



Neighborhood Matching Fund Project Selection Criteria

Since 1988, many park projects have been completed using the Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF). While these projects are tremendously successful in improving our park system, most require additional funding to be maintained properly and all require project management. Significant cuts in the Parks maintenance and operation fund, have reduced the number of projects that can be supported. This means that we may be recommending fewer Neighborhood Matching Fund projects.

The following criteria have been developed to focus future projects on needed park improvements. These criteria will maintain the City's commitment toward building vital communities, while managing concerns about ongoing maintenance and operating costs associated with NMF projects.

As an alternative to rejecting a project application due to new high operating costs, Parks may suggest changes to the project design that would reduce these costs to an affordable level within Parks' existing resources. This option is treated as a conditional recommendation pending the applicant changing the design features to make the project affordable.

High Priority Capital Projects

- Play areas that are high on the Parks' Playground Assessment list (those that are the oldest or are in need of being brought up to code). Check with a Parks planner (listed below)
- Projects that renovate existing park features such as park furniture, play spaces, gathering areas and landscaping.
- Projects that do not include elements that require energy or water
- Projects that have sustainable elements such as native and drought tolerant plantings (reduction of water usage), rain gardens (reduction of water runoff into the City storm system), or removal of concrete or asphalt and replacement with pervious surface
- Habitat restoration projects, particularly implementation of approved vegetation management plans and trail plans. These may be prepared by community groups or by Seattle Parks and Recreation's Horticulture programs

Low Priority Capital Projects

- Development of new park features or facilities particularly in areas already served (i.e., with similar elements nearby).
- Renovation of recently built facilities.
- A project that would add significant new operations and maintenance costs such as water features and non standard lighting.

Projects that will not be recommended for an award

- Any construction project application that does not have an approved concept plan. This prerequisite may be satisfied with a Small and Simple project for planning and design. Small capital projects may include design as part of the proposal.
- Preparation of master plans (concept plans for very large sites such as Discovery Park)
- Projects that require prolonged fund raising efforts or may not be able to be developed for some extended period of time.

Non-Capital Projects that are community directed may be supported. Examples of similar successful projects have included holiday celebrations, musical and other cultural events, oral histories, brochures and other research into park history.

Communities interested in applying for NMF projects in Seattle parks are encouraged to contact, Parks and Recreation Neighborhood Planners,

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