



## WEEKLY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

### JUNE 5, 2026

When I spoke to each of you, I mentioned that I would be sending a weekly report to the Commission to keep you up-to-date on various programs, projects efforts, etc. in brief, concise write-ups. This is the first weekly report. Please let me know your thoughts on this report, including content, style, and usefulness. I want this to be a resource that helps you to fulfill your responsibilities as Commissioners.

### Warm Welcome

Today marks the end of my third week with Parks Tacoma. I have enjoyed getting to know each of you and our staff. Everyone has been welcoming and gracious and eager to work together to move the District forward. I feel truly blessed to be working with you and staff in this positive, team-oriented environment.

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### Tacoma Parks Foundation

I met with Beth Boggs, Executive Director, Tacoma Parks Foundation, last week and then with her, staff, and Commission President Mauer, and Vice President Lee to discuss how the Foundation can support the District in the future. We also discussed the need to develop a new agreement between the District and the Foundation because the current agreement expired at the end of last year. We are currently operating on a month-to-month basis. George will work with Beth to restart the effort begun last year to put together a new agreement.

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### Parks & Recreation

#### **Point Defiance Flower & Garden Festival**

This weekend -June 6 & 7 at the Point Defiance Flower & Garden Festival you'll experience a showcase of gardening in the Pacific Northwest with hands-on programming, garden tours, food trucks, shopping, lectures, live music, a beer and wine tasting garden, and more.

[Point Defiance Flower & Garden Festival - Parks Tacoma](#)

## **Meadow Park Golf Course – Pathway to Golf Industry Program**

Launched June 1, Meadow Park Golf Course’s Pathway to Golf Industry – Maintenance Track welcomed seven Golf Industry Explorers hired through an active recruitment process supported by Workforce Central’s Collaboration for a Cause.

This 90-day paid workforce development training opportunity is focused on meaningful training with meaningful results. During their first week, Explorers began by detailing the parking lot and helping improve the first impression of Meadow Park for guests and the community. Stop by Meadow Park to see the positive results firsthand and meet some of the Explorers.

## **Wright Park Restrooms**

The bathrooms at Wright Park have been closed due to ongoing vandalism and damage, and temporary toilets have been installed. Toilet partitions and doors have been repeatedly torn off the walls and repairs are no longer viable. We are developing a plan to replace partitions with concrete block walls. The bathroom building is in overall poor condition and staff have identified it for potential replacement. Wright Park is seeing an uptick in problems, including the recent attempted theft of the bronze bust of Henrik Ibsen. Wright Park remains an emphasis area for our contracted security patrols every day.

## **New Refuse Truck**

This week we took delivery of a new refuse truck, which will provide solid waste service in parks citywide. This truck, along with a new operator, will reduce overall operating costs and improve service compared to waste removal by the City. Purchase of this truck was approved in 2025; delivery was delayed due to tariff and shipping issues.

## **Art of the Game Scavenger Hunt**

Park Guides are partnering with Visit Tacoma – Pierce County for the [“Art of the Game Scavenger Hunt.”](#) Inspired by Tacoma’s world-renowned glass art tradition, Art of the Game invites visitors and locals to follow weekly clues and search for handcrafted glass medallions and floats hidden at public places, events, festivals, scenic viewpoints and other spectacular locations throughout Pierce County.

**PRD Activity Roundup** Click for this week’s guide [Weekly Activity Guide](#)

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## Communications & Governmental Relations

### **City ILA**

in April, we paused negotiations with the City of Tacoma on a new 10-year Interlocal Agreement so we could focus on the budget amendment. We have made a lot of progress towards a new ILA and anticipate restarting those conversations in July. We appreciate the City's willingness to give us extra time.

### **Congresswoman Randall Outreach Event**

We agreed to a request this week from U.S. Rep. Emily Randall's office for space at People's Community Center to host an outreach event that connects her caseworkers with community members who need assistance with the federal government. The event, called Casework Connections, is expected to be a daylong event in August, with the date still being worked out.

### **Media Relations**

Public information officer Stacia Glenn is on vacation for the rest of June. PIO duties will rotate among several Marcom staff.

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## Zoo & Aquarium Updates

### **Trolls: A Field Study**

The first public announcement of Trolls: A Field Study at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek will take place on June 8. The art installation is scheduled to open to the public on October 15.

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## Planning & Capital

### **Parks Tacoma Urban Agriculture Plan: Fertile Ground**

The Urban Agriculture Plan has been completed following significant stakeholder engagement. The plan examines Parks Tacoma's role in urban agriculture and seeks alignment with key agency partners including the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, and Harvest Pierce County (Pierce Conservation District).

A final report has been received from consultant Michael Liang and will be forwarded to Commissioners shortly. The Board study session previously scheduled to review this work was postponed and may be rescheduled at the Board's discretion.

## **Urban Forestry Strategic Growth Plan**

Parks Tacoma is developing an Integrated Urban Forestry Strategic Growth Plan to align climate and strategic priorities with regional partners while strengthening the District's urban forestry program.

The plan will establish clear goals and actions to expand canopy equity and position Parks Tacoma as a regional leader in urban forestry. A project kickoff meeting attended by nearly 50 staff and partner organizations was held on May 19.

## **Trust for Public Land – Park Equity Accelerator**

A combined Parks Tacoma and City of Tacoma team recently completed participation in the Trust for Public Land's year-long Park Equity Accelerator program.

The program examined strategies to better align Tacoma's active transportation network with community needs for park and green space access. A final report was received June 1 and identifies opportunities for the recently approved Parks Bond and the City's proposed Streets & Sidewalks Levy to work together to maximize safe and equitable access to recreation spaces.

Recommendations will be presented to the Board during a study session on June 22.

## **Fern Hill Community Walk**

Parks Tacoma, Tacoma On the Go, the City of Tacoma, South End Neighborhood Council, and Trust for Public Land will host a community walk in Fern Hill on June 6 from 9:00–11:00 a.m. at Baker Middle School.

Participants will have an opportunity to provide feedback, connect with neighbors, and learn about upcoming projects designed to improve access to parks and schools. The event will also support community engagement related to Ryan's Park, where schematic planning is underway for a bicycle and pedestrian bridge connecting the park to 80th Street over a nearby ravine.

## **Stewart Heights Pool Renovation**

Renovation of the Stewart Heights Pool deck and gutter system has been completed through the capital program. The contractor successfully met the project schedule, and the pool is prepared for its June 20 opening.

## **First Creek Park and Trailhead Construction**

Construction continues on the First Creek Park and Trailhead project at the Eastside Community Center campus near South 56th Street and the Pipeline Trail.

This first-of-its-kind Parks Tacoma project will provide fitness equipment and gathering spaces for neighborhood users of the Pipeline Trail. Substantial completion is anticipated by the end of June.

### **Stormwater Inspection Program**

Planning staff have begun annual stormwater asset inspections as required under the Washington State Department of Ecology Municipal Stormwater Permit.

### **Dune Peninsula Operations, Monitoring & Maintenance Plan**

Parks Tacoma is contracting with GeoEngineers to complete annual monitoring, inspection, and reporting requirements under the Operations, Monitoring, and Maintenance Plan (OMMP) for Dune Peninsula at the former ASARCO smelter site.

Work will include shoreline, upland cap, and habitat inspections; preparation of the annual report; and staff training related to future inspection and reporting requirements.

### **Downtown Skate Park Design RFQ**

Parks Tacoma has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for design services for the Downtown Skate Park, a collaborative project with the City of Tacoma funded through the City's Participatory Budgeting Program.

The project will create a skate plaza beneath the I-705 overpass in the Dome District. Submittals are due June 18.

### **People's Community Center Redevelopment Feasibility Study**

Seven submittals were received in response to the Request for Qualifications for the People's Community Center Redevelopment Feasibility Study.

An evaluation committee consisting of Parks Tacoma staff, City of Tacoma staff, and a representative from the People's Center Community Advisory Group is currently reviewing proposals. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for the second week of June, with consultant selection anticipated later this summer.

Additionally, Parks Tacoma staff toured the Family First Community Center in Renton this week to learn more about community center development models and the integration of health care services into community facilities.

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## Finance

### **2025 Financial Statements Submitted**

The final unaudited 2025 financial statements have been completed and submitted to the State Auditor on schedule.

The completed financial statements have been distributed and are available for review.

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## Human Resources

### **Employee Transition Support**

The Human Resources team continues to provide support for employees impacted by program eliminations and layoffs. Staff meetings have been conducted to provide information regarding benefits, part-time employment opportunities, and next-step planning resources.

HR is also coordinating with Parks & Recreation managers to provide information to affected part-time employees.

Beyond the Bell Program:

Full-time employees: employment end date of June 30, 2026

Part-time employees: employment end date of June 15, 2026

Layoff Notification Support

During the week of May 23, Human Resources met with several managers and three full-time employees receiving layoff notices. These employees have an official end date of June 12, 2026.

### **Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Program**

Parks Tacoma continues participation in Washington State's Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program for qualifying employers. The Headquarters Campus, including Headquarters and the Scouts Building, meets participation requirements.

The annual employee survey was completed last week and provided valuable insight into commuting patterns and participation rates.

2025 Survey Results:

62% participation rate

67% drive-alone rate

7.73 average vehicle miles traveled

Reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips supports both state CTR requirements and Parks Tacoma's environmental sustainability goals.