

# Department of Parks and Recreation Digital Photograph Collection, 2004-2005

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Parks and Recreation
<b>Title</b>	Department of Parks and Recreation Digital Photograph Collection
<b>Dates</b>	2004-2005 (inclusive)
<b>Quantity</b>	1,532 digital image files
<b>Collection Number</b>	5802-15
<b>Summary</b>	Contents include various parks and P-patches in Seattle.
<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

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## 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

Wide ranging collection of digital photographs includes parks from all over Seattle as well as patches, community centers, playgrounds and playfields, and bike and walking trails. Image subject matter features park visitors as well as public art installations, gardens and vegetation, community celebrations, park openings and dedications with Mayors and City Council members. [View 5802-15 online](#)

## Use of the Collection

### Preferred Citation

[Item number.] Department of Parks and Recreation Digital Photograph Collection, Record Series 5802-15. Seattle Municipal Archives.

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Photographs acquired through the Seattle Municipal Archives Digital Image Management Program.

### Future Additions

This series may grow due to continued accessioning through the Digital Image Management Program. This finding aid will be updated to reflect additional accessions.

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## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Community gardens--Washington (State)--Seattle  
Parks--Washington (State)--Seattle  
Recreation--Washington (State)--Seattle

### Corporate Names :

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

### Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Finding aid prepared by Julie B. Viggiano  
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