



Date: September 30, 2009

To: Board of Parks Commissioners

From: Michael Shiosaki, Deputy Director, Planning & Development Division

Subject: Park Classification System

Requested Board Action

As a follow up to the Park Board briefing on July 9, the Board of Park Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed Parks Classification System at the October 8 Park Board meeting. On October 22 the Board will be asked to make a recommendation to the Parks Superintendent on a new Department policy and procedure regarding the Parks Classification System.

Project Background

Since the July 9 Park Board meeting, the proposed Park Classification System has been restructured into a policy document. In addition, some relatively minor revisions have been made to the document in response to comments from the Board and the public.

The proposed policy adopts the parks classification system including the park type definitions and Park staff responsibilities for implementing the policy.

Park Classifications - The following park types are proposed:

- Triangles/Circles/Squares
- Pocket Park
- Downtown Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Recreation Area
- Natural Area/Greenbelt
- Boulevards/Green Streets/Trails
- Special-Use Park

Strategic Action Plan

The need for a Park Classification system is specifically called out as an action strategy in the Strategic Action Plan, Goal 1. The plan states,

“Create and adopt a consistent land classification system that defines appropriate uses to identify the capacity of each land resource

- i. Classify all Seattle parks and open space land
- ii. Communicate these categories effectively and consistently, defining what the land classification system means in terms of intensity of use, kinds of use, and potential future development.”

Public Involvement Process

This system has been developed with input from staff members throughout the Department. A public hearing will be held as part of the October 8 Park Board meeting to receive public comments on the policy.

Environmental Sustainability

As new parks are developed or changes to existing parks are proposed, use of the park classification system may allow for better alignment of a park site that has specific environmental attributes with appropriate development and programming options.

Budget

No budget impacts are anticipated.

Schedule

The system will be put to use over time as new parks are planned and changes are proposed to programming of existing parks.

Additional Information

For more information, please contact me via phone at 206.684.0750 or by e-mail at michael.shiosaki@seattle.gov