

July 11, 2024

Subject: YES Olympia Parks comment on *Report for Fiscal Year 2023: City's compliance with funding levels set forth in the Interlocal Agreement between OMPD Board and Olympia City Council*

OMPD Advisory Committee members,

YES Olympia Parks is made up of representatives from several parks advocacy groups. (See list at end of this letter.) While each group participates in different topics related to City parks, trails and open space we are all invested in the continuing compliance with the City of Olympia and OMPD Interlocal Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement sets out specific funding details that were the foundation of the 2015 MPD voted measure for additional parks funding. The Agreement also includes a continued commitment for use of funds from the 2004 Voted Utility Tax. We monitor compliance with the intent of these voted measures.

As our community grows, it is even more apparent that parks are an important contributor to our health, quality of life and economic sustainability. As a reminder of how our community values parks and open space, we have highlighted several community vision statements from our current Comprehensive Plan. These are attached at the end of this letter.

The 2023 Compliance Report appears to show that the City is in compliance with the Agreement. We look forward to seeing this continue into the future. The tax measures in the Agreement have accomplished a great deal, especially in the acquisition of land and the renovation of outdated facilities throughout our parks system. Further progress is vital to Olympia's quality of life through direct funding and the provision of matching funds for grants. As the City considers future needs for the overall general fund, the Agreement should persist and the increasing needs for parks funding will benefit from a levy lid lift if that is a pathway the City Council considers.

We appreciate the work of the Committee and we look forward to your continued careful monitoring of compliance with the Agreement.

Sincerely,

Signed by Karen Messmer and Bob Jacobs representing the YES Olympia Parks Coalition

YES Olympia Parks Coalition

YES Olympia Parks is a coalition of organizations that support parks, open spaces, and recreation. The coalition negotiated the wording for the MPD ordinance and the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the MPD. These documents defined the terms under which the coalition would support and campaign for the Olympia Metropolitan Park District (OMPD) ballot measure, which it successfully did.

- Olympia Coalition for Ecosystems Preservation
- Friends of LBA Woods (formerly LBA Woods Coalition)
- Friends of the Waterfront
- Woodland Trail Greenway Association
- Parks and Sidewalks Campaign Committee of 2004
- North Capitol Campus Heritage Park Development Association
- Isthmus Park Association

Selections from the current Comprehensive Plan with highlights relating to parks, trails, open space and arts, and recreation. July 2024

Economy Chapter - What Olympia Values:

Olympians recognize the value of a healthy economy that is stable and sustainable. The health and welfare of the community depends upon there being a range of employment opportunities so that we are not dependent on just one sector for our economic welfare. Local businesses should have access to quality infrastructure so that they have what they need in order to engage in commerce. Community Members should have access to a broad range of locally produced goods and services so that they can be assured that their money is spent in ways that sustain our community. **Our community should continue to be an active center for arts and recreation – and grow and foster their development.** Education and health care are also critical to a stable and sustainable economy – our community is graced with several premier institutions in each of these sectors and we collaborate with them on projects of mutual benefit.

Land Use and Urban Design - What Olympia Values:

Olympians value neighborhoods with distinct identities; historic buildings and places; a walkable and comfortable downtown; **increased urban green space**; locally produced food; and **public spaces for community members in neighborhoods, downtown, and along our shorelines.**

Public Health, Parks, Arts and Recreation - What Olympia Values:

Olympians value the role parks, open space, recreation and art play in our lives; as these contribute to our sense of community, and to our physical, spiritual and emotional well-being.

Our Vision for the Future: A healthy, fun and enriching place to live.