



SEATTLE PARKS  
AND RECREATION

## City Hall Park Improvement Project

Mayor Nickels proposed funding for 2005-2006 included \$100,000 for planning and initial design and \$400,000 final design and construction.



Council approved \$100,000 for initial planning and design work. Located at 450 3rd Ave on the south side of the King County Courthouse, this former "battlefield" and King County administrative offices site is now a small, 1.3-acre walking and sitting space filled with grass, trees, benches, small tables, and chairs. A small oak here commemorates the founding of the United Nations, and a plaque with cannonball recalls the 1865 Battle of Seattle, when Indians led by Chief Leschi attacked the pioneer village in a last effort to save their land. The battle was short lived, however, largely because of the fire power of the gunship Decatur, moored in Elliott Bay. During freeway construction in 1964, several more cannonballs were unearthed below Harborview Hospital. City Hall Park was used as a drill ground for troops during World War II.

The orientation and design of City Hall Park has changed dramatically since it was constructed. The most significant change resulted from the reorientation of the Courthouse entrance from Jefferson Street to Third Avenue in 1967. More recently, the park was closed for 2 years while being used as a staging area for the construction of the Metro Bus Tunnel and associated 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. improvements. As part of the MOA with Metro, the park was redesigned and developed in 1991. This development was meant as a temporary improvement, because at the time it was the intent of King County to reorient the building entrance back to Dilling Way within 10 years. (Due to the expense to repair damages caused by the Nisqually earthquake the County is no longer contemplating this work.) The 1991 improvements included new pathways with concrete unit paving, benches, irrigation, fencing, and plantings. The City hoped that the use of the park would expand after the park was closed for two years and redeveloped. The homeless meals program was moved from the park and the park was programmed with activities for a while. Unfortunately, the park is once again primarily used by homeless individuals and it is still associated with public drinking and drug sales. It is underused by residents, workers and visitors.

## Proposal

The goal of this project is to transform City Hall Park, located directly south of the King County Courthouse, into an attractive gateway to downtown Seattle. The scope of work for this project is to be developed through a community process in 2005, with consideration for potential impacts on nearby parks (Prefontaine Fountain Plaza, Fortson Square, Occidental Square and Pioneer Square Park). This project is part of the Mayor's initiative to improve downtown parks. Significant changes in the park's uses and design may add programming costs and these will be considered in a separate process.

## Budget

The Mayor's proposed funding for 2005-2006 included \$100,000 for planning and initial design and \$400,000 final design and construction. Council approved only \$100,000 for initial planning and design. The Mayor's 2006 - 2007 budget will include a request for the remaining \$400,000. The initial plan will also identify any significant changes in the park's uses and design may result in increased programming costs. These will be considered for a separate budget request.

Schedule:	Planning	Design	Construction	Completion
	2005	2005 - 2006	2006	2006

## Community Involvement

Parks has prepared a public involvement plan that outline procedures for soliciting and considering public input. There are many opportunities to be involved.

- Project Advisory Team (PAT) - The PAT provides ongoing review and recommendations during the project.
  - ◆ Jordan Royer, Mayor's Office
  - ◆ Laura Inveen, Downtown Emergency Services Center Board and King County Judge
  - ◆ Cindy Bogar, SAMIS Land Company
  - ◆ Craig Montgomery, Executive Director Pioneer Square Community Association
  - ◆ Tamara Menteer, Frye Hotel
  - ◆ Peggy Dreisinger, Metropolitan Improvement District
  - ◆ Neil Lukas, Resident
  - ◆ Bob Peth, SPD Community Policing Officer
  - ◆ Bud Parker, King County Facilities Management
  - ◆ Alfred Poole, Human Services Department
  - ◆ Amit Ranade, Board of Park Commissioners
- Community-wide Public Meetings and Workshops - Parks will also hold open meetings and workshops where information is shared with the general community. Parks will attend other meetings as needed to provide.

## Contact Information

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