

Budget 2026 Draft 4

General Notes / Assumptions (Draft is updated with October 2025 financial data)

New Information from 11/25 meeting is in GREEN.

REVENUE:

VPD Levy - \$1,984,380 – This is a 1% increase over 2025. The assumption made for 2026 is a 1% increase, 2027 is another 1% increase, 2028 is assumed to be a 16% increase to account for any KC reassessment of property values and board decisions related to the levy rate to pursue. Then, 2029 returns to a 1% increase.

KC Direct Appropriation to Park Districts - \$100,000 of new money in 2026. This includes a \$75,000 direct appropriation plus, an additional left-over credit from unspent grant funds. Similar Park districts are estimating “left over” money to be \$25,000. This funding begins in 2026 and is included in the forecast years. Payouts are budgeted in a way that mirrors our levies payouts. So, the high payment months are April and October.

Other Revenue (programming, commons, etc.) – I have applied a 5% increase to all, year over year to account for rate changes. I have not applied factors for increased usage.

CASH FLOW:

With this budget draft, cash flow is solid but the modifications to the CIP did create additional instances of dips below \$300,000 in cash reserves. We will see a dip below the \$300,000 level in cash reserves in September of 2026. Modifications to budgeted CIP expenditures were made to avoid dips below a \$200,000 threshold.

- 2026: September cash balance ends at **\$218,653**
- 2027: March cash balance ends at **\$253,870** & September ends at **\$171,734**
- 2028: January cash balance ends at **\$268,506**, February ends at **\$151,609**, March ends at **\$141,711** and September ends at **\$161,469**.
- 2029: February cash balance ends at **\$268,879**, March ends at **\$256,208**, and September cash balance ends **\$264,323**.

Many of these months coincide the same periods of time that have predicted lower-level reserves in previous budget cycles. The difference in this draft is the addition of a \$200,000 contingency in the Capital Improvement budget compared to previous 2026 drafts.

EXPENSES:

Wages – Our payroll contractor completed their forecasting the week of 11/17. They utilized the same +2.8% wage adjustment I used. I asked them to make their own assumptions regarding the taxes/insurances/benefits and provide me with a forecast for wages for 2026. I utilized at +3.2% inflationary factor for the payroll expenses other than wages. Where I utilized historic data for my forecasting, they utilized forward looking information. Ultimately, their calculations equated to a +1.2% adjustment factor. In the end, the delta between us was only \$35,000 (of \$1.4 million). I chose to use my payroll numbers for this budget, as I was higher and I prefer the conservative approach.

General

Inflation adjustment is applied to all expenses in forecasting years. This is a practice I proposed to Elaine, and wouldn't you know it, it was very similar to how she inferred future expenses. The source is [here](#).

According to the King County source linked, inflation is expected as follows:

- 2026 +3.9%
- 2027 +3.6%
- 2028 +3.5%
- 2029 +3.3%

Budget Category Notes

Admin

- **Removed printing from Programming and added it here.**
- Revenue now includes KC Direct Appropriation (\$100,000)
- In addition to the general wage adjustment, I have added approximately \$10,000 to our wages line item to continue utilizing Elaine for support. It has been very valuable and inexpensive.
- Reduced contractors line item by ~\$10,000 as this was where Elaine's support was budgeted in 2025.
- Increased computers and tech services line item by ~\$5,000 to purchase computers.
- Increased professional services line item by ~\$11,000 to cover increased accounting, payroll, and computer services costs.
- Adjusted property taxes to be in line with actual. This is an increase of ~\$4,000.

Maintenance

- Increased materials by \$10,000 to fix/replace community bulletin board. Removed this from subsequent budget years.
- Utilities ran over most of the year in 2025. I right sized that up by \$12,000.
- We will conduct a blower door test at Ober Park this year to get a baseline on how drafty our facility is prior to addressing envelope improvements, this is \$500.
- In FY 2028, I made a \$9000 reduction to offset some of the CIP changes. In this year, we will do a reduced scope on top dressing at VES Fields or in other places.
- Extraordinary Maintenance
 - Maintained a \$9,000 budget line for this into 2026.
- Tools and Equipment
 - Maintained \$10,000 for tools and equipment.

Commons

- Budget now includes accurate Commons Fee Payments.
- Year over year the salaries seem to run over budget. I believe this is because use of common facilities also increase year over year. This creates a need to increase this line item above the general adjustments for salary. I increased it ~\$10,000.

Programming

- **Moved printing to the Admin budget, which aligns with past practices (~\$12,000). I adjusted salaries up another \$500/month. In previous drafts, the salaries looked pretty tight. When I noticed I had over budgeted the Ski Bus expenses by an extra month, I took the reduction there and applied it to salaries. This This brings our 2026 expenses to \$336,526, lower than Draft 4 by 5%. Eric's programming list is below:**
 - Humanities guest speakers
 - Freelance Beaver doc
 - Nature doc
 - Buskers in the Park (very exciting!)
 - Winter pickleball tournament
 - Egg Hunt
 - Vashon Velo Raptors Bike Club event
 - Story Walk
 - Kite Day
 - Low Tide
 - Summer pickleball tournament
 - Scavenger hunts
 - Strawberry Festival
 - Concerts in the Park
 - Attack the Track
 - Boo Bash
 - Holiday Movie
 - Open House
 - Play in the Park (a live play)
- Increased advertising by \$3,000 to support additional programming.
- Decreased professional fees by \$3,000 to offset the increase in advertising and we think we have plenty in that line item.

Pool

- **I adjusted salaries down by \$1000 per month. This aligns with Marie Browne's staff estimate and sharpens the pencil on that total budget.**
- Salary increases are beyond the general description for wage increases above. Currently, we budget recognizing that we will close early on some days during the winter. In 2026, we will be aggressively promoting the pool on social media, utilizing our energetic and fun lifeguards to make content. It is also my intention to keep the pool open during all our hours advertised. Not that there will not be exceptions – but if we are going to promote the pool, and get more folks using it, I want to make sure we are budgeted to cover those additional hours. I anticipate this modification to cost ~\$6,000.
- Additional filter discs are included in this budget - \$5,000.

Pt Rob

- Revenue continues to run below projections for 2025. I have budgeted this as flat for 2026.
- Due to reduced lodgings, salaries ran a little under. Salaries/benefits lines are reduced by ~\$7,000.
- Utilities are increased by ~\$2500

Fern Cove

- Revenue - \$2400/month the Caretaker arrangement. It is going well.
- We are anticipating septic repairs. I have adjusted this repair estimate down from \$11,000 to \$5,000.

CIP

- Community Bulletin Board removed from the list. We can fix/replace this in house.
- Village Green – Removed irrigation controller due to vandalism. Staff replaced and repaired the irrigation system. Additional work is needed at VES on the **irrigation**, but it will not require a major capital investment.
- VES – Removed irrigation controller, shade sails for dugouts, and replace dugouts. Staff completed this work during 2025.
- BARC – Added a bathroom installation for the future.
- **BARC – Added floor and ramp upgrades (\$30,000)**
- Fern Cove – Pushed out new furnace and insulation to a future year in support of the contingency fund.
- Fisher – Added improvements outlined in the Weatherization/Electrification Plan.
- Ober – Removed drainage repairs around Ober. We can complete this in house.
- Ober - Added improvements outlined in the Weatherization/Electrification Plan.
- Ober bark (other locations) – Removed because this can be placed into our maintenance budget.
- Equipment – Removed lift. We can rent a lift as needed.
- Equipment – Moved the berm mower to future years.
- 2026 Proposed Project Highlights
 - BARC Renovation – Grant awarded in 2025. Work will continue into 2026 and finish before Spring 2026.
 - Pickleball Courts – Should a location be determined, we will apply for a grant to fund construction. \$20,000 in match is planned in the future should this come to fruition.
 - Fisher – We are not ready for a capital investment in a heating system. The building is not insulated or air tight. However, grants are available (although funding is limited). We will write a grant in 2026.
 - Ober Park – Gas furnace \$45,000. Maintenance staff will work to make the building air tight. We will conduct a before and after door blower test to measure our success. After maintenance is completed with their envelope improvements, the building will be better positioned to replace one of the gas furnaces.
 - Playground Sails – Removed.
 - Paradise Ridge – Split the \$50,000 investment into a \$10,000 investment in 2026 and a \$40,000 investment in 2027. The \$10,000 funds can be used to upgrade the electrical system.
 - Pool Renovation/Engineer – The engineering firm will continue their design work into 2026.
 - Point Robinson Quarters A Bath/Entry Restoration – The components are purchased and will be installed in 2026 (winter).
 - Point Robinson barn, store, wellhouse repairs – I think we should go the grant route on these items. In short, these are old buildings in a difficult location. They do act as

excellent storage for us but perhaps capital investments from levy dollars could be spent for a greater impact for our community.

- Point Robinson paint the lighthouse – \$30,000 - This is our most visited park and the lighthouse needs painted.
- Tramp Harbor Dock – apply for suite of grants again. Pursue direct appropriation from the legislature to support this effort.
- Invasives – \$24,000 - Continue this work into 2026. Location TBD.
- Vashon Adventures - \$50,000 – supplemental information has been provided.
- **Moved this to 2027** - \$25,000 – Recreational Pickup – the current rec pick up would become a maintenance vehicle.
- \$7,500 – Connex storage boxes – storage is at a premium and we need more of it.