

Fairwood Splash Pad & Cooling Center Implementation Plan

May 30, 2025



King County

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II. Proviso Text

P1 PROVIDED THAT:

Of this appropriation, \$50,000 shall not be expended or encumbered until the executive transmits a report identifying resources and communicating a plan to support a splash pad in Fairwood.

The report shall include, but not be limited to

- A. A plan by the department of natural resources and parks, in collaboration with the department of local services, to acquire funding to support a splash pad in Fairwood as identified by the participatory budgeting process led by the department of local services in 2022;
- B. Total project costs and a scope of work, including project phasing and a timeline for completing the project;
- C. The amount of money committed by the county, the amount needed, and identification and assessment of funding options for the remaining money needed;
- D. A plan for pursuing funding needed to complete the project; and
- E. A communication plan to share information on the timeline and resources to complete this project with community members.

The executive should electronically file the report by June 1, 2025, with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the local services and land use committee or its successor.

Ordinance 19861, Section 94, Parks and Recreation, P1 ¹

III. Executive Summary

The Fairwood community prioritized a splash pad for funding during both the 2022 and 2024 participatory budgeting processes which provided a some of the required funding for this project. The Department of Local Services (DLS) worked with the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) to identify Petrovitsky Park as the most appropriate location for this facility. The Parks Division owns, operates and maintains Petrovitsky Park. Due to this, DLS transferred the responsibility for designing, permitting, constructing and maintaining the splash pad facility to the Parks Division.

The project scope includes construction of a splash pad. This entails an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible water feature that would include in-ground spray features and a cooling center (i.e., misters) with concrete surfacing located next to the existing play area.

The Parks Division hired a consultant to complete the feasibility and design and is currently at sixty percent design. The estimated total project cost for the Fairwood Splash Pad & Cooling Center project is \$3.8 million.

Currently \$3.074 million of the \$3.8 million project cost has been budgeted. \$1.474 million was provided through the 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 rounds of participatory budgeting. An additional \$1.6 million in

¹ Ordinance 19861 <https://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6872221&GUID=984B4D1E-D397-4497-85A8-C886918ED955&Options=Advanced&Search=>

participatory budget funding was allocated and adopted by Council in the 2025 Budget. If adopted by voters, the remaining \$726,000 for the project would be provided in the upcoming 2026-2031 Parks Levy.

DLS and the Parks Division have been communicating with the public about this project since 2022. In 2026, during the implementation phase of the project, the Parks Division will be updating the community with the final project design and construction updates, along with preparing for a community opening.

IV. Background

Department Overview

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) works to support sustainable and livable communities and a clean and healthy natural environment. Its mission is to foster environmental stewardship and strengthen communities by providing regional parks, protecting the region's water, air, land, and natural habitats, and reducing, safely disposing of, and creating resources from wastewater and solid waste.

The Parks and Recreation Division (Parks) of DNRP operates and maintains a vast parks and recreation system with more than 205 local parks, 175 miles of regional trails, 215 miles of backcountry trails, and close to 32,000 acres of open space, including such regional treasures as Marymoor Park, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Petrovitsky Park, and the world-class Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center.

Parks provides recreational opportunities for King County residents and protects our region's public lands, leaving a legacy for future generations, with most funding coming from voter-approved property tax measures.

King County Department of Local Services (DLS) works to promote the well-being of residents and communities in unincorporated King County by seeking to understand their needs and delivering responsive government services. This includes maintaining roads and bridges, issuing permits, managing land use planning, and providing several programs to unincorporated areas, such as participatory budgeting, community needs lists, and subarea planning.

Key Historical Conditions:

In 2022 and 2024 members of the Fairwood community service area identified a splash pad as their number one priority through the participatory budgeting process led by DLS. In 2023, a site selection process determined that Petrovitsky Park was the most appropriate site for this facility because it is the only County-owned property suitable for a splash pad within the Fairwood community service area. The project was provided \$1.47M in funding from Participatory Budget Funds. In 2024, DNRP completed preliminary design of the project. Based on that preliminary design, the estimated total project cost is \$3.8 million. An additional \$1.6M was allocated in the adopted 2025 DLS capital budget for this project.

The County Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy includes 20 actions to equitably prepare people and places for the impacts of extreme heat and overall hotter summers.² The splash pad will help the Fairwood community by addressing Category 2: Help people stay cool and safe outdoors. The splash pad will offer respite during extreme heat and conserve potable water.

Key Current Conditions: The following funding has been committed for the project:

2021-2022 Participatory Budgeting Funds:	\$720,000
2023-2024 Participatory Budgeting Funds:	\$754,000
2025 Adopted Budget:	\$1,600,000
Total Committed Funding:	\$3,074,000

Report Methodology:

DLS managed the Fairwood community feedback during the participatory budget process that identified the splash pad as the priority project. \$1.47M of the funding for the project is funding from DLS

DNRP and specifically the Parks Division is responsible for designing, permitting, constructing and maintaining the splash pad facility. \$1.6M of the funding for the project will be provided through the DLS capital budget.

Sixty percent design plans are the basis for the project cost estimate. DNRP used the project cost estimated from the design plans and 2023, 2024, and 2025 budget data to determine the splash pad project funding gap. This data was used to develop this report in collaboration with DLS. The 2026-2031 King County Park Levy will fund the remaining \$726,000, if approved by voters.

V. Report Requirements

A. A Plan to Acquire Funding to Support a Splash Pad

King County Parks is funded by a six-year property tax levy. The current 2019-2025 levy does not include sufficient funding to close the funding gap for this project. The plan to fund the remaining \$726,000 required to design and construct this project is to use the proceeds from the upcoming 2026-2031 Parks Levy, if approved by voters. Parks has identified this project and the remaining funding as a priority in this upcoming levy, if approved. Costs for the ongoing operations and maintenance of the splash pad would also be provided by the 2026-2031 Parks Levy, if approved by voters.

B. Project Costs, Scope of Work, Phasing and Timeline

Project Scope: The project scope includes construction of an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible splash pad with a water circulation and treatment system at Petrovitsky Park adjacent to the existing play area. The splash pad would include in-ground spray features and a cooling center (i.e., misters) with concrete surfacing. The project will be implemented in a single phase. Parks is currently at sixty percent design. The design plans are the basis for the project cost estimate. An engineering

² King County Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy. <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/executive/governance-leadership/climate-office/focus-areas/climate-preparedness/extreme-heat-mitigation>

consultant created the estimate for construction costs. Parks staff reviewed the estimate and then developed the total project cost of \$3.8M shown below.

Timeline:

Design complete:	Q1 2026
Advertise for Construction:	Q2 2026 (all funds must be appropriated before advertisement)
Construction:	Q4 2026 to Q1 2027
Project Ready to Open:	Summer 2027

Total Project Cost:

Design:	\$600,000
Construction:	<u>\$3,200,000</u>
Total Project Cost:	\$3,800,000

C. Committed and Proposed Funding Sources

The following summary identifies the amount of money currently budgeted, the amount still needed, and the anticipated funding source for the remaining money needed:

Committed Funding Sources:

2021-2022 Participatory Budgeting Funds:	\$720,000
2023-2024 Participatory Budgeting Funds:	\$754,000
<u>2025 Adopted Budget:</u>	<u>\$1,600,000</u>
Total Committed Funding:	\$3,074,000

Amount Needed:

Total Project Cost:	\$3,800,000
<u>Total Committed Funds:</u>	<u>\$3,074,000</u>
Amount Needed:	\$726,000

Anticipated Funding Source – pending voter approval:

2026 – 2031 King County Parks Levy Funds (future):	\$726,000
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D. Future Funding Plan

Future funding needed to complete the project could come from the 2026-2031 King County Parks Levy, if approved by King County voters. The vote for the parks levy will be in August 2025. If approved, funds would be available by January 1, 2026.

If the 2026-2031 Parks Levy is not approved in August 2025, alternative funding sources would need to be identified, including grants or real estate excise tax funding.

E. Communications Plan

Background: The Fairwood Splash Pad & Cooling Center project was initiated in 2022 and further funded in 2024, through DLS's participatory budgeting process. That process included multiple community members that have been involved and provided input, including participatory budgeting committee members, participatory voters within the Fairwood community service area, and neighbors around

Petrovitsky Park. During the 2022 participatory budget community meetings, outreach materials were translated into Vietnamese and Spanish.

Goals: The communication plan for the Fairwood Splash Pad & Cooling Center project includes the following goals:

- Reach key community members and neighbors who would benefit the most from the project;
- Collaborate with DLS and participatory budgeting members to involve community in meaningful ways;
- When construction comes, successfully communicate the construction timeline and opening date;
- Celebrate with DLS, participatory budgeting committee members, and the general community with new facility once construction is complete;
- Ensure that vital information that engages and informs the community are translated in the top five languages, at minimum.

Schedule:

- Design Phase: 2024-2025
 - Inform community about the project via parks social media, project website, and onsite signage;
 - Provide opportunity for the community to stay informed about the project through the GovDelivery subscriber list and project website;
 - Gather interested parties feedback via direct mail and online survey;
 - Compile interested parties feedback to inform final design;
 - Follow up with community members to highlight how feedback was incorporated.
- Implementation Phase: 2026
 - Share final design and construction timeline with community;
 - Prepare construction communications (signage, GovDelivery alerts, etc.);
 - Hold facility opening ribbon cutting and celebration.

VI. Next Steps

DNRP anticipates completion of the ninety percent plans in the summer of 2025. The funding required to complete the Fairwood Park Splash Pad & Cooling Center project is included in the 2026-2031 King County Parks Levy that will be on the August 2025 ballot. The bid for the splash pad project is anticipated for 2026 and construction in the first quarter of 2027, with a facility opening in summer of 2027.