



**Legislative Department
Seattle City Council
Memorandum**

Date: April 5, 2011

To: Parks and Seattle Center Committee

From: Norm Schwab, Council Central Staff

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norm Schwab".

Subject: C.B. 117145 – Walt Hundley and Washington Park Playfield Renovations

The Mayor, Parks Levy Oversight Committee and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) recommend the reallocation of \$3.4 million dollars within the Playfields Subcategory of the Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds Category for the renovation of Walt Hundley and Washington Park Playfields. The initial four playfields identified in the 2008 Parks Levy Playfields Subcategory were constructed well under budget, thus allowing these two additional playfields to be renovated as well. C.B. 117145 reallocates funding within the Levy, adds the two playfield renovation projects to the Capital Improvement Program, and transfers and increases appropriations within the Levy fund. The legislation requires a three-fourths vote of the Council for passage.

Aside from the significant under-spending in the Playfields Subcategory of the Levy, DPR has realized cost savings on projects in the Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds Subcategory, most notably the play area projects completed in the first year of Levy implementation and the Hubbard Homestead Park development in Northgate. However, these savings are being used to cover cost increases on other projects in the Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds Subcategory. To date, approximately \$5 million of the \$33 million in the Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds Subcategory has been spent on completed projects. No other categories in the Levy are expected to see significant cost savings at this point.

DPR anticipates completing most projects in the Levy at or under budget due to the current favorable bid climate. However, the potential remains for some projects to come in over cost due to unforeseen renovation issues at older parks. DPR is currently completing an annual report on Levy progress for review by the Levy Oversight Committee and the City Council. This report should give the Council more information on spending patterns.

Ordinance 122749, which established the 2008 Parks Levy, requires that over the term of the Levy total Levy funds for each category and subcategory will be consistent with the amounts identified in the Ordinance (Attachment A), unless changed by the City Council by a three-fourths vote. In this case, the Levy Oversight Committee's recommendation will move the under-spent funds from the Playfields Subcategory to the Opportunity Fund (which is also a Levy requirement in order to add new projects), but the funds will still be spent on playfields. This results in the funds for playfields essentially remaining the same over the life of the Levy at \$10.5 million as originally allocated to the Playfields Subcategory in Ordinance 122749.