

THE GREEN LEGACY COALITION SUPPORTS THE PARKS AND GREEN SPACES LEVY

THANK YOU! On behalf of the dozens of organizations of the Green Legacy Coalition who have been advocating for more parks and green infrastructure, I want to say thank you and congratulations for the leadership that you and your Parks and Green Spaces Levy Committee have brought to this process.

A STRONG PACKAGE. We are very excited about the package that the Committee has recommended to you. It has many extraordinary projects, from parks and playgrounds to green connections, creeks, and community gardens. This levy reflects the increasing awareness that parks and green infrastructure are an efficient investment that provides multiple long-term benefits, from healthier families and a cleaner Puget Sound to local food security and real climate action. Each of us may quibble with a few details, but this is a levy package that Seattle's citizens can get behind. It equitably distributes green investments throughout our neighborhoods and addresses a diversity of needs. It will be regarded as a Parks and Green Spaces for All Levy.

A BALANCED PACKAGE. This levy also carefully balances specific individual projects with powerful tools like the Acquisition Fund and the Opportunity Fund. We need the tangible and ready projects that citizens recognize and can rally around—Magnusson Park, Jefferson Park, the Burke-Gilman Trail, and dozens more—but we also need city-wide resources that leverage community initiative and respond to emerging opportunities and needs. The Acquisition Fund has been used by the City as a rapid response tool so many times to stand up for lands in our most environmentally-sensitive areas like the West Duwamish Greenbelt and Thornton Creek. This time around it is focused on our growing urban hubs and our natural spaces. An Opportunity Fund has been used to give citizens a voice in initiating imaginative projects like Fremont Peak Park and Oxbow Park with the Hat n' Boots. These projects consistently leverage outside funds and countless community hours. This time around we see it bigger, better, and focused on the creative use of all our public lands, be they parks, streets, or rights of way.

THE TIME IS NOW! In closing, we are thrilled that the Committee has recommended putting this measure on the ballot this November. It is shaping up to be a historic election nationally and is likely to inspire tremendous turnout locally. We know that even in a slower economy growth in our City is not taking a break, and from a regional perspective we must accept this as far better than sprawl, but our investments in parks and green spaces can't take a break either. Our success in growing gracefully is intimately linked to the quality of the green infrastructure network that is partnered with that density. We are ready to mobilize our dozens of community organizations to turn out the two-thirds of Seattle citizens that support this levy. We are ready to wage a successful campaign to put this Parks and Green Spaces Levy over the top this historic November. Please put it on the ballot. Thank you!

Nate Cormier, ASLA, LEED AP
Green Legacy Coalition Co-Chair