



MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 22, 2009
TO: Kevin Stoops
FROM: Susanne K. Friedman, Parks Planner
RE: Spray Area Criteria

Recommended Action and Decision Date

The following memo outlines Seattle Parks and Recreation's recommendation for the development of two new spray parks per the 2008 Parks & Green Spaces Levy. The Department is seeking the Oversight Committee's concurrence with the recommended sites. Design Programs and Public Involvement Plans for each site will be developed in third quarter 2009.

Recommended sites are:

- 1. Northacres Park**
- 2. Highland Park Playground**

Rationale for this Recommendation

Seattle Parks and Recreation operates 31 wading pools and spray parks combined. Nine of the wading pools sites have had recent investments to complete necessary drain modifications. Of the 31 total sites, seven wading pools have been, or are slated to be converted to spray areas. Parks staff developed a series of screening criteria to assist with the site selection process for the two new spray park levy projects. Please refer to the attached map for additional details.

Based on historic numbers from previous years the wading pools with the highest attendance levels would not be included as potential sites for conversion. For example Green Lake Park wading pool has the highest attendance levels in the city, Van Asselt Playground and View Ridge Playfield wading pools are also highly used. The top 12 wading pools with the highest usage were automatically eliminated as potential sites for Spray Area conversion. These included:

Green Lake Park	Dahl Playfield
Volunteer Park	Delridge Playfield
Lincoln Park	Hiawatha Playfield
Van Asselt Playground	E.C. Hughes Playground
East Queen Anne Playground	Bitter Lake Playfield
Wallingford Playfield	View Ridge Playfield

Secondarily, locations that already have a spray feature, such as Pratt Park, or are slated for a new spray feature, such as Beacon Mountain Play Area, or are in close proximity to a park with a spray feature, such as Powell Barnett Park, were eliminated from consideration as a potential site for Spray Area conversion. These included:

South Park Playground	Georgetown Playfield
Cal Anderson Park	Beacon Mountain Play Area
Pratt Park	Powell Barnett Park
Miller Playfield	Gilman Playground
Judkins Park	Beacon Hill Playground
John C. Little Sr. Park	Peppie's Playground
Ballard Commons Park	

After considering recent investments and applying the screening criteria listed above, six potential sites remained for consideration for Spray Area conversion. These included:

Soundview Playfield
Magnuson Park
Ravenna Park

Sandel Playground
Highland Park Playground
Northacres Park

Of these six remaining sites, staff analyzed where potential water use reductions could be optimized, where equitable geographic distribution of sites city wide could be located, and finally consideration was given to maximizing cost efficiencies by combining a spray area conversion site with another named levy Play Area project. Applying these factors, the two top recommended sites are:

Northacres Park
Highland Park Playground

Next Steps after a Decision

- Design Programs and Public Involvement Plans for each site will be developed.
- Northacres Park Play Area project is scheduled to start construction in July 2010.
- Highland Park would be scheduled to start construction in May 2010.

Questions?

Call me at: 206.684.0902 or
susanne.friedman@seattle.gov

Background Information

Please see the attached Wading Pool and Spray Features Map, and the Spray Park Criteria spreadsheet for additional details.