

SEATTLE PARKS FOUNDATION

* ACTION ALERT *

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT CALL TO ACTION - SEATTLE'S PARKS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Dear Seattle Parks Supporter,

You already know the importance of Seattle's parks, trails, green spaces, community centers, and public pools. And you understand how they enhance our lives, build strong communities, and improve our health and the environment.

In fact, in these tough economic times people in Seattle are relying on our park facilities and programs more than ever before!

Now our parks - and the facilities and services that go with them - are in jeopardy.

We need you to act now to protect them.

The City's finances have been terribly compromised by the recession, and current City projections forecast a \$10 million General Fund budget shortfall this year and a \$50 million shortfall in 2011-2012. Unfortunately, that's the budget section from which Seattle Parks and Recreation ("Parks") derives two-thirds of its money.

Parks already took a \$6 million cut this past fiscal year and put forth their best effort to find administrative efficiencies without impacting critical public services, facilities and programs. **Additional budget cuts will almost certainly require Parks to close facilities, cut back services and programs, and/or raise user fees.**

Your elected officials need to hear from you NOW!

Please take the time to tell elected officials that Seattle's parks and recreational services are of vital importance to both you and our entire city. Please ask them to keep community centers, youth programs, parks and pools open, and to keep these essential services affordable for all.

There are several ways to make your voice heard:

1. **Attend one of two upcoming public hearings on April 28th and May 4th** that will consider upcoming budget cuts. For details visit:
www.seattle.gov/council/attachments/2010_03budget_ph.pdf
2. **Contact Councilmember Godden**, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, with your message in support of Parks.
jean.godden@seattle.gov (206) 684-8807
3. **Contact Mayor McGinn** with your message in support of Parks.
<http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/contact.htm> (206) 684-4000

Thank you very much for your support of Seattle's parks!

Sincerely,



Karen Daubert
Executive Director