

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

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4 AN ORDINANCE relating to an interlocal agreement with the Seattle Park District, if formation
5 of the district is approved by the voters within the City; approving the form of an
6 interlocal agreement and authorizing the Mayor to execute such agreement on behalf of
7 the City.

8 WHEREAS, by Article XI of the City Charter, the Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”)
9 has the responsibility for the management and control of the City’s public parks and
10 green spaces; and

11 WHEREAS, DPR manages a 6,200-acre park system of 465 parks and extensive natural areas,
12 including athletic fields, tennis courts, play areas, two specialty gardens, and over 25
13 miles of boulevards and 120 miles of trails, and numerous recreational facilities,
14 including 26 community centers, 8 indoor swimming pools, 2 outdoor (summer)
15 swimming pools, 2 small craft centers, 4 golf courses, and an outdoor stadium; and

16 WHEREAS, the cost of the backlog of parks and recreation major maintenance work in 2014 is
17 estimated at \$267 million; and

18 WHEREAS, the City's Comprehensive Plan, Parks 2011 Development Plan and the 2014 Parks
19 Legacy Plan outline key strategies, objectives and investments for preserving and
20 improving parks, open spaces, facilities and programs; and

21 WHEREAS, the City has limited available current and future funding to pay for necessary
22 preservation and maintenance of its existing parks and recreation facilities and programs
23 and to make targeted investments toward creating innovative programs anticipating and
24 responding to future needs; and

25 WHEREAS, by Resolution 31454 (May, 2013) the Mayor and City Council created the Parks
26 Legacy Citizens Advisory Committee (the “Legacy Committee”) to ensure citizen
27 participation in the development of a potential ballot measure for funding operations,
28 maintenance, development and acquisition of parks and recreation facilities and
29 programs; and

30 WHEREAS, the Legacy Committee, after being duly appointed and after spending many hours
31 in open meetings, receiving public testimony and deliberating, has recommended that the
32 City Council initiate formation of a metropolitan park district, by placing before the
33 voters within the boundaries of the City of Seattle a ballot measure to create the Seattle
34 Park District (the “Seattle Park District”); and

1 WHEREAS, Chapter 35.61 RCW and other state law provides that a metropolitan park district
2 may be created upon voter approval of a ballot proposition submitted to the voters of the
3 proposed district, and that a metropolitan park district has certain statutory powers,
4 including the power to levy and impose various taxes and fees to generate revenues to
5 provide ongoing funding to maintain, operate and improve parks, community centers,
6 pools, and other recreation facilities and programs; and

7 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council has determined that formation of a metropolitan park
8 district that includes the entire area within the boundaries of the City of Seattle would
9 enhance and stabilize the funding available for the current and future parks projects,
10 programs and services within the City; and

11 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council finds it to be in the interest of the City and its residents and
12 businesses to place before the voters located within the boundaries of the City, a ballot
13 proposition to establish a citywide metropolitan park district to provide stable, ongoing
14 funding to maintain, operate and improve parks, community centers, pools, and other
15 recreation facilities and programs throughout the City; and

16 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council has adopted Council Bill 118055, directing the submission
17 to the voters of a ballot proposition regarding formation of the Seattle Park District
18 encompassing the City's boundaries and governed by a Board of Park Commissioners
19 (the "Seattle Park District Board") consisting of the Seattle City Councilmembers serving
20 in an *ex officio* and independent capacity; and

21 WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35.61.040, if a majority of the voters voting on the ballot
22 proposition approve of the formation of the Seattle Park District, the district will be
23 created as a municipal corporation effective immediately upon certification of the
24 election results; and

25 WHEREAS, in order to clearly describe the cooperative relationship between the Seattle Park
26 District and the City, the City Council finds that it is in the best interests of the City to
27 enter into an interlocal agreement with the Seattle Park District as further described in
28 this ordinance; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

29 **Section 1. Statement of Intent.** It is the intent of the City that, if the voters approve
30 formation of the Seattle Park District ("Seattle Park District") within the boundaries of the City
31 of Seattle, the City will work in cooperation with that district to further recommendations of the
32 Parks Legacy Citizens' Advisory Committee to ensure the stable, ongoing funding to maintain,
33 operate and improve parks, community centers, pools, and other recreation facilities and

1 programs throughout the City. As required by the City Charter, the Department of Parks and
2 Recreation (“DPR”) will retain responsibility for the management and control of the City’s
3 public parks and green spaces and will work cooperatively under an interlocal agreement with
4 the Seattle Park District, as further authorized herein.

5 **Section 2. Interlocal Agreement Authorized.** If the voters of the proposed Seattle Park
6 District approve its formation, the Mayor is authorized and directed to enter into an interlocal
7 agreement with the Seattle Park District substantially in the form attached as Attachment 1, with
8 such changes as the Mayor deems necessary and advisable, such that the intent of the City as
9 expressed herein is carried out.

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23 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after
24 its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after
25 presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

1 Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2014, and
2 signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this
3 ____ day of _____, 2014.

4 _____
5 _____
6 President _____ of the City Council

7
8 Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2014.

9 _____
10 _____
11 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

12
13 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2014.

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15 _____
16 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

17 (Seal)

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19 Attachment 1: Form of Interlocal Agreement between the City of Seattle and the Seattle Park
20 District

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Susan Golub
DPR Park District Interlocal ORD
~~March 11~~ April 9, 2014
Version #2a3

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