for its athletic field improvement projects. This is of utmost importance especially before another revenue stream is identified (such as a future parks levy or Metropolitan Parks District). DPR should provide a report to the Parks and Neighborhoods Committee (or its equivalent) on the master plan.

This report should include:

- Detailed report on the progress of projects identified, initiated, and completed through the 2008 Parks and Open Space Levy.
- A report on the vision and plan for future field acquisition and development of athletic fields, including conversion of grass fields to synthetic turf fields.
- A detailed report on the renovation and replacement cycle of current synthetic turf.
- A strategy for funding and funding mechanisms for both acquisition and replacement.

Background:

DPR manages and maintains 197 athletic fields. This includes 37 synthetic fields and 160 grass fields. Grass fields are only scheduled from spring through early fall; they are closed to prevent damage from mid-November through February. Synthetic turf fields provide year round play and a higher quality of play.

Synthetic fields are used more than five times as much during the year as grass fields. Use of the athletic fields is very popular in Seattle for sports ranging from soccer and baseball to cricket and track and field, and there is an ever-increasing demand for scheduled field time. DPR recognizes the need for increasing capacity of playfields. This is evident by the 2008 Parks and Open Space Levy where \$10.5M was allocated to athletic field improvement.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Parks and Neighborhoods

Date Due to Council: April 30, 2014