

FAQ



Proposition 1: General Obligation Bonds for Parks Improvements and Park Land Acquisition

This proposition, which will be on the February 8, 2022, special election ballot, authorizes the City to make improvements to eight parks, including playgrounds, a fully accessible play area, splash-pads, multi-sports courts, walking and sensory trails, picnic shelters, off-leash dog areas, and sports fields; purchase and install new public art throughout the city; acquire and improve new park land; issue up to \$38,500,000 of general obligation bonds; and levy annual excess property taxes to repay such bonds. For more information, go to shorelinewa.gov/prop1.

Which parks will see significant improvements?

The following five parks would receive significant improvements:

PARK	PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS
Briarcrest Community (east Hamlin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced entrance from 25th Ave. • New play area • New splash pad • New picnic shelter • New perimeter trail • Conversion of one of two ballfields into lawn
Brugger’s Bog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocated playground with swing set • New multi-sports court • New picnic shelter • New restroom • Additional landscaping • New perimeter trail • Sidewalk
Hillwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the multi-sport court • Expand the playground with adventure features • New splash pad • New picnic shelter • Additional landscaping • New perimeter trail
James Keough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New off-leash dog area • Replace existing play area • New picnic shelter • New perimeter trail • New restroom • New parking

Richmond Highlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replace existing playground with fully accessible all-ages playground• New multi-sport court• New picnic shelter• New perimeter and sensory trails• Additional sidewalks• Convert one of two ballfields to lawn
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Which parks will see park amenity improvements?

In addition to the significant improvements made to the five parks mentioned above, Proposition 1 would also fund park amenity improvements to three other parks. The planned improvements would include constructing a new off-leash dog area and play area at Ridgecrest Park; upgrading the off-leash dog area and converting the dirt soccer field to grass at Shoreview Park; and making the education center and children’s garden accessible to people of all abilities at Kruckeberg Botanic Garden. It would also allow the City to invest in public art throughout the city.

How did the City decide on the designs for the park improvements?

Over the course of three years, beginning with outreach during development of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan, the City has engaged with residents and asked what they wanted to see in park improvements. Outreach included surveys, open houses, community meetings, focus groups, dot exercises, and online comment forms. The park improvement designs reflect the public’s comments over this three-year period.

Where will park land acquisitions occur?

The City has purchased or plans to purchase land and make improvements to expand Paramount Open Space, Brugger’s Bog Park, and Rotary Park. In 2020, the City issued \$25 million in Bond Anticipation Notes to support property acquisitions identified in the PROS Plan. The City has already used these funds to purchase property for a future community and aquatics center and the expansion of Brugger’s Bog Park, Rotary Park, and Paramount Open Space. If Shoreline voters approve Prop. 1, park bond revenue will be used to repay the Bond Anticipation Notes for the property already purchased.

“Bond Anticipation Notes” are a short-term financing tool to bridge the time-period between when the property is purchased and when the public approves a bond measure. Purchasing the property in this way helps ensure it isn’t bought by a developer or other interested party first; it is bought before the cost of the land escalates further; and it is purchased at a time when there is a willing seller.

The City will also look to purchase more park land in the light rail station areas and other parts of the city.

How much will the park improvements and park land acquisitions cost?

Current estimates show construction of the park improvements and park land acquisitions to total \$38.5 million.

How will they be paid for?

If voters approve Proposition 1, the City will issue general obligation bonds with a length of 20-years. The City will pay the debt service on those bonds with an increase in property taxes over the next 20 years.

Aren't we currently paying for a Park Bond that we voted for in 2006?

Yes. The City will pay those bonds in full by the end of 2021. Funds from that bond measure resulted in park improvements to several Shoreline Parks, like Richmond Beach Saltwater, Cromwell, Hamlin, Shoreview, and others. The City also used funds to buy properties for parks and natural areas, such as South Woods and Kruckeberg Botanic Garden.

How much will the park improvements cost me?

The owner of a median valued home (\$534,000) will pay approximately \$107 a year, or \$9 a month, in property taxes. This is a \$31 a year, or \$3 a month, increase compared to what the property owner currently pays in taxes on the expiring 2006 Park Bond. You can see the cost of the park improvements to different property owners, based on the value of their property, in the table below and what the difference in cost is to what they are paying now for the 2006 park bond.

Amount of Bond Issue = \$38,500,000				Cost of Expiring 2006 Park Bond		Net Increase	
	Length of Issue (Years)	Annual Impact	Monthly Impact	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
Home Valued at \$300,000	20	\$65	\$5	\$44	\$4	\$21	\$2
2020 Median Valued Home (\$534,000)	20	\$107	\$9	\$76	\$6	\$31	\$3
Home Valued at \$750,000	20	\$163	\$14	\$110	\$9	\$53	\$4
Home Valued at \$1,000,000	20	\$217	\$18	\$147	\$12	\$70	\$6

Are Property Tax exemptions or deferrals available for this Bond Levy?

State law allows jurisdictions to provide exemptions for this type of Excess Property Tax Levy to Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons, and Disabled Veterans meeting certain criteria. Individuals meeting the criteria could be exempt from this levy. In 2020, an exemption for this excess levy was available for taxpayers with an annual income of \$58,423 or less and who are 62 or older in the tax year or who are retired with a disability. The annual income threshold is indexed to 65% of the median household income in King County.

If you are 60 or older or are retired because of physical disability and have an income of \$45,000 or less, you may qualify for deferral of your property tax liability. Deferred taxes become a lien on your property. Limited income deferrals are also available for 50% of tax due if you meet specific income and tax filing requirements.

Exemptions or deferrals are available only for residents who own and occupy a house, mobile home, condominium, or co-op. Those who believe they may be eligible can complete a simple application process with King County. Details of the exemption and deferral programs and application instructions are available at KingCounty.gov/Assessor.

Does this bond measure need 60% yes vote to pass?

Yes. To pass, bonds must validate by both:

- A minimum 60% “yes” vote; and
- A minimum voter turnout of 40% of the voters who cast ballots in the last general election within the city.

Therefore, in addition to a 60% yes vote, the bond measure must also have at least 40% of the number of votes cast in the previous general election (November) be cast in the election in question for the bond to be passed. Below you can see how many votes the proposition needs for validation.

Active registered voters	Voters who voted on 11/2/2021	40% of votes cast minimum to validate	60% Yes votes needed for approval
39,890	15,605	6,242	3,746

Didn't we already vote on this measure in April 2021?

This measure is identical to the measure that was on the April 27, 2021, special election ballot; however, that measure did not have enough voters participate to meet the validation requirement. Under State law, bond measures require 60% approval to pass as well as meeting all validation requirements. For a bond measure to ‘validate,’ the total number of votes cast in the election in question must be at least 40% of the number of votes cast in the previous general election. For the April special election, the validation requirement was set in November 2020. Seventy-two percent of Shoreline voters who voted in April approved the measure, but it was 122 votes short of meeting the 40% number of votes validation requirement.

Are the 2018 design concepts the final designs? Will there be any more public process in designing the parks?

The pictures you see on the website and in presentation materials are design concepts put together in 2018 as part of the planning process. These reflect the priorities from public feedback regarding the types of park amenities desired and are meant to provide a general idea of how the park improvements may look. If Proposition 1 passes, then we will move into the final design phase for these projects. There will be a public engagement process incorporated in the final design process. What won't change in the final design are the amenities that are going into each park and the general location of the amenities.

Will any trees be removed as part of the improvements?

Our goal is to protect as many trees as possible for all of the City's improvement projects, especially any significant trees, while also providing outdoor recreation opportunities for the Shoreline community. It is possible that some trees will need to be removed; however, tree planting and revegetation will play a part in the improvement projects. The City intends to add conifer and deciduous trees to some of the parks undergoing improvements, in addition to accent trees. Current estimates are for about 100 new trees to be planted. There would be additional plantings as well, such as accent and buffer plantings and rain gardens.