

Board of Parks & Recreation Commissioners Superintendent's Report

AP Diaz, Superintendent

April 24, 2025



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

Healthy People, Thriving Environment, Vibrant Community

#SeattleShines



Department Updates & Upcoming Events



 **Seattle**
Parks & Recreation

JOIN OUR SUMMER HIRING EVENT

Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Miller Community Center, 330 19th Ave. E, Seattle

Parks and Recreational Services: Aquatics



Parks & Recreational Services: Recreation



Parks & Recreational Services: Recreation



Parks & Recreational Services: Parks and Environment Facilities



Parks & Recreational Services: Parks and Environment



Park Project Updates: Westlake Park & Don Armeni Boat Ramp



Volunteer Puget Park Trail Project



Thank you!



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Healthy People, Thriving Environment, Vibrant Community

Associated Recreation Council

Vision

Bringing together all people to build a healthy community.

Mission

Inspire engagement and participation in equitable, dynamic, culturally relevant, and responsive recreation, childcare, and lifelong learning programs.

Celebrating  years of serving our community

1975 - ARC is created to explicitly support the Advisory Councils for programs and activities runout of SPR facilities.

2001 – ARC takes on operations of licensed childcare across SPR facilities.

2008 – The first Master Services Agreement was created to develop a mission, vision and strategic plan (initial 10-year plan that was revised and extended, now ending in 2028).

2019 – SPR, ARC and ACs recognized continued growth of ARC programming and system-wide Shifts + need for sustainable financial resources. Created current MSA signed in 4/2019.

2023 –Emerging from the Pandemic, working to improve system with a focus on future sustainability.

2025 – ARC is celebrating its 50 years of serving the Seattle community in partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation.

A little history

ARC was incorporated as an independent 501(c)3 in 1975 to ensure that all of Seattle is well served by recreation and lifelong learning programming and to build community through citizen engagement and participation in programs.

The vision of the partnership between ARC and the Recreation Division of SPR is to provide equitable, dynamic and responsive recreation and lifelong learning programs that are a part of the life of every Seattle resident.

Who We Are

Associated Recreation Council:

Non-profit enriching Seattle Parks and Recreation through culturally relevant and responsive Childcare, Healthy Recreation, Lifelong Learning programs and management of the Volunteer Advisory Councils.

Seattle Parks and Recreation:

City department responsible for maintaining parks, open spaces, and community center facilities across Seattle.



Seattle
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healthy people healthy environment strong communities



SPARC is the partnership
between ARC as an independent
501c3 and the Recreation Division
of Seattle Parks and Recreation



How We Work Together

SPR provides the facilities and public mission.

ARC delivers programs, staffing, financial support and volunteer community engagement.



Together, we ensure accessible, equitable, and sustainable healthy recreation and childcare services across Seattle

Master Services Agreement (MSA)

The Master Services Agreement (MSA) provides the policy outline for the partnership. It is a renewable contract first signed in 2008, last signed in 2019.

The Master Services Agreement (MSA) is the “constitution” of the relationship between SPR and ARC that spells out how both organizations work together. The MSA details the role that each agency plays in SPR programs, Advisory Councils, marketing, financial management and more.

ARC's Key Roles

- Childcare & Program Management
- Financial Stewardship
- Advisory Council Management
- Development & Marketing support
- Human Resources
- Compliance & Reporting



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Community Impact

- Vital programs in recreation, childcare, youth employment, lifelong learning, special populations, four fiscally sponsored programs, (3 Small craft centers and Amy Yee Tennis Center) and community advisory councils.
- Equity-driven access for all.
- Sustainable fiscal and operational management for long-term success.

Example of Programs

- Youth Advisory Council & Youth at Work.
- Annual General Meeting & AC Presidents Meeting.
- Preschool, LCC & School-age care.
- Community Events: Seattle Street Sports Showdown and Childcare Family Skating Party.

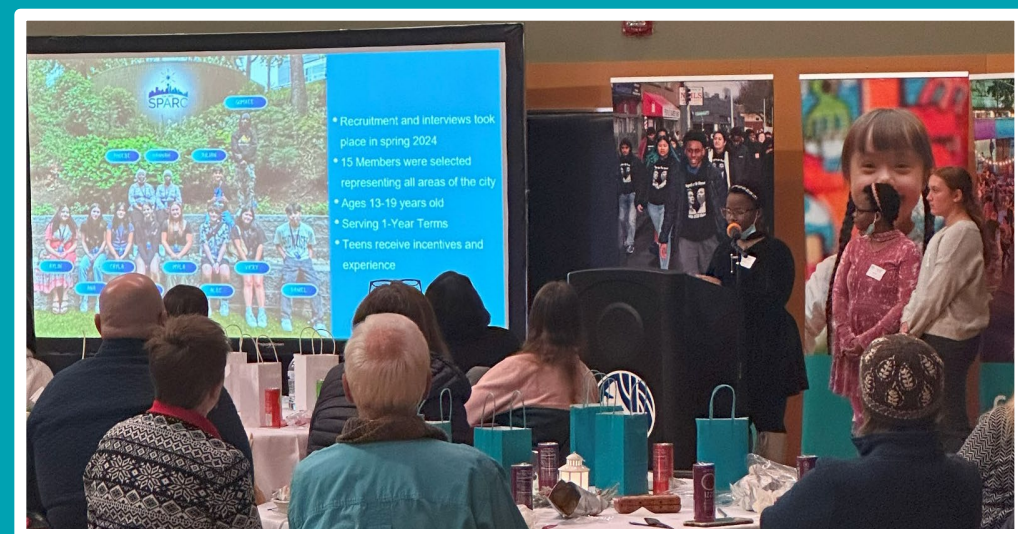


Preschool and School-age Care





Youth Advisory Council & Youth at Work





Seattle Street Sports Showdown





ARC's 50th Birthday Celebration at the Kraken Ice Plex for our Childcare Families

Looking Ahead

Master Services Agreement next renewal in 2028.

Adapting to meet Seattle's emerging and diverse needs.

Thank You!

Together, SPR & ARC are building a healthier and stronger community.



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For more information: www.arcseattle.org



Park Restroom Audit & SPR's Response Plan

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners | April 24, 2025



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A decorative graphic consisting of four horizontal bars of different colors: yellow, red, green, and blue, stacked vertically.

Audit Timeline

2022: City Council (acting as Park District Board) asked the City Auditor to conduct SPR performance audits.

Oct/Nov 2024: Auditor provided draft results and SPR developed a response plan.

Annually: SPR will report on our audit response annually until we complete implementation.

May-Sept 2024: Auditor interviews, ride-alongs, data analysis, site visits, sharing of initial high-level findings; SPR developed provisional responses.

Feb 2025: Audit published; Auditor and SPR present to City Council committee; SPR initiates response implementation.

Background



Restrooms are regularly cited in **public feedback** as an area for improvement.



SPR's 2020 **Strategic Plan** and **Park District Cycle 2 investments** recognized the public demand for improved restroom cleanliness and year-round access



SPR presented to the **BPRC** in August 2023 on our restroom dashboard and basic approach to restroom maintenance



We welcomed the opportunity to get the Auditor's perspective on **how to improve restrooms for park users** and partnered closely throughout the audit.



Overview



SPR generally concurs with the audit findings and we are jumping into implementing improvements, as outlined in our full response.

Today's Agenda



Providing Public
Restrooms in
Seattle: Context
& Challenges



Restroom
Renovation



Daily
Cleaning



Preventive
Maintenance



Measuring
Success



*(items directly
responsive to
audit findings)*



Providing Public Restrooms in Seattle: Context & Challenges



Context: Restrooms in Seattle's Parks



129 restrooms in parks, either standalone or attached to shelter houses.



Many close seasonally (November through April) mainly due to potential for frozen pipes. Though SPR is in process of weatherizing all restrooms for year-round use.



Many park restrooms are **aging facilities**, with capital projects needed to improve the user experience.



Facility design has varied over time based on public preferences (for example, all gender restrooms) and innovations for maintenance and safety (for example, the Portland Loo).



Challenges: Citywide Crises Impact Park Restrooms



SPR's system of restrooms was designed to meet the needs of *general park users* – though we work hard to provide access to all.



Due to a **citywide shortage of public restrooms**, our restrooms see significant use beyond park users (people experiencing homelessness, bus and delivery drivers, and more).



Park restrooms are greatly impacted by the **citywide mental health and drug abuse crises**, with restrooms closures due to unprecedented levels of **vandalism and arson**, diverting significant amounts of staff time and resources.

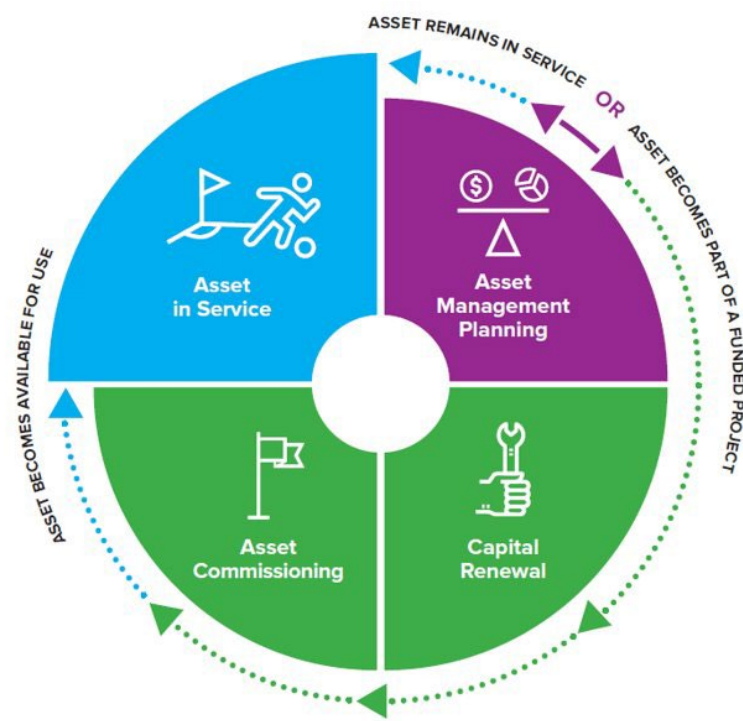




Restroom Renovation

*Providing much-needed **renovation of aging restrooms** to improve the user experience.*

Restroom Renovation



Cycle 2 (2023-2028) Investment:



RESTROOM RENOVATIONS

9 restrooms renovated toward goal of 27 with 4 in construction

33%



Newly renovated single-stall restrooms at Gas Works Park in 2024

Restroom Renovation: Investments & Innovations

Efficient Project Bidding:



- Bundling multiple restrooms into single bid packages:
 - ✓ 2024 Package – 5 sites: *Gilman, Salmon Bay, Sandel, Seward, Lakewood*
 - ✓ 2025 Package – 3 sites: *University Playground, Magnuson Sports Meadow, Magnolia Park*
- Bundling restroom renovations with other site improvements:
 - ✓ Examples: *Pathways Park, Little Brook Park, Carkeek Park, View Ridge Playfield, Garfield Super Block*

Other Actions Responsive to the Audit:



Align **condition assessments** with 6-year Park District planning processes.



Formally **update design standards** to incorporate lessons learned around vandalism, durability, and maintenance.





Preventive Maintenance

*Keeping restrooms in **good working order**
to improve the user experience.*

Preventive Maintenance: PM 101




- Preventive maintenance (PM) is **proactive, routine maintenance on assets to keep them in good working order**, with a goal of avoiding unexpected failure and costly, unplanned downtime.
- Regular restroom PM includes:
 - Replace integral plumbing components
 - Inspect for leaks and other damage
 - Verify integrity of freeze protection
 - Evaluate interior and exterior lighting function and other electrical assets

Preventive Maintenance: Investments & Actions

Cycle 2 Investment:

Bolster support for scheduled preventative maintenance and regulatory compliance work by adding positions in skilled trades.

Current Status:

- Preventive maintenance falling below aspirational goal 60% / 40% due to increased demand work (especially related to vandalism).
-  • We continue to focus on hiring skilled craftspeople in a difficult environment, with 2 plumbers hired in April 2025

Other Actions Responsive to the Audit:

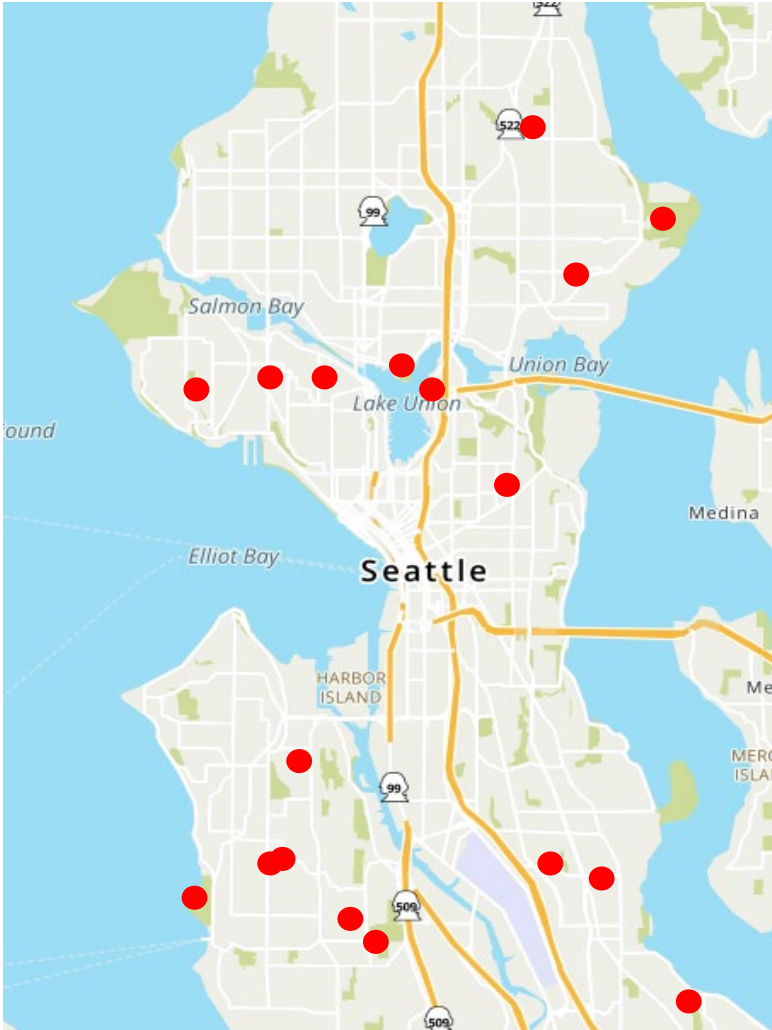


In progress: Developing clear **operations & maintenance (O&M) standards** for annual restroom preventative maintenance.



Q3 2025: Refine annual **performance goal** related to meeting these O&M standards by year-end 2025.

Preventive Maintenance: Weatherization



Cycle 2 Investment:

Increase year-round access to restrooms by weatherize ~60 restrooms by end of 2028.



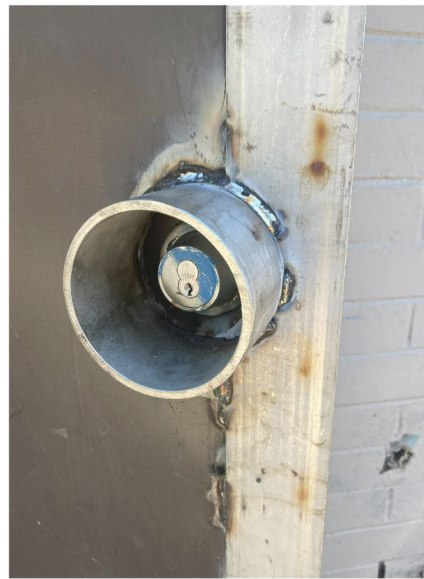
Current Status:

- **18 sites** weatherized for year-round operation in 2023 and 2024
- On track for completion in 2028, with some lessons learned along the way

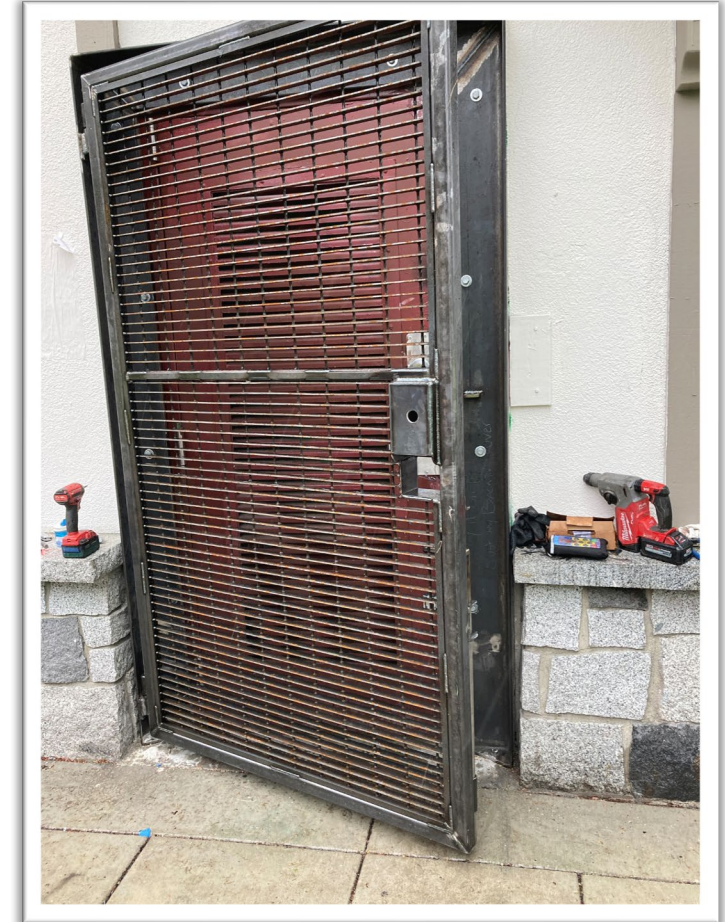
Preventive Maintenance: Lessons & Innovations



*Lakeridge Playground
Restroom Weatherization*



*SPR's metal fabricators design and create
new hardware to mitigate vandalism*



*New door gate / lock cover installed
at Cal Anderson*

Preventive Maintenance: The “Infamous 20”

Top 20 for Maintenance June 2023 to June 2024		Top 20 for Maintenance Jan 2025 to April 2025	
CAL ANDERSON PARK RESTROOM	649.00	MAGNOLIA PARK RESTROOM	140.00
ROXHILL PARK RESTROOM	355.50	GOLDEN GARDENS UPPER RESTROOM	124.00
MAGNUSON PARK BEACH RESTROOM	353.00	GREENLAKE PK WAD POOL RESTROOM	91.00
MADRONA PARK RESTROOM	323.50	WASHINGTON PARK SHELTERHOUSE RESTROOME	91.00
JUDKINS PARK AND PLAYFIELD LOWER RESTROOM	241.50	LAKEWOOD PLAYGROUND RESTROOM	86.50
GEORGETOWN PLAYFIELD RESTROOM	224.00	BRIGHTON PLAYFIELD RESTROOM	76.00
CARKEEK PARK RESTROOM	204.00	RAINIER PLAYFIELD RESTROOM	67.50
RAVENNA PARK UPPER RESTROOM	184.00	GILMAN PLAYGROUND SHELTERHOUSE RESTROOM	64.00
COWEN PARK SHELTER HOUSE	175.50	GAS WORKS PARK CONCESSION/RESTROOM	54.50
UNIVERSITY PLAYGROUND RESTROOM	169.00	DISCOVERY PARK MAIN RESTROOM	54.50
WALT HUNDLEY PLAYFIELD RESTROOM	168.50	COLMAN PG FIELD HOUSE RESTROOM	49.50
FAIRMOUNT PLAYGROUND RESTROOM	154.50	RAINIER BEACH PLAYFIELD RESTROOM (PORTLAND LOO)	42.00
LINCOLN PARK BEACH RESTROOM	138.00	GEORGETOWN PLAYFIELD RESTROOM	42.00
FREEWAY PARK RESTROOM	131.50	MERIDIAN PLAYGROUND RESTROOM	33.50
JEFFERSON PARK RESTROOM	128.00	DISCOVERY PARK NORTH BLUFF RESTROOM	32.00
GENESEE PARK RESTROOM	122.50	GREEN LAKE PARK 65TH ST RESTROOM	30.50
SEACREST PARK RESTROOM	121.00	MADISON PARK BATHHOUSE RESTROOM	30.00
JOSE RIZAL PARK RESTROOM	113.50	LAKERIDGE PLAYGROUND RESTROOM	29.00
ALKI BEACH 57TH AVE SW RESTROOM	105.00	ROXHILL PARK RESTROOM	26.00
ARMENI BOAT RAMP RESTROOM	99.50	BITTER LAKE PLAYFIELD RESTROOM	26.00
Total Hours (12 months)	4,161	Total Hours (3.5 months)	1,189



Daily Cleaning

*Consistent and effective **regular maintenance of restrooms**
to improve the user experience.*



Daily Cleaning: Restroom Maintenance 101



Our Approach to Restroom Cleaning:

- Restroom Routes and Park Maintenance Routes.
- Specific treatment varies based on materials, age, and conditions – but sanitization is a consistent feature.
- Laborers also keep an eye on overall park conditions and safety, call in work orders as necessary, and engage with the public throughout the day.

Cycle 2 Investment:

*Add 2 teams to **increase evening, weekend, and non-peak season maintenance.***

Current Status:

- 2 teams launched in Q2 2023, but 2024 financial issues reduced resources available systemwide.
- 44 laborer positions hired (32 new employees, 10 internal promotions), temp hiring under way.
- Second shift confirmed starting mid May 2025, including a dedicated afternoon restroom route.



Daily Cleaning: Investments & Innovations

Responses to the Audit:



Develop **by-restroom cleaning expectations** by Q3 2025.



Revamp **cleaning standards** and establish **annual training** by Q3 2025.



Develop written guidelines for **prioritizing restroom locking** by Q3 2025.

Current Status:

- We are developing **comprehensive maintenance expectations**, including for restroom cleaning
- Includes tiers to support prioritizing work tasks when flexibility is required (based on staffing levels, emergent issues, and special projects)

TASKS BY ASSET GROUP

RESTROOMS

Daily

- Unlock/Lock
- Wet Clean
- Dry Clean

Weekly

- Inspect/Repair (IMW/Maint)

Monthly

- Deep Clean

Bi-Annual

- Pipe Alley Deep Clean/Heater Check

Annual

- Pre-Season Open (Seasonal Restrooms)
- Post-Season Close (Seasonal Restrooms)

As Needed

- Sani-Can Check

PLAY AREAS

Daily

- Litter Pick
- Safety Check
- Rake/Level Fibar

Weekly

- Leaf Relocation

Monthly

- Inspect/Repair (IMW)
- Weed Removal

Annual

- Fibar Fluffing
- Fibar Refill
- Sandbox Refill

As Needed

- Pressure Wash Play Equipment

HARD SURFACES/PATHS

Weekly

- Litter Pick
- Safety Check
- Leaf Relocation

Quarterly

- Weed Removal

As Needed

- Clear Debris
- Hose Down/Pressure Wash

OTHER

Daily

- Check Events/Athletics Schedule
- Unlock/Lock Gates & Bollards
- Waste/Litter

Weekly

- Bunker Management

Monthly

- Park Inspections (Sr Staff)

Quarterly

- Hazardous Material Removal

Bi-Annual

- Service Yard Deep Clean

Annual

- Inventory/Order Winter Weather Supplies
- Gutter and Roof Cleaning (IMW)
- Fire Extinguisher Check

As Needed

- Graffiti Removal
- Illegal Dump Removal
- Vandalism Repair
- Major Event Support
- Storm Response
- Volunteer Support
- Truck Support
- Sign Replacement

PICNIC AREAS/BENCHES

Daily

- Clean (Scheduled)

Weekly

- Clean (Unscheduled Picnic Areas)
- Leaf Relocation

Monthly

- Clean (Benches)

Bi-Annual

- Inspect/Repair (IMW/Maint)

Annual

- Pressure Wash (Picnic Areas/Benches)
- Pre-Season Prep (Picnic Areas)

COMMUNITY CENTERS/PARKING

Daily

- Litter Pick

Weekly

- Clear Entrances and Parking
- Leaf Relocation

ATHLETIC FIELDS

Daily (Scheduled)

- Groom/Game Prep
- Safety Check/Repair
- Stock Job Boxes

Weekly

- Paint Lines (Scheduled)
- Clean Dugouts/Bleachers
- Leaf Relocation

Monthly

- Weed Removal
- Synthetic Turf Grooming

Bi-Annual

- Sport Champ - Synthetic Turf

Annual

- Pre-Season Inventory/Order
- Pre-Season Start-Up
- Post-Season Closeout (Ballfields)
- Layout Dimensions/Install Uprights/Nets
- Inspect/Repair (IMW)

SPORTS COURTS/SKATE PARKS

Daily

- Litter Pick
- Clear Debris
- Safety Check

Weekly

- Leaf Relocation

Monthly

- Weed Removal

Annual

- Deep Clean
- Inspect/Repair (IMW)
- Play Surface Infill Refill (Volleyball, Bocci Ball)
- Large Debris Removal

TURF

Weekly

- Mowing (Athletic and Passive High Profile Areas)
- Mowing Support
- Leaf Mulch Mowing

Monthly

- Mowing (Passive)
- Mowing Support
- Edge Maintenance (High Profile)

Quarterly

- Turf Health Maintenance

Bi-Annual

- Edge Maintenance

Annual

- Mowing (Meadow)
- Fill Holes/Low Spots

SHRUBS/PLANTING BEDS

Monthly

- Weed Removal

Bi-Annual

- Pruning
- Hedge Maintenance

Annual

- Planting
- Mulching
- Plant Orders
- Plant Replacement

IRRIGATION

Daily

- System Monitoring

Annual

- Pre-Season Audit/Repair
- Schedule Set-Up
- Post Season Audit/Repair
- Inventory/Order Supplies
- Update/Print/Laminate Maps
- Troubleshooting/Repair

TREES

Quarterly

- Tree Well Weed Removal
- Inspections

Annual

- Pruning
- Mulching

As Needed

- Pruning (Damage Response)
- Tree Replacement

GSI FEATURE

Monthly

- Leaf Relocation (Inlets/Outlets)

Quarterly

- Rain Garden Maintenance
- Ditch Maintenance

Bi-Annual

- Permeable Pavement Maintenance

Annual

- Inspections
- Green Roof Maintenance

BEACHES/SHORELINES

Daily

- Litter Pick
- Beach Fires

Monthly

- Sand Sift
- Removal/Relocation Organic Materials

Bi-Annual

- Vegetation Management

Annual

- Beachfire Prep
- Tideland Management (Sandbags)
- Christmas Ship Fire Order
- Christmas Ship Fire
- Sr Staff Review - Annual Vegetation Management Plans

As Needed

- Invasive/Noxious Weed Control
- Goose Fecal Matter Control

NATURAL TRAILS/AREAS

Weekly

- Litter Pick
- Clear Formal Trails (High Profile Areas)
- Leaf Relocation

Monthly

- Clear Formal Trails (All Other)
- Litter Pick
- Safety Check (Natural Areas)

Bi-Annual

- Vegetation Management

Annual

- Trail Assessments
- Materials Replenish

As Needed

- Invasive Weed Control
- GSP Support

OFF LEASH AREAS

Weekly

- Litter Pick
- Safety Check

Monthly

- Leaf Relocation

Bi-Annual

- Materials Replenish
- Fence and Signage Check

As Needed

- Invasive Weed Control

Draft in progress

RESTROOMS

Daily

- Unlock/Lock
- Wet Clean
- Dry Clean

Weekly

- Inspect/Repair (IMW/Maint)

Monthly

- Deep Clean

Bi-Annual

- Pipe Alley Deep Clean/Heater Check

Annual

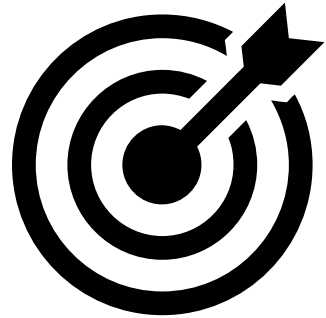
- Pre-Season Open (Seasonal Restrooms)
- Post-Season Close (Seasonal Restrooms)

As Needed

- Sani-Can Check

Draft in
progress

- **Dry Clean - ทำความสะอาดแบบแห้ง** - การทำความสะอาดห้องน้ำแบบเล็กน้อย (ภายในและภายนอก) โดยไม่ใช้สายยางหรือเครื่องฉีดน้ำแรงดันสูง
 - นำขยะไปทิ้ง/เทถังขยะ
 - กวาดพื้น
 - เก็บสำรอก (กระดาษชำระ กระดาษเช็ดมือ สบู่ กระดาษรองชักโครก...) ให้เพียงพอ
 - ทำความสะอาดจุดที่มีการสัมผัส (ที่จับ อ่างล้างมือ ก๊อกน้ำ ฝารองนั่งชักโครก...)
 - ตรวจสอบอุปกรณ์ติดตั้ง พื้นผิว และป้ายต่าง ๆ ว่ามีร่องรอยความเสียหาย การขีดเขียน...หรือไม่
 - ลบรอยขีดเขียนออกให้หมดหากเป็นไปได้ รายงานเกี่ยวกับรอยขีดเขียนและความเสียหายตามความเหมาะสม
 - หากจำเป็นต้องปิดห้องน้ำบางส่วนหรือปิดทั้งหมดเนื่องจากมีความไม่ปลอดภัย ให้ติดป้ายที่เหมาะสมและรายงานต่อเจ้าหน้าที่อาวุโสให้ทราบทันที
- **Wet Clean - ทำความสะอาดแบบเปียก** - ทำความสะอาดห้องน้ำอย่างทั่วถึงด้วยสายยางหรือเครื่องฉีดน้ำแรงดันสูง
 - รวมทั้งการทำความสะอาดแบบแห้งทั้งหมด + การใช้สายยางหรือเครื่องฉีดน้ำแรงดันสูง (เมื่อจำเป็น) ทั่วทุกพื้นผิว



Measuring Success



Verifying Success: Park Inspection Background

Park Inspection Program:

- Since 2017, SPR has engaged cohorts of trained volunteers to inspect parks.
- Provides park- and asset-specific data on how we're performing against our maintenance standards, on a 1-5 scale.
- Used internally and publicly reported on our dashboard and in the annual report.



Trained volunteers conducting a park inspection

Performance Goals	2024 Actuals
36 parks inspected	43 parks inspected
On average, inspected parks meet 80% of maintenance standards	79%

Verifying Success: Park Inspection

PLAY AREAS

MAINTENANCE GOALS
Safe, free of glass, litter, graffiti and debris, weed free, level surface, adequate volumes of surface material, surface material contained, clean wading pools and spray features.



RATING: 5
CONDITION: EXCELLENT
REASON:
Meets all goals.



RATING: 3
CONDITION: NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
REASON:
Not level, inadequate material and trip hazard.



RATING: 1
CONDITION: UNACCEPTABLE
REASON:
Sand not level, debris present, weeds in play area.

RESTROOMS

MAINTENANCE GOALS
Clean fixtures, soap and paper supplies available, clean floors, walls and ceilings, litter free and odor free. Entrance and areas immediately around the restrooms are clean and graffiti free.



RATING: 5
CONDITION: EXCELLENT
REASON:
Clean surfaces and fixtures, well supplied, no litter.



RATING: 3
CONDITION: NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
REASON:
Litter, dirty wall, stained floor



RATING: 1
CONDITION: UNACCEPTABLE
REASON:
Dirty walls, littered, no toilet paper.

✕ Park Inspection Program

Park Name *
WESTBRIDGE SHOPS

I am Inspecting a... *
Restroom

Restroom Goals Met:

- ☒ Floor is free of trip & slip hazards.
- ☒ Fixtures function properly.
- ☒ Soap and paper supplies available.
- ☒ Clean fixtures, floors, walls and ceiling.
- ☒ Odor, litter, and graffiti free.

This Restroom Report:

★★★★★

Restroom Comments (Optional):

Take a Picture (Optional)

Maintenance standards (left) and the app-based Park Inspection rating system (right)

Verifying Success: Investments & Innovations

Other Actions Responsive to the Audit:



Supervisors assessing playground conditions



✓ Refine and pilot a **restroom-specific goal** from Park Inspection Program data by end of 2025.



✓ Incorporate **supervisory monitoring** into program by Q3 2025.

Thank You & Learn More



SPR's [public restrooms dashboard](#)



Current [capital projects](#)
(including many
restrooms)



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