SEATTLE PARKS FOUNDATION

3-Year Strategy
The Challenges Ahead for Greater Seattle
Climate change will impact our future livability

- Heat and smoke events will become more frequent.
- Sea level rise anticipated at 1 foot by 2050 and 4 feet by 2100. King tides and storm surges will impact at least seven extremely vulnerable areas of the city, primarily in communities of color.
- Creating open greenspace that is floodable is a challenge, especially along the Duwamish River.
Climate Solutions Are Needed

- Seattle needs to reduce greenhouse gases by 58% by 2030, they have only declined by 5% since 2008.

- Seattle has a goal of 30% canopy cover by 2037 – in communities of color canopy is at 20% and the rest of the city is at 28%.
Residents of South Seattle have a 13-year lower life expectancy than residents of North Seattle. Residents in these areas have higher rates of asthma, heart disease, diabetes, obesity and much lower rates of health insurance. South Downtown, CID, South Park, Georgetown, Lake City and the southern suburbs have either unsafe or long walks to public spaces with recreation opportunities, playgrounds, greenspace, natural areas, and water access.
Our population is expanding much faster than our park system.

Park System & Population Growth Since 1960

* The current adopted SPR level of service is 8 acres per 1000 people.

* From Outside Citywide, OPCD
Greater Seattle’s Civic Engagement

According to the *Greater Seattle Civic Health Index*, there are great disparities in our community’s civic participation corresponding to disparities in education, income, race, and physical health.

↑civic health = ↑public safety ↑physical health ↑economic resilience
Seattle Parks Foundation

Who we are now
Our Unique Opportunity

- We lead the region in parks and public space grassroots community partnerships and projects
- We are uniquely positioned to connect grassroots neighborhood-based efforts to city and region wide civic efforts
- We have a seat at the table with alliances focused on parks, greenspace, climate and environmental justice
- We have depth of understanding in accomplishing civic park projects
Our Mission:

We partner with community to champion thriving and equitable parks and public spaces.
Our Vision:

People feel welcomed and invested in our parks and public spaces, leading to healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities.
The World We Seek to Create Leads to:

- Equity in Public Spaces
- Activated Parks and Healthy People
- Neighborhood-Based Climate Solutions
- Increased Civic Engagement and Community Building
We Operate With An Anti Racist, Restorative Lens – That means...

- We actively identify and address implicit bias and structural racism.
- We challenge and actively change the policies, behaviors, and beliefs that perpetuate racist ideas and actions.
- We take steps to eliminate racism at the individual, institutional, and structural levels.

We Believe Community is Strongest Together

- We will actively use restorative practices and processes that emphasize the importance of positive relationships as central to community building.
- We will acknowledge historical and present harm done (and ask others to do the same.)
- We will focus, when possible, on restoring and repairing relationships in community.
Our Work – How we accomplish our mission

We activate by...

- Resourcing neighborhood communities
- Advocating for parks and public spaces
- Educating the public, donors and community
- Building alliances to catalyze networks and multiply impact

Our toolkit...

- Fiscal Sponsorship tools and resources
- Fundraising and Grants
- Select Project Leadership
- Catalyzing Activation in Parks
- Advocacy for community
- Advocacy for the park system
- Elevating Community and Parks Story
- Training and skill building
- Research and best practices
- Grassroots Network Building

BIPOC community driven park revitalization
Link2Lake Steering Committee – we provided fiscal sponsorship, fundraising support, a paid coordinator, and supported their advocacy efforts. They raised $2.2M to restore Be‘er Sheva Park in Rainier Beach – the only beach access in Rainier Valley.

Visionary Infrastructure
SPF and Lid I-5 raised $1M to study the impact of connecting Capitol Hill and Downtown with a park and affordable housing over I-5. Advocacy efforts are underway to advance the vision.

Advancing Equitable Activation in Parks
King County Play Equity Coalition is focused on changing policy and systems that create inequitable access to parks and athletic facilities where kids can grow and play. SPF is working to advance the work of this coalition through fundraising and partnerships.

Community Driven Planning and Research
SPF worked with a collaboration of community members to develop the South Park Vision Plan, which has guided urban planning for the area.
Our Strategy On One Page

THE ‘WHY’

Our Unique Opportunity

Core Challenges

Climate Change + Inequitable Access to Parks + Unequal Civic Engagement

Lead the region in green and public space grassroots community partnerships

Our LENS

We operate with an anti-racist lens

THE ‘WHAT’

We activate by...

Resource neighborhood communities

Advocate for parks and public spaces

Educate the public, donors and community

Build alliances to catalyze networks and multiply impact

THE ‘HOW’ AND ‘RESULTS’

Our toolkit...

Fiscal Sponsorship tools and resources
Fundraising and Grants
Select Project Leadership
Catalyzing Activation in Parks
Advocacy for community
Advocacy for the park system
Elevating Community and Parks Story
Training and skill building
Research and best practices
Grassroots Network Building

Our outcomes...

Equity in Public Spaces
Activated Parks and Healthy People
Neighborhood-Based Climate Solutions
Increased Civic Engagement and Community Building

Our Core Values

Partnership and Collaboration
Racial Equity
Accountability
Flexibility
Gratitude
We love, belong in, and care for our parks!