



# Seward Park Playground Improvement Foundation

[www.sewardparksplayground.org](http://www.sewardparksplayground.org)

## About SPPIF

Seward Park Playground Improvement Foundation (SPPIF) was formed in December of 2007 to help create a great play area to replace the aging and unsafe playground at Seward Park, one of Seattle's signature parks. Parents, neighbors, and local organizations came together to "build community by creating a play experience unique to the natural setting of Seward Park and fun for children of all ages and backgrounds."

Our objectives are to:

- Reflect neighborhood diversity,
- Incorporate and celebrate the park's natural environment,
- Engage the community in the development of the play area, and
- Provide a safe and welcome public gathering place for families.

SPPIF has proven itself to be a well organized and determined community organization. The all-volunteer group includes over 120 members who are working on design, fundraising, PR and/or outreach initiatives.



## Project Description

Seward Park, recognized for its unique beauty by the Olmsted Brothers, "boasts 300 acres of beautiful forest land – is home to eagles' nests, old growth forest, a 2.4 mile bike and walking path, an amphitheater, a native plant garden, an art studio, miles of hiking trails," and the Audubon Society's newly remodeled Environmental Learning Center. (Seattle Parks and Recreation, 2008)

The park's one missing feature is a quality play space.

With year-round use of Seward Park by families from all over the city, the proposed development of a play area will provide a gathering place for all ages, safe structures for children to be active, and a gateway into the old growth forest so kids of all ages can explore the natural beauty of the Northwest.

SPPIF envisions this play area as a unique and iconic feature for Seward Park. It will mimic the natural surroundings, link to the adjacent Audubon Center, and incorporate the latest playground design ideas. As the Seward Park neighborhood is renowned for its rich diversity, both imaginative and active play elements will help to serve as an informal living room for community members to meet and greet people whom they might not otherwise get to know.

The SPPIF community agreed the play space design should:

- Offer unique and adventurous features that inspire kids to explore the incredible natural attributes of Seward Park, one of Seattle's designated "Wilderness Parks."
- Complement and enhance educational programs offered by the newly remodeled Seward Park Audubon and Environmental Learning Center.
- Provide safe, educational and inspirational play opportunities for the park's richly diverse visitors from neighborhoods near and far.

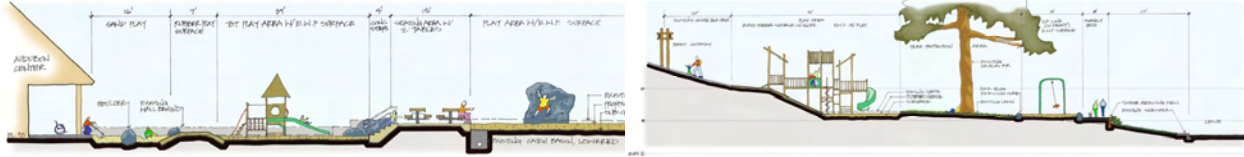


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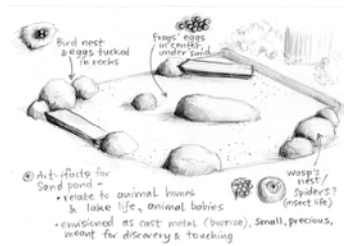
## Population Served

Seward Park attracts neighbors from one of the most ethnically diverse zip codes in the nation and acts as a true melting pot of our city. It also has the largest percentage of children (14 and under) in the city. The Seward Park Playground will truly serve all the people of Seattle.



## Project Timeline

Directly after forming, Seward Park Playground Improvement Foundation built partnerships with Friends of Seward Park, the Audubon Society, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and has recently retained Seattle Parks Foundation as their fiscal sponsor. These strong relationships have ensured a robust and effective network to move this project along at a fast and deliberate pace.



Enthusiastic to begin with a quality vision, SPPIF received a Department of Neighborhoods matching grant and hired J.A. Brennan Associates in April 2008 to work with the community, the City, and SPPIF to create a unique design for the play area. After four public meetings and collaborative work with Seattle Parks and Recreation, a design was approved in October 2008. Johnson & Southerland recently completed design development and construction drawings are currently underway.

With a strong schematic design and cost estimate, SPPIF focused on raising the funding necessary to make this vision a reality. SPPIF's members first mobilized to help advocate for the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy which allocated \$450,000 for the project. SPPIF also received a \$50,000 grant from King County, two DON matching grant for \$15,000, a large DON construction grant for \$100,000, \$27,000 in private foundation grants and about \$24,000 in individual contributions to date.

Numerous city officials are on board with SPPIF's vision and momentum only continues to grow. Once the construction documents are complete, SPPIF will advertise for a general contractor to begin the work. The plan is to break ground in spring of 2010 and to complete the play area by the time children are out of school in June 2010.

## Project Budget

The Seward Park Playground will be a signature play space that integrates in both form and function active play with the nearby forest and education center. The total project cost is \$700,000. SPPIF has raised approximately \$650,000 to date through a combination of Department of Neighborhood grants, private foundation grants, Parks and Green Spaces Levy funding and individual donations. SPPIF still seeks to raise \$50,000.



## Contact

**Website:** [www.seattleparksfoundation.org/project\\_Seward.html](http://www.seattleparksfoundation.org/project_Seward.html)  
**Email:** [sppif@mac.com](mailto:sppif@mac.com)