SEC. 16.107. PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FUND.

(a) Establishment of Fund. There is hereby established the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund (“Fund”) to be administered by the Recreation and Park Department (“Department”) as directed by the Recreation and Park Commission (“Commission”). Monies in the Fund therein shall be expended or used solely by the Department, subject to the budgetary and fiscal provisions of the Charter, to provide enhanced park and recreational services and facilities. The Department embraces socio-economic and geographic equity as a guiding principle and commits to expending the funds across its open space and recreational programs to provide park and recreational access to all of San Francisco’s diverse neighborhoods and communities.

(b) Annual Set-aside. The City will continue to set aside from the annual tax levy, for a period of forty-five years starting with the fiscal year 2000-2001 and through and including fiscal year 2045-2046, an amount equivalent to an annual tax of two and one-half cents ($0.025) for each one hundred dollars ($100) assessed valuation. Beginning in fiscal year 2016-2017, revenues from the set-aside, together with interest, shall be deposited into the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund. Revenues obtained thereby from the set-aside shall be in addition to the baseline appropriation required by subsection (c) and not in place of, any sums normally budgeted for the Department and, together with interest, shall be deposited into the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund.

The Controller shall set aside and maintain such an amount, together with any interest earned thereon, in the Fund, and any amount unspent or uncommitted at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year and, subject to the budgetary and fiscal limitations of this Charter, shall be appropriated then or thereafter for the purposes specified in this Section 16.107.

(c) Baseline Maintenance of Effort. The annual set-aside shall be used exclusively to increase the aggregate City appropriations to and expenditures by the Recreation and Park Department for Department purposes. To this end, beginning in fiscal year 2016-2017 and thereafter through fiscal year 2045-2046, the City shall not reduce the baseline general fund support amount appropriated to the Department below the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2015-2016, as calculated by the Controller, except that the baseline amount shall be adjusted as follows:

1. Each year in fiscal years 2016-2017 through 2025-2026, the City shall increase the baseline appropriation by $3 million over the prior year.

2. Each year in fiscal years 2026-2027 through 2045-2046, the City shall adjust the baseline by the percentage increase or decrease in aggregate City discretionary revenues, as determined by the Controller, based on calculations consistent from year to year. In determining aggregate City discretionary revenues, the Controller shall only include revenues received by the City which are unrestricted and may be used at the option of the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors for any lawful City purpose. The Controller is authorized to increase or reduce budgetary appropriations as required by this subsection (c) to align the baseline amount to the amount required by formula based on actual revenues received during the fiscal year.

3. The City may suspend growth in the baseline funding pursuant to subsection (c)(1) in fiscal year 2016-2017 if the City’s projected budget deficit for that year is greater than $200 million, as prepared jointly by the Controller, the Mayor’s Budget Director, and the Board of Supervisors’ Budget Analyst.

Proposition A

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to require an annual baseline appropriation for the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund based on City spending for park and recreation purposes in FY2015-2016, extend the annual set-aside and the baseline appropriation for 15 years to FY2045-2046, and modify the Recreation and Park Department’s planning obligations to include equity analysis and Board of Supervisors review, at an election to be held on June 7, 2016.

Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby submits to the qualified voters of the City and County, at an election to be held on June 7, 2016, a proposal to amend the Charter of the City and County by revising Section 16.107, to read as follows:

NOTE: Unchanged Charter text and uncodified text are in plain font. Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman font.
(4) Monies from the baseline appropriation required by this subsection (c) shall not be appropriated or expended for services provided to the Recreation and Park Department by other City departments and agencies unless: (A) the City department or agency charged the Recreation and Park Department for that service in fiscal year 2015-2016 and the amount the Recreation and Park Department paid the City department or agency for that service was included in the baseline amount for fiscal year 2015-2016, although increases in the cost of such services may be paid out of the baseline appropriation, or (B) the Recreation and Park Department requests or agrees to a new service from a City department or agency.

(5) At the end of the fiscal year 2015-2016 and every year thereafter, any excess general fund Departmental revenue, including any Department expenditure savings or revenue surpluses deposited prior to fiscal year 2015-2016, shall be reserved to be used for one-time Departmental expenditures. “General fund Departmental revenue” is defined as all revenues credited to the Department’s general fund budget other than the baseline contribution defined in subsection (c).

(e) Enhanced Revenue and Efficiency Incentives for the Department. It is the policy of the City and County of San Francisco to give the Department greater incentives to improve operational efficiencies and to increase revenue. Increased in revenues and savings shall be dedicated as follows:

1. Actual net increases in Department generated revenues, compared to the previous fiscal year, shall be dedicated to capital and/or facility maintenance improvements to park and recreational facilities; and,

2. New revenues from outside sources, such as grant or foundation support, shall be used only for enhancement of park and recreational programs, including, but not limited to, capital and/or facility maintenance improvements; and,

3. Overall Department expenditure savings shall be retained by the Department to be dedicated to one-time expenditures.

(d) The City shall implement its efforts to increase revenues in a manner consistent with the City’s policy of charging City residents a lower fee than that charged nonresidents for the use and enjoyment of Department property.

(g) A Revenue Bond Authority. Notwithstanding the limitations set forth in Sections 9.107, 9.108, and 9.109 of this Charter, the Commission may request, and upon recommendation of the Mayor the Board of Supervisors shall include an equity analysis of Recreation and Park services and resources, using the equity metrics adopted under subsection (h)(4), in its review and comment before submitting the proposed budget for allocation of the Fund.

(h) Planning and Reporting Measures. The Commission shall adopt several long-term plans that include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Equity Metrics. The Department shall develop and the Commission shall adopt a set of equity metrics to be used to establish a baseline of existing Recreation and Park services and resources in low-income neighborhoods and disadvantaged communities, compared to services and resources available in the City as a whole.

(2) Strategic Plan. By February 1, 2017, and every five years thereafter, the Department shall prepare, for Commission consideration and approval, a five-year Strategic Plan, to be updated annually, that establishes or reaffirms the mission, vision, goals and objectives for the Department. The Strategic Plan shall include an equity analysis of Recreation and Park services and resources, using the equity metrics adopted under subsection (h)(1), and shall include strategies to mitigate any equity deficiencies identified in the Plan.

The annual budget for allocation of the Fund that is adopted by the Commission and submitted by the Mayor to the Board of Supervisors shall include:

(1) Allocations for after-school recreation programs, urban forestry, community gardens, volunteer programs, and a significant natural areas management program in the amounts allocated for each of those programs from the Park and Open Space Fund in the Department’s fiscal year 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 budgets, to the extent that such programs are not so funded in the Department’s operating budget or in the budget of another City department.

(2) Allotment necessary to ensure that 3% of the monies to be deposited in the Fund during the upcoming fiscal year pursuant to subsection (b), above, be available at the start of the fiscal year as an undesignated contingency reserve. No later than September 1, 2017, the Commission shall adopt a policy for expenditures from the contingency reserve. Thereafter, the Commission shall submit a report to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors on any expenditures from the contingency reserve during the previous budget cycle along with its proposed budget for allocation of the Fund.

(3) An allocation of not less than 5% of the monies to be deposited in the Fund during the upcoming fiscal year pursuant to subsection (b), above, these monies shall be dedicated to the acquisition of real property identified in the Capital Expenditure Plan discussed in subsection (b)(3), below. Any portion of these monies that remains unspent or uncommitted at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward, with interest thereon, to the next fiscal year for the purposes set forth herein. The 5% allocation need not be included in the budget submitted to the Board of Supervisors for an upcoming fiscal year to the extent that the total City expenditure for acquisition of property to be placed under the jurisdiction of the Commission for the period commencing with fiscal year 2000-2001 and ending with the close of the immediately preceding fiscal year exceeds an amount equal to 5% of the total amount appropriated, or to be appropriated, to the Fund for the period commencing with fiscal year 2000-2001 and ending with the close of the upcoming fiscal year.

(4) An allocation, as a separate line item, of funds required for preparation, monitoring, and evaluation of the plans required under subsection (h).

Prior to the adoption of the annual budget by the Recreation and Park Commission, the Department, in conjunction with the Citizens Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Committee (“Advisory Committee”) discussed in subsection (i) below, shall conduct two public hearings in the evening or on weekends to permit the public to comment on the Department’s full budget and programming allocations.

The Board of Supervisors shall consider and apply the Planning and Reporting Measures, including equity metrics, required in subsection (h) when reviewing and approving the Department’s budget.
The Operational Plan shall include an equity analysis of Recreation and Park services and resources, using the equity metrics adopted under subsection (d)(1). Each Operational Plan shall further include an assessment of the Department’s progress on the previous Operational Plan.

The Department shall submit the proposed Operational Plan to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee for its review and comment before submitting the Plan to the Commission for its approval. Following Commission approval, the Department shall submit the Operational Plan to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors.

By December 1, 2001, the Department shall prepare, for Commission consideration and approval, a five-year Operational Plan to be updated annually, detailing proposed improvements to the Department’s services and responsiveness to customer needs. The annual Operational Plan shall serve as a tool for improving the operational efficiency of the Department and will include measurable performance standards for the Department. The Department shall prepare the initial Operational Plan after conducting a performance audit of Department operations. Thereafter, the Department will conduct periodic performance audits.

The Commission shall establish a community input process, which shall include the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee discussed in section (j)(1), below, through which citizens of the City and County of San Francisco will provide assistance to the Commission as it develops criteria and establishes the plans required by this subsection. Prior to the adoption of any Strategic Plan each five-year period, the Department shall conduct at least five hearings in locations distributed geographically throughout the City to receive and to consider the public’s comments upon the plan. The Commission shall ensure that at least two of these hearings are held in the evenings or on weekends for the public’s convenience.

The Department shall report regularly, annually, as a part of the City’s budget process, to the Mayor and to the Board of Supervisors on the status of the plans and the status of Department goals, objectives and capital project timelines for the current fiscal year, as well as provide reports on performance measures required by this section.

In the fourth year of each Strategic Plan under subsection (h)(2), the Controller’s City Services Auditor shall conduct a performance audit of the Department to assess the Department’s progress under the Strategic Plan and to inform the development of the Department’s next Strategic Plan. The audit shall include an analysis of the Department’s compliance with the planning and reporting measures in this subsection (h). The costs of the audit may be charged to the baseline established in subsection (c).

If the audit finds that the Department has not complied with the requirements in this subsection (h), the Board of Supervisors may place up to 5% of the baseline appropriation under subsection (c) for the next fiscal year on reserve, pending subsequent release of the reserve by Board action upon finding progress toward these requirements. The preceding sentence is not intended to modify the Board’s authority under the fiscal and budgetary provisions of the Charter.

The Commission may modify any deadlines contained in this subsection (h) by resolution adopted by a two-thirds vote of its members, and a resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors and approved by the Mayor.

(i) (h) Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee. The Board of Supervisors shall establish, by ordinance, a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee, such as the committee established in Park Code Section 13.01, as amended, or any successor legislation.

(ii) Equity Fund. The City shall establish an Equity Fund to accept and expend private gifts, grants, and donations received by the Department and intended to support initiatives and programs addressing unmet program and capital needs identified in the equity analyses required under subsection (h).

(k) Environmental and Design Guidelines. The Department Commission shall maintain adopt written environmental and design guidelines for new facilities, parks, and open spaces and the renovation...
or rehabilitation of existing facilities, parks, and open spaces. These guidelines shall be consistent with any applicable standards of the Art and Planning Commissions.

**Capital Projects.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3.104 of this Charter, the Commission shall have the authority to prepare and approve the plans, specifications and estimates for all contracts and orders, and to award, execute and manage all contracts and orders, for capital projects on real property under its jurisdiction or management. Capital projects supported by the Fund, other than those projects identified by the Department as long-term projects, must be fully constructed within three years of the initial budget allocation for those projects. Long-term projects must be fully constructed within five years of the initial budget allocation. Any exceptions to this provision must be authorized by a two-thirds vote of the Commission.

The Recreation and Park Department and the Department of Public Works (“DPW”) shall establish a committee to develop a written, capital implementation program, for the consideration of both Departments, that will govern DPW’s involvement in capital projects undertaken by the Recreation and Park Department. In developing this program, the committee shall consider the Capital Plan discussed in subsection (g), above, staffing levels in both Departments, and the availability of other resources.

**Unspent Funds.** All unspent funds in the Park and Open Space Fund on June 30, 2000 shall continue to be held for the use and benefit of the Department. These monies shall be expended in a manner consistent with the general purposes for which they were originally appropriated.

**In addition to the requirements set forth by this Section 16.107, all expenditures from the Fund shall be subject to the budget and fiscal provisions of the Charter.**

**This Section 16.107 shall expire by operation of law at the end of fiscal year 2045-2046 and the City Attorney shall cause it to be removed from future editions of the Charter unless the Section is extended by the voters.**