

# Seattle Parks Department Audits, 1921-1952

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Parks and Recreation
<b>Title</b>	Seattle Parks Department Audits
<b>Dates</b>	1921-1952 (inclusive) 1921 1952
<b>Quantity</b>	.2 cubic foot, (1 box)
<b>Collection Number</b>	5802-17
<b>Summary</b>	Financial audits
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Seattle Municipal Archives</a> Seattle Municipal Archives Office of the City Clerk City of Seattle PO Box 94728 98124-4728 Seattle, WA Telephone: 206-233-7807 Fax: 206-386-9025 <a href="mailto:archives@seattle.gov">archives@seattle.gov</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Records are open to the public.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for processing this record series was provided through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

---

## Historical Note

The Department of Parks and Recreation maintains the City's parks, shorelines, and boulevards; and administers community centers, public golf courses, and other athletic and cultural facilities. Seattle's first park was established in 1884 after David Denny donated land to the City for that purpose. At that time, a three-member park committee, with limited authority, was created to manage the nascent park system. A Board of Parks Commissioners was established in 1890 with control over all public parks and authority to appoint a Parks Superintendent. In 1896, the City Charter created the position of Superintendent of Streets, Sewers and Parks. The Parks Department became a separate entity in 1904. In 1926, a City Charter amendment abolished the position of Superintendent, distributing its responsibilities between the Head Gardener and the Landscape Architect. A 1948 City Charter amendment required the Board of Park Commissioners to appoint a park superintendent to administer the department. In 1967, another City Charter Amendment reconstituted the Board as an advisory body to the Mayor and City Council, changed the agency name to Department of Parks and Recreation, and placed fiscal and operational administration under the superintendent. In 1902 the City hired the Olmsted Brothers, the country's premier landscape architectural firm, to design a parks and boulevards system. Although not all of the plan was implemented, the Olmsted legacy is evident in many of Seattle's parks and boulevards. The City acquired significant amounts of property for park purposes following the turn of the 20th Century, but in 1926 further acquisition was limited by a City Charter amendment that stipulated only money in the Park Fund could be used for that purpose. However,

in the 1970s the Forward Thrust Bond issue, along with federal grants and the Seattle Model City Program, supported the largest expansion of the Park system in Seattle history. These programs funded more than 70 new parks and park facilities. The Department manages over 6,000 acres of park land, over two dozen community centers, five municipal golf courses, the Aquarium, and many other recreational and athletic facilities.

## Content Description

Reports of financial audits on the Parks Department conducted by the State Auditor. The audits detail the Parks Department's assets and liabilities, general ledger accounts, cash operations, revenues and receipts from concessions, expenditures, accounts receivable, bonds and budget. The reports also comment on the Department's business practices.

## Use of the Collection

### Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Seattle Parks Department Audits , Record Series 5802-17. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

---

## Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

### 5802-17: Audit Reports, 1921-1952

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	State Audits	1921-1923
1/2	State Audits	1935-1936
1/3	State Audits	1937-1938
1/4	State Audits	1941-1942

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/5	State Audits	1943-1944
1/6	State Audits	1945-1946
1/7	State Audits	1947-1948
1/8	State Audits	1949
1/9	State Audit Correspondence	1950

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Auditing--Washington (State)--Seattle

Parks--Washington (State)--Seattle

Recreation--Washington (State)--Seattle

### Corporate Names :

Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Parks

Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Parks and Recreation

### Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Finding aid prepared by Janet Ness  
2011