

2015 - 2016 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
47	2	A	1

Budget Action Title: Develop guidelines and recommendations concerning the Open Space Opportunity Fund

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Burgess; Clark; Godden; Rasmussen

Staff Analyst: Evan Clifthorne; Traci Ratzliff

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

Statement of Legislative Intent:

Council requests that the Department of Parks and Recreation work with the Department of Finance and Administrative Services, the Office of Sustainability & Environment, the Legislative Department, and other appropriate departments to:

- i. identify potential inconsistencies or opportunities for improvement in the City’s current policies concerning the acquisition and preservation of open space and natural areas, especially as they relate to existing City goals such as those found in the Urban Forest Stewardship Plan and the Climate Action Plan; and
- ii. make recommendations concerning the management and operation of an Open Space Opportunity Fund (OSOF, established by GS 47-1-A), including recommendations on how the OSOF could help advance City and community goals and priorities.

Council intends the OSOF to be a City-managed program that would work in cooperation with community members or organizations to assist in the purchase or retention of surplus City property for use as publicly accessible open space, natural area, P-Patch, or similar use. Council further anticipates that the purchase of real property through the OSOF would ultimately be supplemented with funds from those community members or organizations who express interest in the property.

Recommendations concerning the OSOF should address the following questions:

- What are the criteria for selecting properties to be eligible for purchase through the OSOF, and how would those properties be prioritized?
- What options exist to address equity among neighborhoods throughout the city?
- How should the appropriate level of financial contribution from community members or organizations toward the purchase of a given property be determined, and should the contribution levels be uniform or should they vary based on geographic and/or demographic conditions?
- If some level of community contribution is required as part of the OSOF purchase of surplus property, what is the appropriate course of action if the community contribution levels are not met? What is an appropriate timeline for requiring any such contribution?
- What options exist for final disposition of purchased property? Should the property remain under City ownership and management, or should the property be transferred to a third party for the purpose of conserving that property as an open space or natural area? What are the pros and cons of each approach?
 - If a third party is more appropriate, what guidelines should exist concerning the sale of the property, and with whom might potential partnerships be formed concerning the purchase and maintenance of the property?
- What options exist concerning public outreach to neighborhoods who may wish to participate in this program? What partnerships might help facilitate the implementation of those options?
- What entity would most appropriately serve as the managing entity for the OSOF, and what staffing would be required for that entity?

Responsible Council Committee(s): Parks, Seattle Center, Libraries and Gender Pay Equity

Date Due to Council: July 31st, 2015