

**METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
OF TACOMA**



AGENDA

July 22, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Metro Parks Headquarters

4702 S 19th St.

Tacoma, WA 98405

Join Remotely

Via Telephone: 1-253-215-8782

Enter Meeting ID: 818 5662 5179

Participant ID: no ID needed just press #

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://metroparkstacoma-org.zoom.us/j/81856625179>

**MEETINGS ARE RECORDED
AND MAY BE HEARD UPON REQUEST**

COMMISSIONERS

ANDREA SMITH, PRESIDENT

TIM REID, CLERK

AARON POINTER

ROSIE AYALA

MATTHEW MAUER

5:30 P.M. STUDY SESSION STATE OF PLAY PROJECT UPDATE

6:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS TRAILS DAY PROCLAMATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE & COMMISSION REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"Park District meeting sites are accessible to people who require special accommodations, please contact 305-1091 48 hours prior to the meeting time."



REGULAR MEETING

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Community comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance of the meeting in written form. Please submit written comments to the Board by 4 p.m. on July 22, 2024 by e-mailing them to jenniferb@tacomaparks.com Comments will be compiled and sent to Board members in advance of the meeting. Comments may also be left on voicemail at 253-305-1091 by 4 p.m. on July 22, 2024. Verbal comments will also be allowed during the meeting both in-person and remotely. To request to speak during community comments, please press the Raise Hand button near the bottom of your Zoom window or *9 on your phone. All speakers will have up to three minutes to speak.

MINUTES

- (5-6) MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING
- (7-10) MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

REGULAR AGENDA

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

(Requiring one reading for adoption)

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

(Requiring one reading for adoption)

- (11-14) **RESOLUTION NO. RR49-24:** AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICE FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

- 1. GATEWAY TICKETING FOR POS MAINTENANCE, SUPPORT AND ENHANCEMENTS INCLUDES ANNUAL SOFTWARE/HARDWARE SUPPORT, WEB STORE HOSTING, UPGRADES AND PRODUCT ENHANCEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$254,996.68 FOR 2024-2026
(Contact: Alan Varsik, Director of Zoological & Environmental Education)

SINGLE READING RESOLUTION

(Requiring one reading for adoption)

FIRST READINGS:

(Requiring two readings for adoption)

SECOND READING RESOLUTIONS

(Requiring two readings for adoption)

- (15-22) **RESOLUTION NO. RR48-24:** ADOPTION OF THE MPT SYSTEM AND STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2030
(Contact: Debbie Russell, Director of Business Administration & Planning)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

July 24, 2024	Capital Improvement Committee	5:00 PM	District Headquarters
July 29, 2024	Committee of the Whole	5:30 PM	District Headquarters
August 12, 2024	Regular Park Board Meeting	6:00 PM	District Headquarters
August 14, 2024	Capital Improvement Committee	5:00 PM	District Headquarters

*Remote Option meeting details can be found on the Metro Parks Website www.metroparkstacoma.org

*Committee Meetings are subject to change - please check the Metro Parks Website, www.metroparkstacoma.org for the most up to date meeting schedules.





**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
July 8, 2024**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Aaron Pointer, Acting Clerk
Rosie Ayala
Matthew Mauer

EXCUSED: Tim Reid

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: Metro Parks District Headquarters, 4702 S 19th St. Tacoma, WA 98405

PUBLIC HEARING

SURPLUSING AND SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AT SOUTH END RECREATION AREA (SERA) TO THE CITY OF TACOMA FOR FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OF FIRE STATION #7

The Public Hearing was called to order at 5:30pm.

Metro Parks Staff gave a brief overview of the timeline of the proposed project including proposal development in 2022 & 2023, public outreach and review during the summer and fall of 2023, and on to refinement of the proposal in the fall of 2023.

Staff then reviewed maps showing the proposed property surplus at SERA on South Tyler St. Near So. 58th St. A conceptual site plan was also shown, that noted the footprint of the proposed fire station.

Commissioner Mauer inquired about trees that may need to be cut due to the construction of the proposed fire station.

Staff commented that an urban forestry assessment was completed by staff. Staff stated that the assessment noted that general count of most of the trees that are within the footprint of the site are of a volunteer nature including Cottonwoods, Alders, most of which are in poor health and condition. According to the forestry assessment, there are some Douglas Fir and Madrona on the margins of the development site, but the station would have to be ultimately designed to know what the full impact of the footprint would be.

The floor was then open for public testimony.

President Smith noted that written comments in opposition to the surplus were received from Tim Smith, Cathie Raine, Kit Burns, Janeen Provazek and Heidi Stephens.

The following individuals addressed the Board and spoke in opposition of the proposed land surplus: Kit Burns, Tod Sharon, Heidi Stephens, & April Smith.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
July 8, 2024**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Aaron Pointer, Acting Clerk
Rosie Ayala
Matthew Mauer

EXCUSED: Tim Reid

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: Metro Parks Tacoma District Headquarters, 4702 S. 19th St, Tacoma WA 98405

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 p.m. President Smith read a land acknowledgement.

It was moved and seconded to excuse Commissioner Reid from the meeting and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pointer was appointed as acting clerk as Commissioner Reid was excused.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF PARKS & RECREATION MONTH

After a brief introduction from Mark Knowlden, Commissioner Ayala read the proclamation into the record that honors and recognizes July as National Parks & Recreation Month. The District's Park Guide staff were present to receive the proclamation. Jess Crask addressed the Board noting the work that is done by the Park Guides.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Smith commented that she attended the pool soft opening events at Kandle Park and Stewart Heights Park.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Active Lifestyle & Community Wellness Advisory council

Commissioner Pointer stated that the last meeting was held on site at the Rhododendron Garden at Point Defiance. He noted that two new council members joined the meeting.

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Mauer commented that at the last council meeting the agenda included a discussion related to the proposed Fire Station 7 land surplus.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Shon Sylvia, Executive Director commented on the following:

- 4th of July Summer Blast was a successful event, attendance was a steep increase over the last few years, as staff estimate over 70,000 people enjoyed the waterfront activities. The City of Tacoma, particularly leadership from the Tacoma Police Department and the Fire Department are very happy with this year’s setup and with the event’s safety, security and traffic plan.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS None**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ayala and passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Reid being excused).

CONSENT AGENDA**RESOLUTION NO. C47-24: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR JUNE 2024**

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ayala and passed on a vote of 5-0.

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None**PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS** None**SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS****SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS****RESOLUTION NO. RR40-24: ADOPTION OF REVISED, NEW AND REPEALED DISTRICT POLICIES**

This resolution was moved and seconded at the June 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Being no additional comments, the question was called, and the resolution passed on a vote of 4-0 (Commissioner Reid being excused).

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION NO. RR48-24: ADOPTION OF THE MPT SYSTEM AND STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2030**

Commissioner Ayala moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Pointer.

Alisa O’Hanlon Regala opened the presentation by reviewing the process used in developing this plan. She commented and described the strategic directions of this plan including people, program, place and pathways as follows:

People: This strategic direction discusses and recommends strategies for how the MPT organization and services align with the diversity and changing demographics of our community. Strategic Actions:

- Bolster our youth in sense of belonging and incorporate their voices.
- Build a diverse workforce and organizational culture.
- Continue robust community engagement.
- Provide a balanced CIP that reflects diversity and cultivates inclusivity.
- Partner to create integrated, seamless service delivery.

Program: This strategic direction discusses the comparative ratio of services MPT provides among its three mission areas and recommends strategies for balancing investments across the vast array of community needs and doing so with economic sustainability. Strategic Actions:

- Enhance cost recovery to ensure sustainable service provision.
- Build facilitative programming skill.
- Balance the program mix among service lines, mission areas, and target audiences, especially considering achieving sustainable service provision and equitably meeting community needs.
- Provide an ecosystem that attracts all youth to daily, engaging physical activity.

Place: This strategic direction examines how our community uses and participates in its park and recreation spaces and recommends strategies to support community in deepening its engagement with these public places. Strategic Actions:

- Engage community to caretake spaces.
- More flexibility in allowed uses; design for multi-use spaces.
- Help youth deeply connect with the place they live.
- Deepen community’s sense of connection with public spaces.
- Distribute spaces and programs equitably to facilitate equitable participation.
- Encourage spending time outdoors in public spaces.

Pathways: This strategic direction builds especially on the philosophy of a “City in Park”, a phrase adopted in the plan that signifies MPT’s intention to focus on providing amenities, facilities, programs, services, and experiences in a manner that is accessible and reinforces the criticality of green infrastructure to the health of people, wildlife and planet. Strategic Actions:

- Invest in streets/ROWs as intentional spaces not just connectors.
- Advocate for green infrastructure and natural space with urgency to rival urbanization and climate change. Inspire and engage stewardship of and awaken connection to natural environment.

- Prioritize public space as lifeblood for community connection.
- Integrate plans for a greener, more resilient, nature-infused community.

Austin Hochstetler addressed the Board about the great work involved in building the plan and moving forward with its implementation.

Commissioner Mauer suggested that future board actions cite or refer to the plan’s strategies.

Being no additional comments that resolution was moved to second reading.

NEW BUSINESS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

THROUGH: Shon Sylvia, Executive Director

FROM: Alan Varsik, Director of Zoological & Environmental Education

SUBJECT: Purchasing Resolution

DATE: July 15, 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The attached Purchasing Resolution seeks Board approval to enable the Executive Director to enter into the necessary agreements for the purchase and acquisition of the goods and services detailed in Exhibit A to the Resolution and in the supporting information below.

Proposed goods and services proposed for purchase and/or acquisition:

Item No. 1

- **VENDOR** Gateway Ticketing Systems
- **GOODS OR SERVICE** POS Maintenance, support and enhancements
Includes annual software/hardware support, web store hosting, upgrades and product enhancements.
- **PRICE** \$254,996.68 for total 3-year agreement
\$72,055.35
\$84,304.76 (17% increase annually)
\$98,636.57 (17% increase annually)
- **SOURCE OF FUNDING** PDZA & NWT Technology Services Budget
- **CONTACT** Alan Varsik, (253) 404-3634

In 2001 Metro Parks Tacoma purchased its Point-of-Sale Ticketing System from Gateway Ticketing Systems for Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. ZEED uses Gateway Ticketing System as its point-of-sale system for admissions, membership, group sales, on-line/mobile ticketing, and program registrations. To stay current with emerging technology, product enhancements and receive 24/7 support we pay an annual software/hardware support, web store hosting, upgrades and product enhancements.

FISCAL IMPACT: These expenses are included in the department operating budgets.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information, contact Alan Varsik, Director of Zoological & Environmental Education at 253-404-3634 or alan.varsik@pdza.org .

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA

PURCHASING RESOLUTION NO. P49 -24

**AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF
GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA**

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners have established policies governing the purchase of goods and services for Metro Parks Tacoma through the adoption of Resolution No. RR40-24, Adoption of Revised, New and Repealed for the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners through the adoption of Resolution No. R51-02, Adopting Board Policies and Procedures, authorized the use of a Purchasing Resolution for consolidation of all purchases seeking approval by the Board of Park Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks staff recommends the Board of Park Commissioners authorize the purchase of goods and services detailed below; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma to authorize the Executive Director to enter into the necessary agreements to purchase or acquire the following goods and services as detailed in Exhibit A to this resolution.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a meeting held on _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

President

Secretary

Clerk

Exhibit A
Purchasing Resolution No. P49-24

Item No. 1

- **VENDOR** Gateway Ticketing Systems
- **GOODS OR SERVICE** POS Maintenance, support and enhancements
Includes annual software/hardware support, web store hosting, upgrades and product enhancements.
- **PRICE** **\$254,996.68 for total 3-year agreement**
\$72,055.35 (2024)
\$84,304.76 (17% increase annually- 2025)
\$98,636.57 (17% increase annually – 2026)
- **SOURCE OF FUNDING** PDZA & NWT Technology Services Budget
- **CONTACT** Alan Varsik, (253) 404-3634



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

THROUGH: Shon Sylvia, Executive Director

FROM: Debbie Russell, Director of Business, Administration & Planning

SUBJECT: Adoption of the MPT System and Strategic Plan 2024-2030

DATE: July 3, 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: After extensive community outreach and conversation; market trends, GIS, and program data analysis; best practice and other community plans research; workshops with MPT staff and partners for strategy and consensus development, the recommended *MPT System and Strategic Plan 2024-2030* is being presented for Board adoption.

The Plan sets four areas of strategic direction, recommends strategic action to guide annual work plans and biennial budget decisions, identifies key performance metrics to track progress and impact, and meets the requirements of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreations Agencies (CAPRA) and is responsive to the need of the City of Tacoma to prepare a comprehensive land use plan in accordance with the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act.

BACKGROUND: The *System and Strategic Plan* is the foundational planning document for MPT stating how the agency will achieve its mission, goals, and objectives and will guide decisions for provision of facilities, programs, and services. MPT updates its long-range plan every six years in accordance with requirements of RCO and standards of CAPRA. The *MPT System and Strategic Plan 2024-2030* supersedes and replaces the *2018 Strategic Master Plan* and the *2016 Mission-Led Comprehensive Program Plan*.

The plan development process began in early 2023 with a community-wide random sample survey that yielded statistically valid data about the needs and priorities of Tacoma community members regarding parks and recreation. The needs and priorities identified via the survey established a starting point for extensive community outreach through the year including presentations and discussion at Co-Create to Recreate events, MPT Advisory Councils, focus groups with specific interest communities, and community meetings in identified service gap areas. In parallel with the outreach, in-depth analysis of the reach of MPT services was conducted via GIS mapping and review of program statistics. This coverage analysis was conducted on services en masse and as disaggregated per MPT's three mission areas, Active Living & Community Wellness; Arts, Culture and Heritage; and Nature and Environment.

In February 2024, a series of workshops with MPT leadership, senior staff, and community partners invited examination and discussion of the outreach data and service analyses along with

trends and forecast information. Through the workshops a consensus emerged for four areas for MPT to emphasize over the next six years in order to continue to provide a system of parks and recreation that meets community needs and responds to key challenges at present and in the future. The four strategic directions are:

People.

This strategic direction discusses and recommends strategies for how the MPT organization and services align with the diversity and changing demographics of our community.

Program.

This strategic direction discusses the comparative ratio of services MPT provides among its three mission areas and recommends strategies for balancing investments across the vast array of community needs and doing so with economic sustainability.

Place.

This strategic direction examines how our community uses and participates in its park and recreation spaces and recommends strategies to support community in deepening its engagement with these public places.

Pathways.

This strategic direction builds especially on the philosophy of a “City in Park”, a phrase adopted in the plan that signifies MPT’s intention to focus on providing amenities, facilities, programs, services, and experiences in a manner that is accessible and reinforces the criticality of green infrastructure to the health of people, wildlife and planet.

Throughout these four areas particular attention is paid to the voices of and impacts on youth, seniors and marginalized communities. A summary of the Strategic Actions (exhibit A) contains a series of tactics that may be implemented to address the action statements. The Strategic Actions should be viewed as a framework in which Metro Parks can work within, add to/modify during the six-year period, and re-assess according to related resources, policy directives, and any other factor(s) that may influence specific tactics and/or their implementation sequencing.

The full plan can be viewed here [Tacoma System and Strategic Plan.pdf](#)

FISCAL IMPACT: The *MPT System and Strategic Plan* articulates strategies and tactics to be translated and refined into work plan items to be vetted for funding in the biennial budget development process.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact Alisa O’Hanlon Regala, Strategic Planning Manager at alisa.ohanlonregala@tacomaparks.com or (253) 244-4318.

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA

RESOLUTION NO. RR48-24

ADOPTION OF THE MPT SYSTEM AND STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2030

WHEREAS, Metro Parks Tacoma is committed to community-driven strategic planning that ensures the agency continues to provide opportunities for all District residents to play, learn and grow; and,

WHEREAS, standards from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and guidelines from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) establish criteria for broad agency level planning that this plan satisfies; and,

WHEREAS, Metro Parks Tacoma believes in strategic action that complements and integrates with the vision set forth in the City of Tacoma’s One Tacoma: Comprehensive Plan prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act; and,

WHEREAS, Metro Parks Tacoma contributes to a sustainable and livable city by providing a wide range of accessible, inclusive, affordable, convenient and safe opportunities to meet the diverse needs of the changing community; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks Tacoma is committed to the constant and long term endeavor to improve and strengthen the purveyance of parks and recreation services to all District residents; and,

WHEREAS, the adoption of the *MPT System & Strategic Plan 2024-2030* will advance the District's values of innovation, inclusiveness, sustainability, safety, excellence, equity, accountability, and fun; Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma adopts the *MPT System & Strategic Plan 2024-2030* to guide decisions that advance program and service delivery to District residents.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regular meeting held on _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

President

Secretary

Clerk

MPT System & Strategic Plan 2024-2030

Strategic Actions and Tactics

Strategic Actions represent the overarching framework to assist with bringing the concepts associated with the Strategic Direction are (i.e. People, Program, Space-Destination, and Space-Journey) to life and to assist with achieving goals and objectives over the six-year planning period. The Strategic Actions are presented in **bold** below, and each contain a series of tactics that may be implemented to address the action statements. The Strategic Actions should be viewed as a framework in which Metro Parks can work within, add to/modify during the six-year period, and re-assess according to related resources, policy directives, and any other factor(s) that may influence specific tactics and/or their implementation sequencing.

People – Cultural Alignment

C1. Bolster our youth in their social-emotional development and sense of belonging and engagement with the place they live; incorporate their voices and experiences in decision-making processes.

- Ensure actionable data from youth in all regions is collected annually.
- Increase the percentage of youth engaging in outdoor activities.
- Focus on building relationships and a sense of belonging through consistent training and social-emotional learning initiatives.

C2. Continue to build a workforce and an organizational culture that reflects and makes decisions that represent the diversity of the community it serves.

- Incorporate cultural competency training for staff.
- Achieve a workforce development goal of being reflective of Tacoma’s demographics.
- Establish a MWBE goal for a percent of total Metro Parks contracted services annually.
- Complete an organizational assessment/evaluation process to identify the existing and future/preferred organizational culture (if different).

C3. Continue robust community engagement during decision-making processes.

- Establish an annual performance metric related to the number of community conversations opportunities provided, the number of voices heard, and representative demographic targets.
- Ensure the Equity Note is used for all studies, assessments, evaluations, and proposals.

C4. Continually strive for a balanced capital improvement plan (CIP) that invests in infrastructure that honors community diversity and cultivates inclusivity.

- Establish an equity-based CIP and process that combines level of service goals while allowing for flexibility for changing demographics and engagement.
- Increase opportunities for social gathering spaces for connection.
- Increase utilization of existing parks by addressing barriers and funding solutions.
- Build inclusive playgrounds to cater to diverse community needs.

C5. Continue to evolve our partnerships with other organizations and agencies to create increasingly integrated, and seamless, service delivery.

- Break down bureaucratic boundaries by fostering collaboration through job descriptions and performance measurements.
- Create technologies and processes for combined data gathering for partner agencies.

Program – Defining Our Core Services and Strategic Collaborations

P1. Continue to develop cost recovery as one of the foundational components for ensuring sustainable service provision.

- Enhance the current cost recovery philosophy beyond the Cost Recovery Pyramid as appropriate.
- Study a Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) approach to assist with maintaining related facilities and amenities through adjustments in service provision.

P2. Build-up Metro Parks’ skill in facilitative programming as a quality and cost-effective approach for providing for the vast variety of activities desired by the community.

- Classify existing programs and services using the MacMillan Matrix.
- Hire additional staff and align organizational structure to account for an increased *facilitative program management* function.
- Create a budget item that acts as seed money or “grants” for facilitated programs.
- Continue to enhance partnerships with schools, youth organizations, and sports clubs to expand access to recreational facilities and programs for underserved communities.

P3. Continue to use and enhance Metro Parks’ business plan approach by incorporating new data analytics focusing on service provision allocation, service delivery methods and models, community diversity, equity, and fiscal responsibility.

- Update/create a Recreation Program Plan that sets program distribution targets based on community need and cost recovery targets and outlines the preferred delivery stream model based on what is most appropriate.
- Balance investing in community-identified high priority programs and services with investing in more niche or targeted programs.
- Implement regular feedback mechanisms from users and potential users.
- Adhere to program performance measures to continue right-sizing programmatic portfolio such as minimums, maximums, cancellation rates, and capacity metrics.
- Continue to develop inclusive programming that addresses the diverse needs and interests of community members, including seniors, youth, and individuals with disabilities.
- Utilize data tracking systems to monitor participation rates and evaluate the effectiveness of wellness programs and initiatives over time.
- Continue broadening the availability and access to Nature & Environment programs.

- Continue broadening the availability and access to Arts, Culture, & Heritage programs.

Space (Destination) – Parks and Recreation Spaces as “Third Space” of Choice

D1. Engage our community’s interest in shaping their neighborhoods and helping to caretake our communal spaces.

- Empower communities to lead the direction of their neighborhood parks through stewardship groups.
- Collaborate with local environmental organizations and community groups to organize native planting events and habitat restoration projects.
- Increase community buy-in through stewardship, participation, and budgeting.

D2. Consider more flexibility in the uses allowed in public spaces and design spaces to better integrate multiple uses.

- Modify the Neighborhood Park classification to allow a broader array of activities that meet neighborhood and surrounding area needs.
- Consider developing “sports parks” which are 24-hour multi-use spaces.
- Utilize food-related initiatives to enhance community engagement and participation.

D3. Help youth to more deeply connect with the place they live, especially via interactions with the spaces designed for community.

- Continue to meet youth where they are – Beyond the Bell and Club Beyond programming.
- Incorporate youth voices in programming and decision-making processes.
- Facilitate exposure to nature for youth through structured programs and visits.
- Promote ownership and stewardship among the next generation by involving elementary schools in local park activities.

D4. Engage with the community to advance efforts that support them to develop a sense of connection with their public spaces.

- Facilitate community-led art projects, such as murals and sculptures, to celebrate local heritage and culture.
- Provide funding and support for cultural programming, such as workshops, classes, and performances, in parks and community spaces.
- Create opportunities for intergenerational engagement by hosting storytelling sessions, cultural exchanges, and heritage celebrations in parks and public spaces.
- Foster face-to-face relationships among communities within parks.
- Invest in community builders to foster trust and engagement.
- Measure success through community satisfaction and increased social cohesion.

D5. Invest in distribution of recreation spaces and programs in a manner that facilitates equitable participation in our community's parks and recreation system.

- Continue to close gaps for 10-minute walksheds.
- Enhance the distribution of access to Mission Area facilities, amenities, and programs.
- Ensure parks and programs represent the diversity of the community.

D6. Encourage spending time outdoors in public spaces designed to support physical, mental, social, and emotional health.

- Develop and promote walking and biking trails in parks and green spaces to encourage physical activity and active transportation.
- Focus on pedestrian and transit route improvements.
- Conduct outreach and marketing campaigns to promote the benefits of active living and encourage participation in recreational activities.

Space (Journey) – Mobilization for Connecting with and Enlivening our Natural World

J1. Invest in streets and other public routes not only as conduits between destinations, but as intentional spaces for connection with fellow community members and the environment.

- Support efforts to ensure every person has access to safe and clear routes to community spaces.
- Contribute to ensuring completion of sidewalks, curbs, and safe crossings by 2050.
- Advocate for design standards for streets, boulevards, medians, rights-of-ways, and travel corridors advance a safe, healthy, and active transportation network that includes access to nature and environment.
- Find opportunities to transform rights-of-ways into green corridors.

J2. Invest in trees, green infrastructure, and natural spaces with an urgency to rival the pace and depth of climate change and urbanization impacts.

- Implement strategies to improve the tree canopy, focusing on eliminating disparities.
- Adopt a policy that trees are critical infrastructure.
- Prioritize reserving and reclaiming natural space and green infrastructure in areas forecasted to densify.
- Increase native planting and restoration efforts.
- Continue to implement green infrastructure initiatives, such as rain gardens and bioswales, to improve stormwater management and enhance wildlife habitat.
- Increase the percentage of land certified as wildlife habitat.

J3. Inspire and engage community to care about and steward the natural environment.

- Utilize data tracking systems to monitor the health and biodiversity of natural areas over time, informing future conservation efforts.

- Develop educational programs and workshops to raise awareness about local biodiversity and conservation efforts.
- Engage communities in habitat restoration projects, such as native planting and invasive species removal.
- Shift from monoculture grass, introduce native vegetation, and implement signage.
- Prioritize areas for restoration based on exposure.
- Leverage the current *ZEED Strategic Plan* to mobilize Tacoma residents across and throughout the Metro Parks system of parks, facilities, amenities, programs, and services.

J4. Prioritize public space as a lifeblood that can multiply and enrich community connections and identity.

- Focus on land acquisition strategies that may include space preservation through partnerships.
- Advocate for a citywide public space strategy that is backed by policies, programs, and budgeting guidelines.
- Invest in regional facilities to preserve the unique experiences that characterize Tacoma recreation and are also balanced with a respect to natural functions.
- Expand Community Schoolyard locations, possibly even looking at Middle Schools in addition to Elementary Schools.

J5. Coordinate and integrate plans to grow a greener, and more resilient, nature-infused community.

- Facilitate collaboration among different agencies to address shared priorities.
- Participate in a working group that meets semi-annually, at a minimum, that is responsible for the status update of the various plans' implementation strategies and progress.
- Develop comprehensive inventory and asset maps to inform planning and decision-making processes.
- Coordinate outreach and engagement efforts among City agencies.
- Pool resources and collaborate to meet needs in high-priority areas.