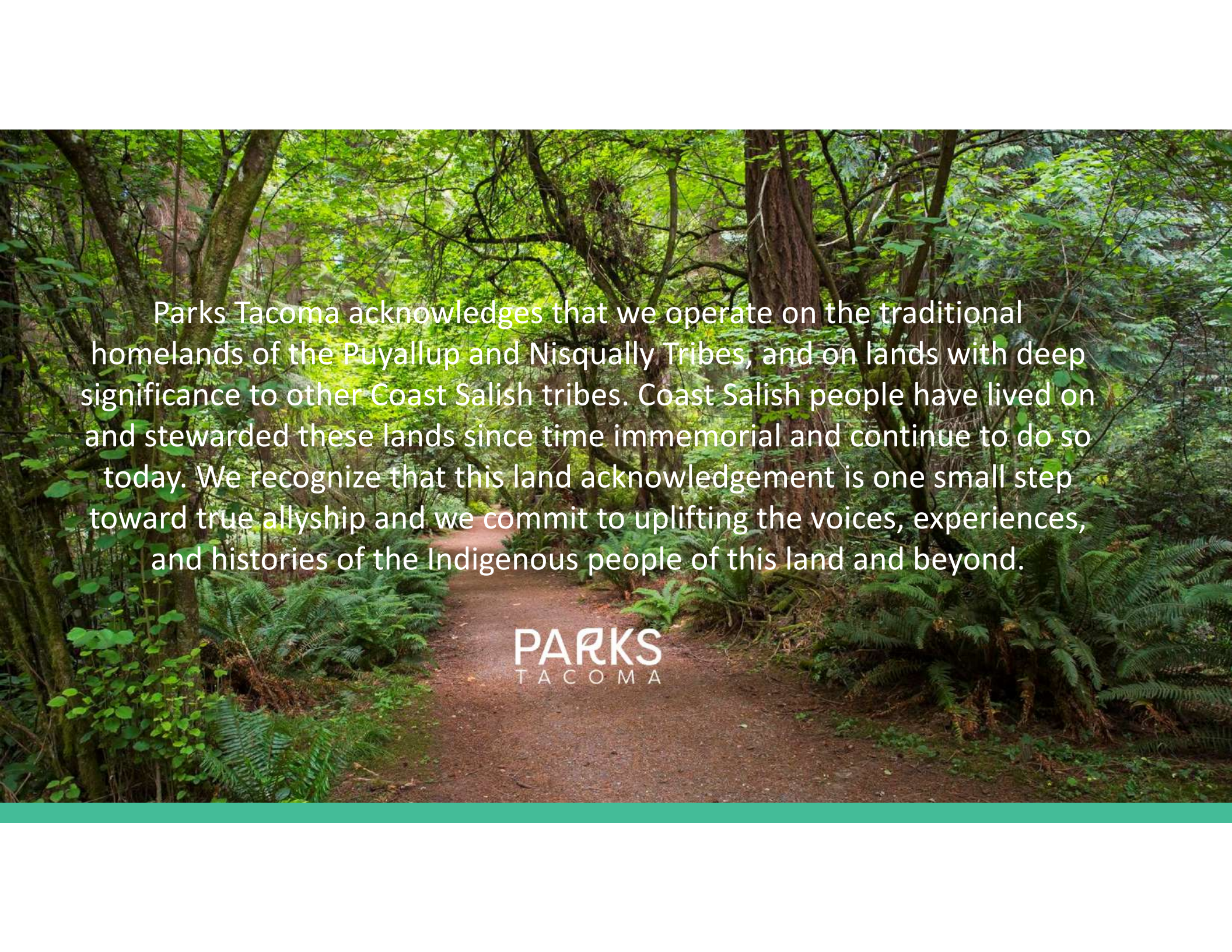


South End Community Center *Feasibility Study*

Community Advisory Group:
Kickoff Meeting

3/20/26 | 5:30 PM-7 PM



A photograph of a dirt path leading into a dense forest. The path is made of brown earth and is flanked by lush green ferns and other vegetation. Tall trees with thick canopies of green leaves surround the path, with sunlight filtering through the branches. The overall scene is a vibrant, natural setting.

Parks Tacoma acknowledges that we operate on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup and Nisqually Tribes, and on lands with deep significance to other Coast Salish tribes. Coast Salish people have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial and continue to do so today. We recognize that this land acknowledgement is one small step toward true allyship and we commit to uplifting the voices, experiences, and histories of the Indigenous people of this land and beyond.

PARKS
TACOMA

Today's Agenda

- **5:30-6 PM:** Social Hour + Dinner
- **6-7 PM:** Kickoff Meeting
 - Tech Check, Around the Room (30 min) (Delia)
 - Group Ground Rules Activity (15 min) (Manni)
 - Feasibility Study Overview (10 min) (Erin)
 - Next Steps (5 min) (Erin)



Around the Room

- Share **Name** and **pronouns**
- Your connection to South End
- Story or something you enjoy about the South End community



An aerial photograph of a large park with green lawns and many trees showing autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. In the background, a city skyline is visible, including a tall white building on the left and a large mountain with a snow-capped peak in the distance under a clear blue sky. The text "Ground Rules" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Ground Rules

PARKS
TACOMA



Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma

- Established in 1907; Washington's oldest incorporated independent Park District
- >2,900 acres of parks, open space, community centers, pools, sports fields, zoological facilities, marina, golf course, and historic attractions
- Operates under an elected 5-member Board of Commissioners who serve 6-year terms

PARKS
TACOMA

South End Community Center Feasibility Study

- **Budget**

- \$194K; Awarded from WA State Budget

- **Project Management**

- Parks Tacoma to manage the study
- Community Advisory Group to advise solicitation and study
- Hired team will prepare the Feasibility Study with Parks Tacoma direction

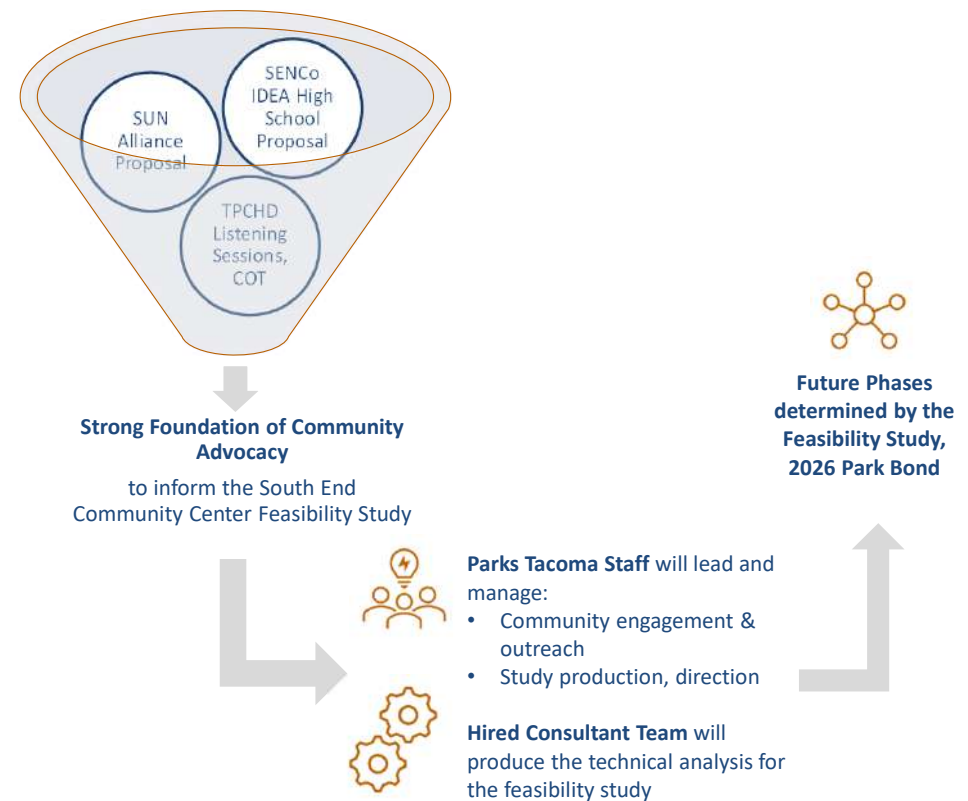
- **Timeline**

- ~1 year

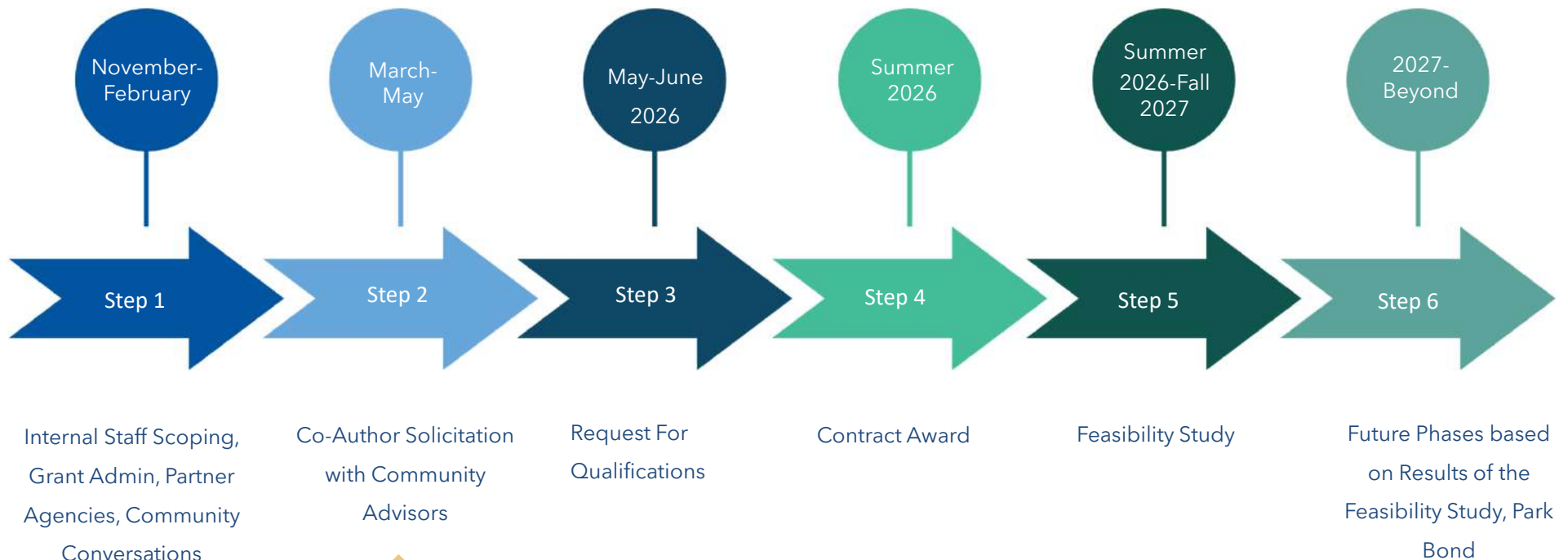


What is a feasibility study?

- **Site Analysis:** what locations best serve the South End community, including land-use, zoning, transportation and urban planning considerations; refining service area
- **Program & Sizing Analysis:** explore strategies to maximize benefit of this facility for flexible indoor and outdoor recreation, quantify the recreational programmatic needs within the South End Community, evaluate the potential for addressing other community needs
- **Partnership Development:** partners and organizations to consider including in a future community center
- **Pro Forma Business Plan:** how the center can maintain itself financially over time
- **Project Funding Plan & Schedule:** costs, funding considerations, and timeline



Project Timeline



Community Advisory Group

- Share information about the upcoming South End Community Center feasibility study timeline and process
- Vision and goals for the community center study
- Input from South End community members (you!) on the Feasibility Study Solicitation (Hiring a Team)
- Potential role in the solicitation and study process
- Help shape public engagement efforts to be as meaningful as possible



What 2026 Bond Would Fund

Invests up to \$155 million in 100+ projects at 40+ parks, community centers and zoos to fund critical needs with no increase in current taxes for parks.

- Makes vital improvements in every neighborhood
- Takes care of existing system while investing in growth
- Capitalizes on retirement of prior debt to keep tax rate the same

What is a Bond

- Large, long-term capital projects
- Long-term repayment: usually 20 years
- Fund multiple projects
- Leverage funds to match grants
- Annual budget is not large enough to fund construction projects
- Tax amount is based on valuation of owner's property



Bonds can pay for:

- New construction
- Reconstruction and/or replacement
- Major additions
- Remodeling, renovation and rehabilitation
- Furnishings, fixtures & equipment for improvements
- Land acquisition



Bonds may not be used for:

- Routine maintenance and repair
- Day-to-day operating costs
- Feasibility studies

How 2026 Bond Was Shaped



- More than a year of internal analysis of needs
- **Park Bond Advisory Committee:**
28 community members representing interest and geographic areas of the city
 - Advisory councils
 - Local governments
 - Nonprofits
 - Businesses
 - User groups

Recommendations

- No tax increase, given economic uncertainty
- Equitable investments across Tacoma
- Project categories:
 - Neighborhood identity, local parks
 - Connections to parks
 - Land acquisition to address growing population





UPGRADES KEY



ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION



INFRASTRUCTURE



PLAYGROUND



SPRAYGROUND



POOL



SKATE PARK



WATERFRONT



TRAILS AND
CONNECTIONS



SPORTS FIELDS
AND COURTS



GENERAL PARK
IMPROVEMENTS



RESTROOM



COMMUNITY CENTER
CONSTRUCTION



COMMUNITY CENTER
DESIGN



COMMUNITY CENTER
RENOVATIONS



HISTORIC
RESTORATION



NEW PARK SPACE
SITE TBD

PARKS AND UPGRADES

WEST END

1. Point Defiance Park
2. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
3. Vassault Park
4. Kandle Park
5. Optimist Park
6. Titlow Park

PIERCE COUNTY

7. Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

NORTH END

8. Jane Clark Park
9. Ruston Way Waterfront
10. Les Davis Pier*
11. Wright Park
12. Jefferson Park

NORTHEAST

13. Dash Point Park and Pier
14. Browns Point Playfield
15. Browns Point Community Sports Park*
16. Norpoint Park/Center at Norpoint

CENTRAL

17. Neighbors Park
18. People's Park
19. DeLong Park
20. Peck Community Sports Park
21. Stanley Playfield

22. People's Community Center

23. Heidelberg Davis Athletic Complex
24. Tacoma Nature Center
25. Irving Park
26. Sawyer Tot Lot
27. Sheridan Park

DOWNTOWN

28. Downtown Skate Park
29. Waterway Park *

SOUTH TACOMA

30. South Park
31. STAR Center & SERA
32. Oak Tree Park
33. Wapato Hills Park

SOUTH END

34. Lincoln Park
35. Ryan's Park
36. Charlotte's Blueberry Park
37. South End Community Center *

EASTSIDE

38. Stewart Heights Park
39. Verlo Playfield
40. Rogers Park
41. Portland Avenue Park
42. Swan Creek Park

* Design only † Site TBD

Protecting Our Parks Legacy



- Connecting with nature and wildlife
- Investing in your neighborhood
- Keeping your parks open and safe
- Creating community gathering space
- Enhancing sports and active lifestyle



Creating community gathering spaces

Projects include:



- Provide partnership funds to help build a new and improved People's Community Center, which has been operating since 1978
- Start preliminary design on a new South End Community Center
- Make capital improvements to address aging or deteriorating infrastructure and needed updates at STAR Center and Center at Norpoint

Community Advisory Meetings

Kickoff Meeting (Today)

- Feasibility Study Process & Timeline, Role of the Community Advisory Group

Future Meetings - Location TBD, Timing

- We'd like to know where you all would prefer to meet, what time works best, and how often!
- Project Narrative, Solicitation, Vision for South End Community Center Feasibility Study



THANK YOU!

Next Meeting:

Meeting notes and presentation will be shared via email and saved on our project webpage.

Click here: [South End Community Center Feasibility Study | engage pierce county](#)

