

Superintendent's Report  
Parks and Seattle Center Committee  
January 19, 2012

- Rainier Beach Community Center. City and Seattle Schools are completing a land exchange granting Seattle Schools land at Garfield Playfield for land adjacent to South Shore School for the new Rainier Beach Community Center. Seattle Schools has allowed the City to demolish existing buildings on the site in anticipation of this agreement. The parties have agreed on most terms of the exchange. We are preparing our separate legislative packages seeking approval of the transaction. We anticipate that Council action should be possible by mid-May of this year.
- Youth Skills Certificate programs. During 2011, the Southeast Youth Violence Prevention Initiative network provided youth skill certification programs to youth. All together, 212 youth received Food Handling Permits, First Aid Certification, CPR Certification, Pre Life Guard and Life Guard Certification, Babysitting Certification, Financial Literacy Certification, and Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens Certification.
- Occupy Seattle. Central West maintenance crews will assist City Hall Plaza in the cleanup of Occupy Seattle impacts. A truck driver and four staff will clean and retrieve personal properties.
- Seacrest Request for Proposal Final Result. We have completed the appeal process for the operation of Seacrest Boathouse. The original decision to award the operation to Marination has been affirmed following the appeal for reconsideration filed by Alki Crab & Fish Company.
- More than 1.5 million attendance at aquatic facilities in 2011! Pool attendance records show that 1.1 million people visited our nine pools over the past year. That number includes an impressive 273,143 swim lessons taught! Beaches recorded 212,336 visitors; wading pools 90,187; and small craft centers 93,546.
- Summit Slope Park Design Award. The new Summit Slope Park on Capitol Hill has received a Design Commission award, with a special mention of Parks' own project manager, Kelly Davidson. Kelly was recognized at an Awards Ceremony on January 13. The awards committee had this to say about the park, which was funded through the Pro Parks Levy. "The project reclaims the edge of the urban block creating an inviting infill park that responds to the complex scale, texture and flow of the surrounding neighborhood. A difficult location and small site is enhanced by a simple yet elegant design concept."
- Polar Bear Plunge attracts record crowd. The 10th annual Polar Bear Plunge was held at Matthews Beach on New Year's Day at noon. It was a HUGE event, with at least 3,500 people on site to celebrate the New Year. The team from Meadowbrook Pool, which hosts the plunge each year, brought creativity to the event with badges of courage, polar bear vitamins (marshmallows), decorations, signage, costumes, hot beverages and more. They had lifeguards on duty, as well as harbor patrol, and a fire boat! The news media interviews were excellent and focused on Seattle Parks and Recreation as the host for this crazy event.

- Miller Community Garden hosts Community Canning Workshop. In December, volunteers from all over Seattle's community center gardens and community kitchens came together at Miller Community to meet each other, share tips and tricks from their programs, and make some delicious preserves -- in the spirit of the Parks Urban Food System initiative.
- Magnuson Park Summary of Public Benefit and Capital Improvements. Staff is working on a final 2011 Summary of Public Benefit and Capital Improvements received by the Department as offsets to rent at Magnuson Park. Preliminary estimates include: The Performing/Visual Arts partners offset \$148,444 rent with public benefits and provided an additional \$456,604 in public benefits. Magnuson Park partners offset \$353,048 with capital improvements, \$34,296 with public benefits and provided an additional \$93,661 in public benefits. Seattle Children's PlayGarden offset \$20,592 of their rent with capital improvements.
- Rain Man Triathlon. The triathlon will be held at Evans Pool again on April 1; however, this time it is the championship event. It will be the last in a series of four events in the Puget Sound Area. The triathlon includes a 15-minute or 450-yard swim, a 30-minute bike ride on stationary bike trainers indoors, and a 1.5- to 3-mile run. Last year there were more than 250 participants at Evans/ Green Lake Park. The event is sponsored by Trifreaks.
- Youth Basketball season. On January 7 and 8, 277 teams ages 10-17 began the Citywide Youth Basketball league with 128 games at 22 community centers. Regular season play concludes on March 11.
- Burn ban in effect. Beach fires are prohibited at Golden Gardens Park and Alki Beach Park. Signs have been posted near the fire pits.
- Beaver Pond Natural Area. We have had some issues at this Thornton Creek natural area in Northgate. In December, a neighbor cut the lower branches on several dozen trees in the natural area in an effort to improve sight lines into the park, and reduce a perceived crime problem. (The "work" done on the trees will kill them in two to three years.) The trees were about 15 years old, and had been planted by volunteers working to restore the area. The incident highlighted the tension between those attempting to restore the creek and forest, and neighbors – who largely do not participate in the restoration efforts, but feel unfairly impacted by illegal activities in the park. We have filed a police report on the destruction of the trees, and are working with the Parks Security Supervisor, as well as the North Precinct to address safety issues in the natural area. We are also working to facilitate better communication between neighbors and restoration volunteers.
- McGilvra Place Renovation. On January 9 more than 25 community members attended the second public meeting for the community-initiated Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund renovation project of McGilvra Place. Parks presented the preferred schematic design and took input from the community. The community provided great feedback for the design development including site furnishing, green infrastructure elements and site plantings. The property on Capitol Hill is owned SDOT and being developed by Parks. The Seattle Parks Foundation intends to raise half the money needed for the approximately \$700,000 construction project. It will be operated and maintained by the Bullitt Foundation, which is constructing its new headquarters adjacent. Construction is slated for late 2012/early 2013.

- Jefferson Park Golf Capital Improvements. More than 45 people representing the neighborhood and the golf community attended the second public meeting for the Jefferson Park Golf Capital Improvements on December 15, 2011. Improvements include an all new two-story clubhouse and banquet room, a double deck driving range with capacity for 50 stalls along with enhanced netting and lighting, and a new cart barn with the potential for expansion and conversion to electric carts at a later date.