

Council Briefing Summary
2014 RCO Grant Application Resolution – Seattle Parks and Recreation

This is an annual competitive grant process conducted by the State of Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). RCO administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation purposes. Depending on the grant program, eligible project applicants can include municipal subdivisions of the state (cities, towns, and counties, or port, utility, park and recreation, and school districts), Native American tribes, state agencies, and in some cases, federal agencies and nonprofit organizations. To be considered for funding assistance, most grant programs require a 1 to 1 match, and that the proposed project will be operated and maintained in perpetuity for the purposes for which funding is sought. Most grant programs also require that sponsors complete a systematic planning process prior to seeking funding. Grants are awarded based on a public, competitive process which weighs the merits of proposed projects against established program criteria.

Since 1966, we have been successful in securing RCO funding, averaging from \$500,000 to \$1M in grants almost every year. This state agency is one of our largest funders and has been a viable source that leverages and supplements existing funding for projects in our CIP. To date we have received over \$29 million dollars for 114 projects. Securing the council's approval of a Resolution is a requirement of the RCO grant process.

After reviewing the projects in the Adopted 2011-2016 CIP, comparing them against RCO's criteria for grant projects, and determining whether or not the required matching funding was available for each project, staff from the Parks Contracts Administration and Support Office, Planning and Development, and Finance developed the proposed list of projects for the 2014 RCO grant round. The projects on the list are the Yesler Neighborhood Park development project, the Arboretum Waterfront Trail project, and Jimi Hendrix Park development.

The legislation being reviewed by the committee is required by RCO and will, if adopted, become a part of the 2014 applications. The total funding request will be for \$1.5 million, divided between the Yesler Terrace Neighborhood Park development project (\$500,000), the Arboretum Waterfront Trail project (\$500,000), and the Jimi Hendrix Park development project (\$500,000). If awarded, recipients will be notified in November 2014 and grant funding will be available in 2015, after the State budget passes.