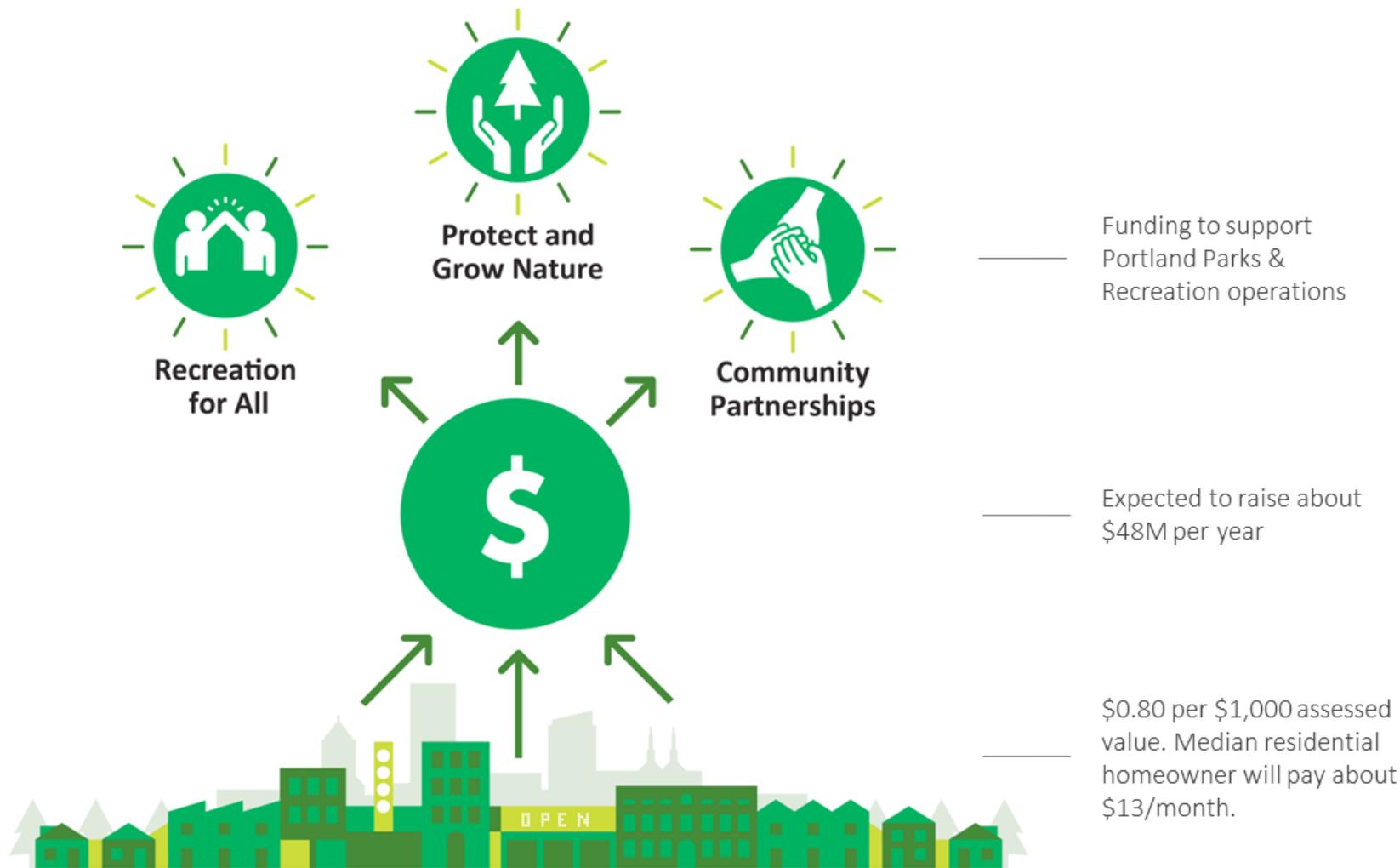




PORTLAND PARKS
& RECREATION™

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

FY 2023-24 Parks Levy Annual Report AND PARKS LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT



What is the Parks Levy?

A FIVE-YEAR, ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX FOR PP&R OPERATIONS

A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, looking intently at a display case containing pressed leaves. The boy is pointing at one of the leaves. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The text 'YEAR 3' is centered over the children's faces.

YEAR 3

FY 2023-24 Parks Levy Annual Report

Overview

- Organized by 15 commitments from ballot language
- Performance data
- Financial data to account for every dollar of Parks Levy spending with the Leveraged Funding Model
- Stories and interviews



Recreation for All



- Prevent cuts to recreation programs, closures of community centers and pools (C4).
- Deliver recreational programs, including, but not limited to, environmental education and access to nature for youth, summer camps, family-friendly movies and concerts, fitness and arts classes, teen- and senior focused programs, life-saving swim lessons, and a summer playground program serving free lunches to children experiencing hunger (D2).
- Remove financial barriers for low-income households by ending current dependence on recreation fee revenues, allowing an equity-focused delivery of community events and programs and reducing the likelihood of further cuts to recreation offerings (D3).



PREVENT CUTS

to recreation programs, closures of community centers and pools (C4).

- Successful in preventing further cuts and closures to ongoing recreation programs and operating facilities in FY 2023-24
- **Spotlight:** Matt Dishman Community Center Block Party returns
- **Spotlight:** Relocating Mt. Scott Community Center programming



Matt Dishman Community Center Block Party returns!

RECREATION FOR ALL | FY 2023-24 PARKS LEVY ANNUAL REPORT



DELIVER RECREATION PROGRAMS,

including, but not limited to, environmental education and access to nature for youth, summer camps, family-friendly movies and concerts, fitness and arts classes, teen- and senior focused programs, life-saving swim lessons, and a summer playground program serving free lunches to children experiencing hunger (D2).

- Succeeded in delivering recreational programs
- **Feature Profile:** Schools to Pools
- **Spotlight:** Free Lunch + Play
- **Spotlight:** Format and adjustments to swim lessons



1,344,574

estimated
program
attendance



117,950

free meals
served



35,786

TeenForce Pass
scans

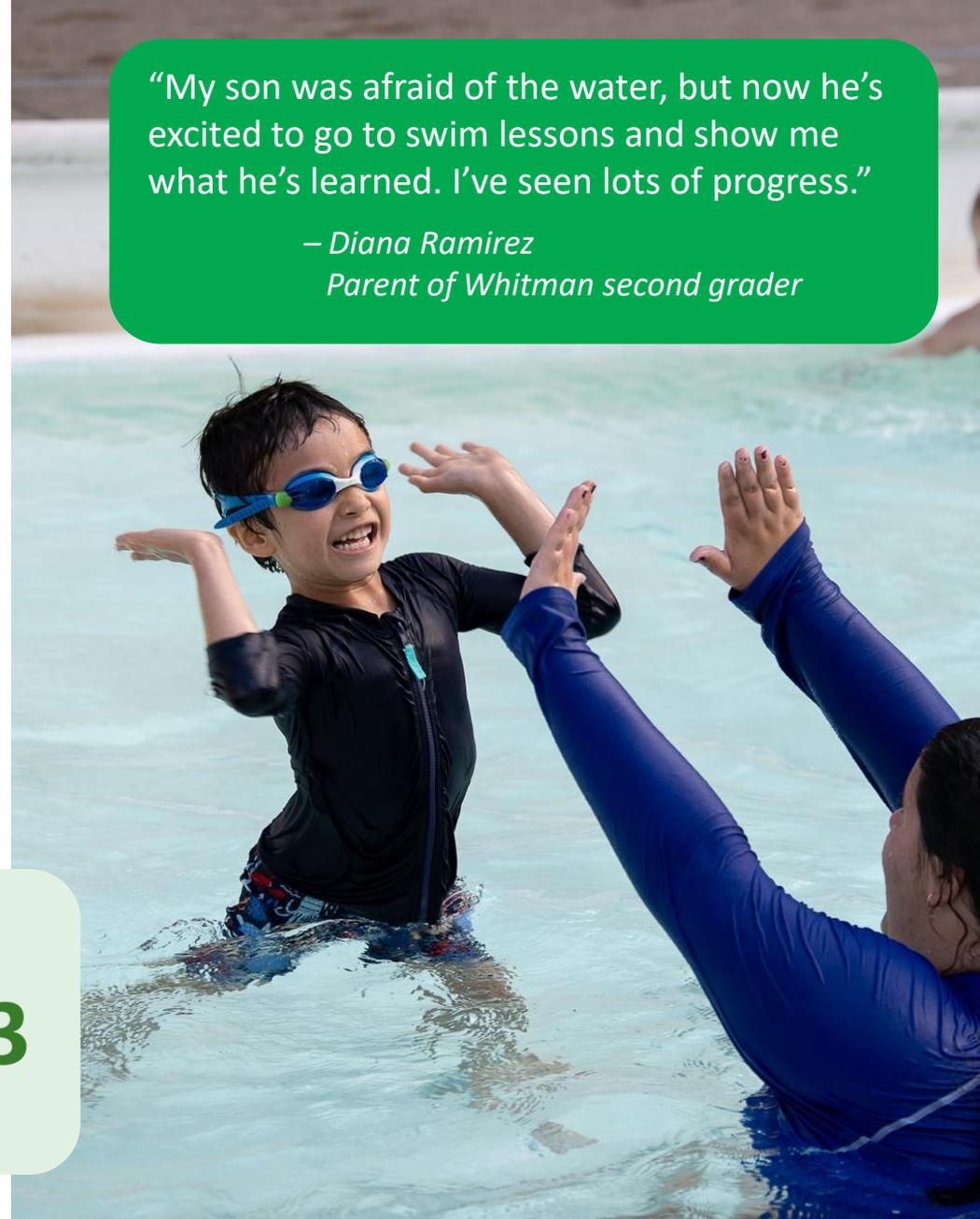


10,393

swim lessons
participants

“My son was afraid of the water, but now he’s excited to go to swim lessons and show me what he’s learned. I’ve seen lots of progress.”

– Diana Ramirez
Parent of Whitman second grader





REMOVE FINANCIAL BARRIERS

for low-income households by ending current dependence on recreation fee revenues, allowing an equity-focused delivery of community events and programs and reducing the likelihood of further cuts to recreation offerings (D3).

- Continued free programming such as Summer Free for All, SUN Community School programming, teen programming, the 5K Fun Run series, and more
- **Spotlight:** Access Discount
- **Spotlight:** East Portland Summer Arts Festival

In FY 2023-24:

\$4,167,239

of financial assistance was provided

to

17,997

people

which was

26%

of participants.

Protect and Grow Nature



- Enhance and preserve parks, rivers, wetlands, trees, and other important natural features in urban areas for the benefit of all Portlanders and wildlife (C1). **and** Protect water quality and wildlife habitat, control erosion, remove invasive species in 8,000 acres of natural area (D1).
- Increase opportunities for communities of color and children experiencing poverty to connect with nature (C3).
- Enhance park maintenance to keep parks clean and safe, including litter and hazardous waste removal, restroom cleaning, and playground safety (C5). **and** Clean litter and hazardous waste in parks and natural areas, maintain grounds and landscaping, provide safety checks on play equipment, improve preventative and traditional maintenance (D4). **and** Keep public restrooms open and cleaner (D5).
- Plant new trees in communities where today canopy coverage is lower, to improve air and water quality, diminish the impacts of climate change, and provide wildlife habitat (D6). **and** Protect Portland’s 1.2 million park trees by performing proactive maintenance, safety checks, hazard removal, and replacement of damaged trees in parks and natural areas (D7).
- Modernize data systems to improve internal efficiency (D8).



ENHANCE AND PRESERVE PARKS, RIVERS, WETLANDS, TREES,

and other important natural features in urban areas for the benefit of all Portlanders and wildlife (C1). **AND** Protect water quality and wildlife habitat, control erosion, remove invasive species in 8,000 acres of natural area (D1).

- **Spotlight:** Expansion in Protect the Best team and impact on eliminating invasive species
- **Spotlight:** Reuse of storm debris for salmon habitat and environmental restoration
- **Featured Profile:** Soft Surface Trail Team expansion and partnership with Connecting Canopies



“I like being outdoors, building things and being able to fix things people use every day, like trails.”

– Abe Quevendo,
Connecting Canopies


793.22
acres of invasive
weeds treated



Increase opportunities for communities of color and children experiencing poverty to

CONNECT WITH NATURE (C3).

- Increased the number of Environmental Education (EE) and nature program participants in FY 2023-24
- **Spotlight:** Teen Nature Team programming and Environmental Education transportation assistance
- **Featured Interview:** Highlighted Forest Park partnerships with Disabled Hikers and Vive NW

“Our mission is to connect diverse communities—and all communities, really—to the outdoors and nature.”

—Jorge Guzman,
Vive NW



6,658

participants in
nature programming





ENHANCE PARK MAINTENANCE

to keep parks clean and safe, including litter and hazardous waste removal, restroom cleaning, and playground safety (C5). **AND**

Clean litter and hazardous waste in parks and natural areas, maintain grounds and landscaping, provide safety checks on play equipment, improve preventative and traditional maintenance (D4). **AND**

Keep public restrooms open and cleaner (D5).

- **Spotlight:** Improvement of green waste recycling program
- **Spotlight:** Enhancing playground safety and checks
- **Spotlight:** Storm response and how expanded capacity from the Parks Levy helped with collaboration, flexibility, and emergency response



3,321,125

pounds of trash
removed





PLANT NEW TREES

in communities where today canopy coverage is lower, to improve air and water quality, diminish the impacts of climate change, and provide wildlife habitat (D6). **AND**

PROTECT PORTLAND'S 1.2 MILLION PARK TREES

by performing proactive maintenance, safety checks, hazard removal, and replacement of damaged trees in parks and natural areas (D7).

- Increased tree planting and trees planted in priority areas
- **Spotlight:** New Park Tree Maintenance plan and program
- **Spotlight:** Community engagement for Portland Urban Forest Plan





MODERNIZE DATA SYSTEMS

to improve internal efficiency (D8).

- Moved to tracking and analyzing performance measure data in Microsoft Access
- Acquired the City's first-ever software to manage and track trees as assets
- Piloted new evaluation and standards process to review developed parks



Community Partnerships



- A community oversight committee will be appointed to review Parks Levy expenditures and to report annually to City Council. The Measure also directs the Bureau to provide for a performance audit to ensure that services funded by the levy are consistent with voter intent (D).
- Prioritize services for communities of color and households experiencing poverty, including equity-centered engagement and outreach, community partnership grants, and increased engagement with volunteer and partner groups (D9).
- Provide park and recreation services to diverse populations including communities of color, seniors, teens, households experiencing poverty, immigrants and refugees, and people living with disabilities (C2).



A **COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

will be appointed to review Parks Levy expenditures and to report annually to City Council. The Measure also directs the Bureau to provide for a performance audit to ensure that services funded by the levy are consistent with voter intent (D).

- 5-member oversight committee selected from an open applicant pool and appointed by the PP&R Director
- Quarterly Parks Levy Oversight Committee meetings, open to the public
- Annual report presented to City Council



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS | FY 2023-24 PARKS LEVY ANNUAL REPORT



A community oversight committee will be appointed to review Parks Levy expenditures and to report annually to City Council. The Measure also directs the Bureau to provide for a

PERFORMANCE AUDIT TO ENSURE THAT SERVICES FUNDED BY THE LEVY ARE CONSISTENT WITH VOTER INTENT (D).

- Completed by independent auditor, Sjoberg Evashenk Consulting, Inc.
- In process during Year 3
- Published in Year 4 (December 2024) and available online
 - Found that Parks Levy funds were used for their intended purposes and PP&R has good tracking and financial systems
 - No findings, no recommendations

City of Portland
Portland Parks & Recreation



Performance Audit of the
2020 Parks Local Option Levy

December 2024

Final Report

SJOBERG EVASHENK
CONSULTING, INC.

455 Capitol Mall • Suite 700 • Sacramento, California • 95814 • Tel 916.443.1300 • www.secteam.com



PRIORITIZE SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING POVERTY,

including equity-centered engagement and outreach, community partnership grants, and increased engagement with volunteer and partner groups (D9).

- **Spotlight:** Community Partnership Program expansion
- **Feature Profile:** Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center partnerships and feasibility study
- **Feature Profile:** Space Use – African Youth and Community Organization (AYCO)

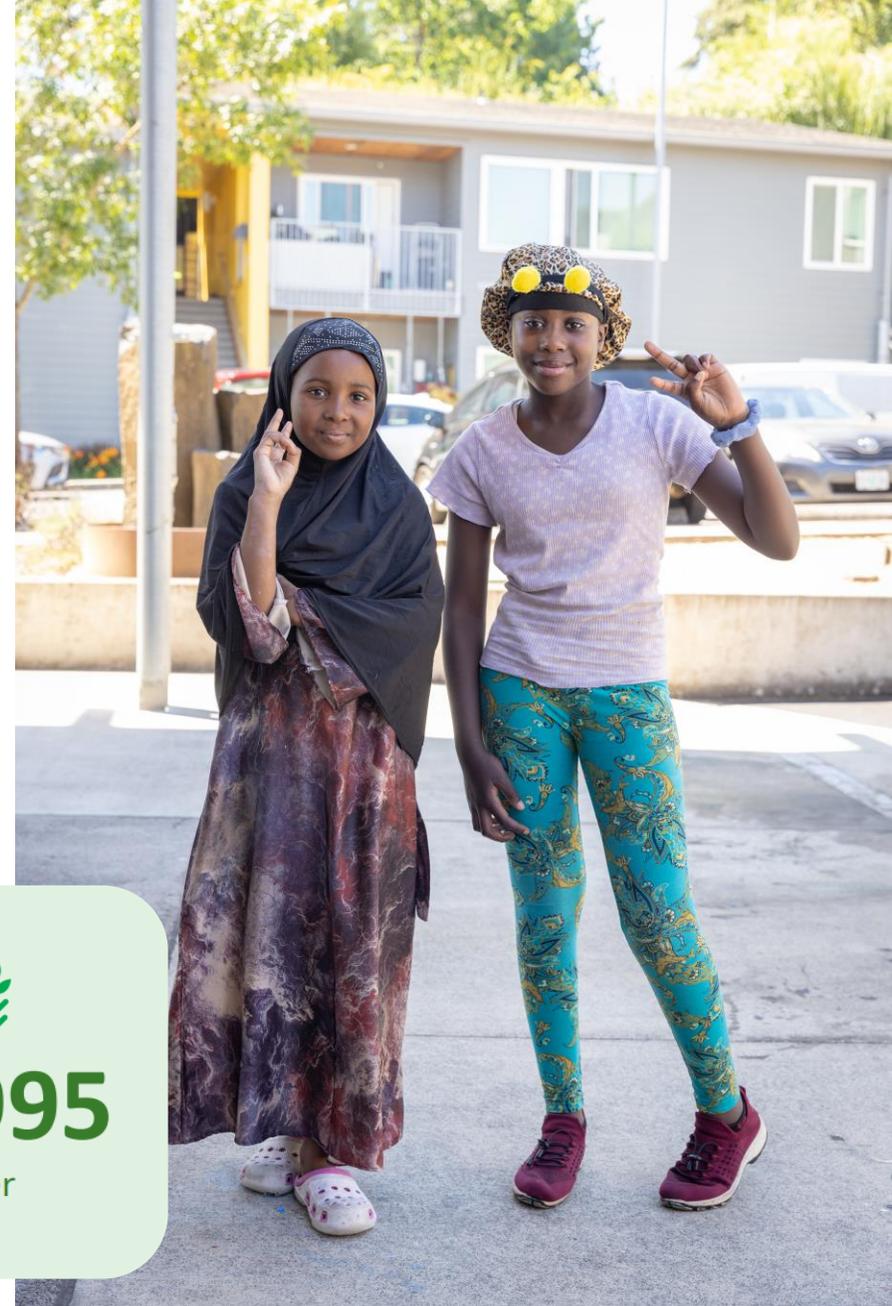
“[PP&R] was incredibly supportive. [They] made sure we had access to the space we needed. We brought our students in, they signed up for TeenForce Passes, and we were able to use the gym there.”

– Aisha, AYCO



388,995

volunteer
hours





PROVIDE PARK AND RECREATION SERVICES TO DIVERSE POPULATIONS

including communities of color, seniors, teens, households experiencing poverty, immigrants and refugees, and people living with disabilities (C2).

- Successfully delivered park and recreation services to a wide variety of users and implemented initiatives such as early registration, Community Partnership Program grants, and work order prioritization
- **Spotlight:** Lifelong Recreation
- **Feature Profile:** Multilingual Tennis Lessons



“I really enjoy teaching and interacting with people in Japanese and getting to know people in the language. It’s really fun, and there’s a different energy in those classes.”
– Wakana Turner, PTC tennis professional and instructor

FY 2023-24 Financials

Parks Levy Commitment	Sum of Total Expense*	Parks Levy Portion of Expense
 Recreation for All	\$33,401,151.75	\$17,600,373.19
 Protect and Grow Nature	\$56,234,295.99	\$29,882,049.93
 Community Partnerships	\$6,339,817.99	\$3,340,698.06
<i>Total (PP&R Program and Service Expenses)</i>	<i>\$95,975,265.73</i>	<i>\$50,823,121.18</i>
Children’s Levy Compression		+ <u>\$392,498.00</u>
Grand Total (All Parks Levy Expenditures)		\$51,215,619.18

*Total net expenses include reductions from associated program revenues.

A photograph of a child playing at a water fountain in a park. The child is sitting on a circular platform with water spraying upwards. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage. The entire image has a green tint.

FY 2023-24, YEAR 3

Parks Levy Oversight Committee Annual Report

PARKS LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT



Alescia Blakely



Mary Ruble



Silas Sanderson



Tim Williams



Zay Conant

Parks Levy Oversight
Committee members
serving in FY 2023-24:

- Alescia Blakely
- Mary Ruble
- Silas Sanderson
- Tim Williams
- Zay Conant

Fiscal Accountability

- All Parks Levy expenditures are tracked at a variety of levels, from alignment to Parks Levy ballot commitment to granular line-item expenses
- PP&R proactively communicated the Parks Levy revenue forecast and projected changes
- Independent performance audit

Recommendation: Continue proactively sharing financial status with the Parks Levy Oversight Committee as projections change and disseminate independent audit findings



Adherence to Ballot Language

- PP&R made progress on all 15 commitments
- Share Community Needs Survey in 2025
- Look to quantify progress and use survey data to refine programs and initiatives
- Explore funding for capital maintenance to support delivery of crucial park services

Recommendation: Quantify what progress in each voter commitment looks like, use survey data to understand and communicate Parks Levy impact, and seek capital funding to ensure facilities remain open for Parks Levy supported community use.



Transparency

- Language access and accessibility prioritized
- Increase communication impact with shorter form materials and performance visuals
- Encouraged partnership and collaboration with new City Council, Mayor, and City Administrator
- Ensure the public and City Council understand the impact of the Parks Levy on current operating funding for the Bureau

Recommendation: Develop succinct, visually-focused communication materials to share Parks Levy impact. Enhance participation and public trust through community engagement and collaboration with City leadership.





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