

2024 SPR Pickleball and Tennis Vision

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Jonathan Garner, Sr. Planner | April 25, 2024

Andy Sheffer, Deputy Superintendent



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

Healthy People, **Thriving Environment**, **Vibrant Community**



#SeattleShines



BACKGROUND

START

2017 PILOT STUDY

- Added courts at 7 locations
- 24 new courts

2019 PILOT REPORT

- Expand dual striping
- Investigate locations for dedicated pickleball
- Refine dual striping standard

2022 OUTDOOR PB STUDY

- Further recommendations of 2019 Pilot Report
- Respond to calls for action from pickleball

2023 STUDY OUTCOMES:

- MPD planning begins for dedicated pickleball
- On-going programs
- Lincoln Park

2024 VISION FORWARD:

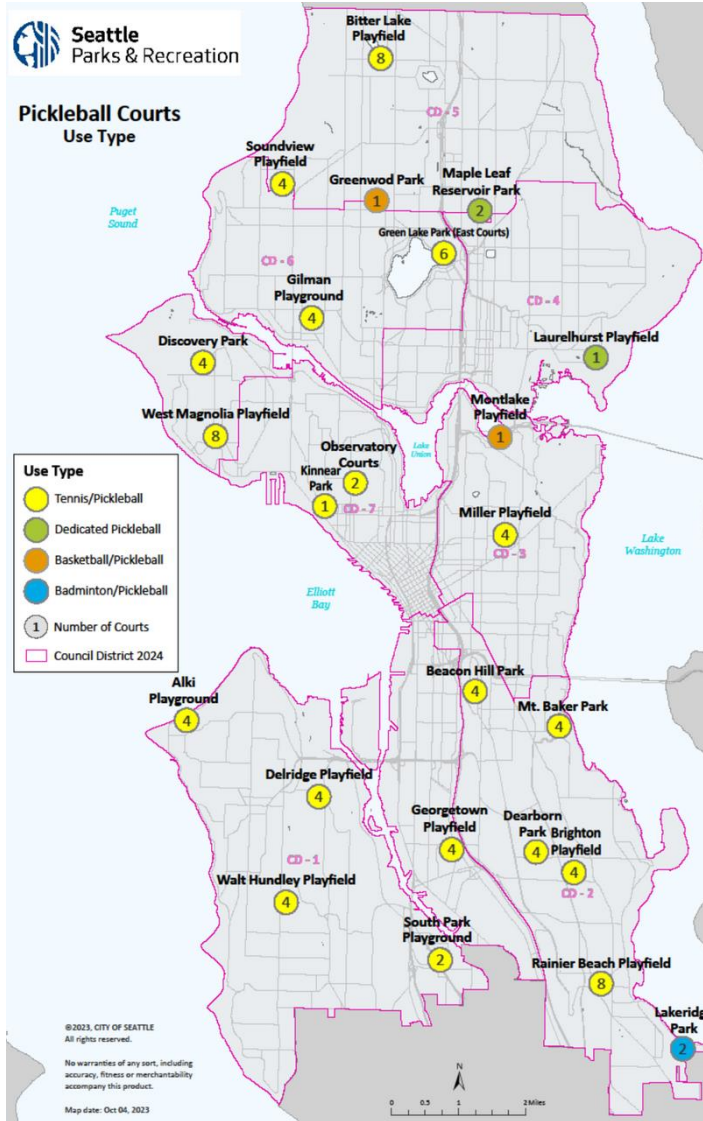
- Identify and select hubs
- Measure usage
- Communicate/ Engage

Pickleball began in 1965 at the summer home of Joel Pritchard, WA Lt. Gov. from 1989-1997.

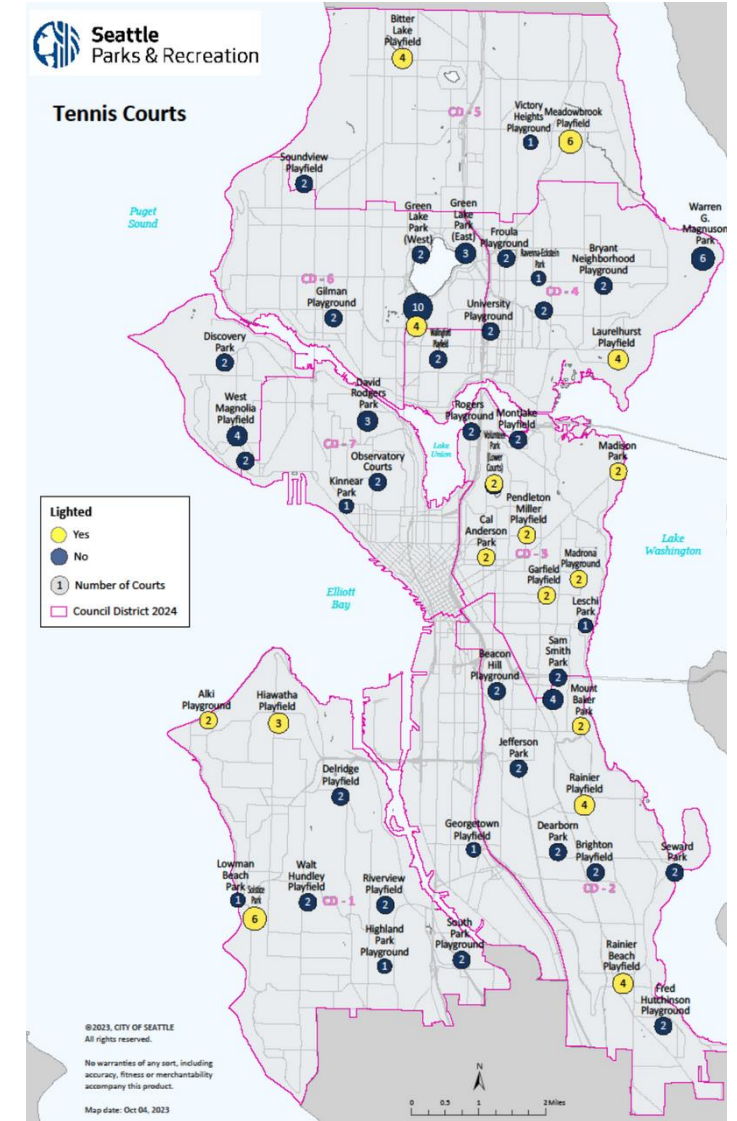
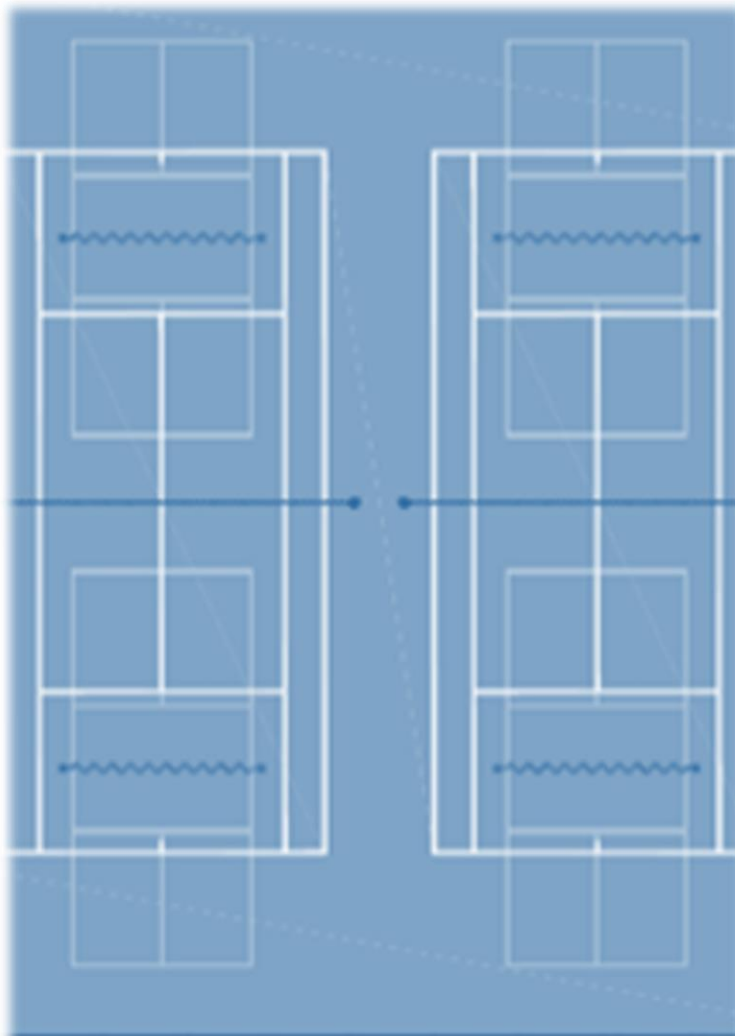


#SeattleShines

DISTRIBUTION



Total Pickleball: 90 (87 shared w/ Tennis, Basketball, Badminton)
Dedicated Pickleball: 3



Total Tennis courts: 135
Dedicated Tennis: 52



#SeattleShines

Seattle Parks and Recreation acknowledges a need for dedicated court time for Tennis and Pickleball.



Passion for Tennis

Importance of discipline and developing healthy fitness habits.



Growth of Pickleball

Pickleball is Seattle's fastest growing sport.



Social Communities

Players want to build social connections, seek community and a sense of unity and support. Therefore – many people congregate at courts.

Pickleball is a sport for all ages that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong.



#SeattleShines

FUN FACT

Serena Williams is a professional American tennis player who has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the most by any player in the Open Era. She took an interest in pickleball in 2022 and has since competed in several pro tournaments. Though new to the sport, her athleticism and competitive spirit have allowed her to excel.



In 1995, at the age of 14, Serena became a professional tennis player and began competing.



#SeattleShines

5



2024 VISION FORWARD

Capacity

Identify Tennis +
Pickleball Hubs

Forward capital projects

Court improvements

Utilization

Reservations for specific
use of courts

Reduce noise impacts

Partner to increase
number of courts

Communication

Develop Court Council

Meet quarterly

Online engagement hub



#SeattleShines

CAPACITY



Designate Pickleball and Tennis Hubs

- Tennis
Lower Woodland (North)
Amy Yee (South)
- Pickleball
East Green lake (North)
Identify South Location



Court Improvement

- Resurfacing 12 Tennis courts in 2024
- High density court structure
- “Shared Distinct Use” pilot



Forward Capital Projects

- Research Funding Plan for Amy Yee Indoor Expansion
- Magnuson 8-10 PB Courts
- Georgetown 2-3 PB Courts

Blanchet H.S will continue to play tennis at East Green Lake as they are part of the community.



#SeattleShines

HUB CRITERIA



Court Hubs

- Sport specific facilities
- Players can be part of a community
- Facility may be indoor and/or outdoor and
- Distributed across the city
- Desirable locations to ensure utilization



Criteria

- Minimum eight courts
- Lighting
- Proximity to transit and/or parking
- Amenities to support facility
- Safe “waiting” area
- Circulation for bystanders
- Accessible for players of all levels and abilities



Layout

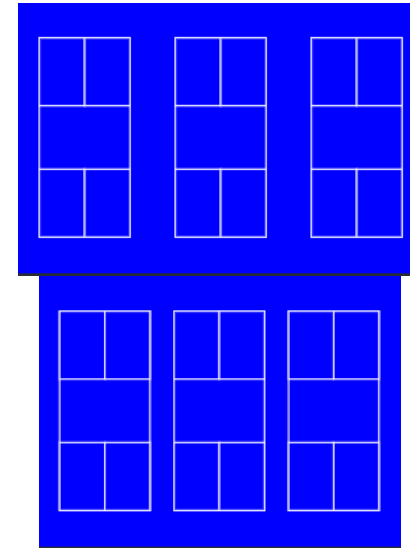
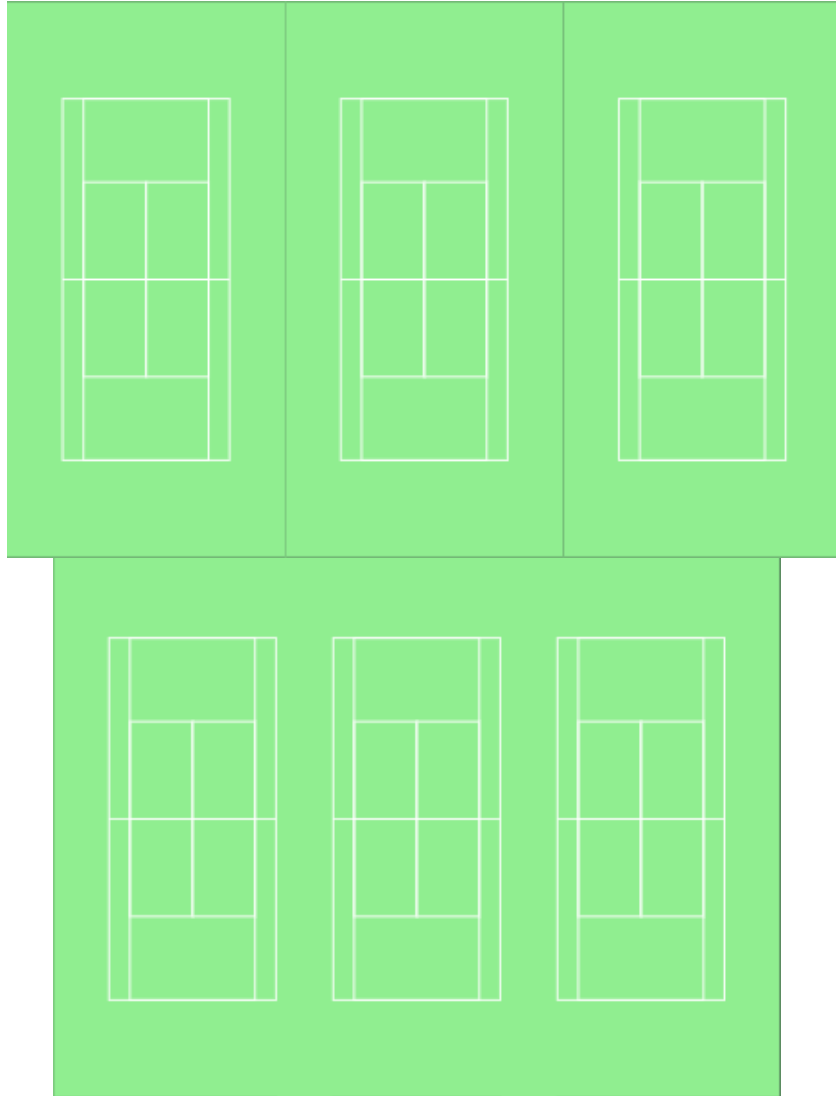
- High-density court structure
- USTA or USPA sanctioned
- Space consideration for “queuing”

The first version of tennis was lawn tennis, and the courts were in an hourglass shape.



#SeattleShines

HIGH DENSITY COURT STRUCTURE

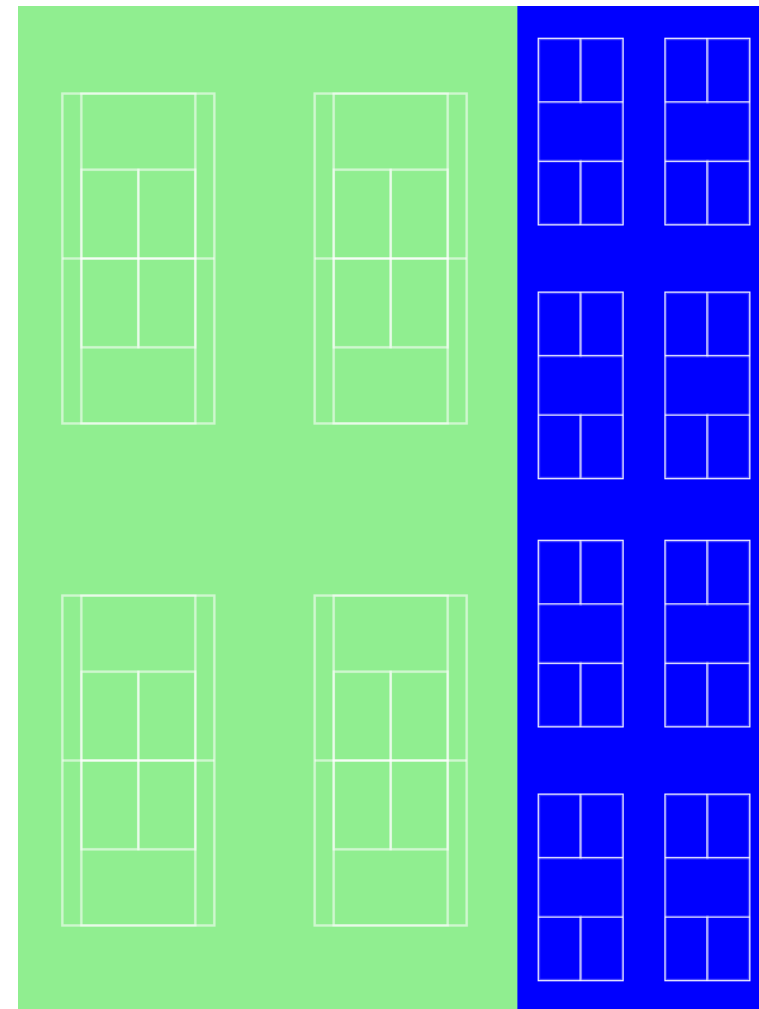
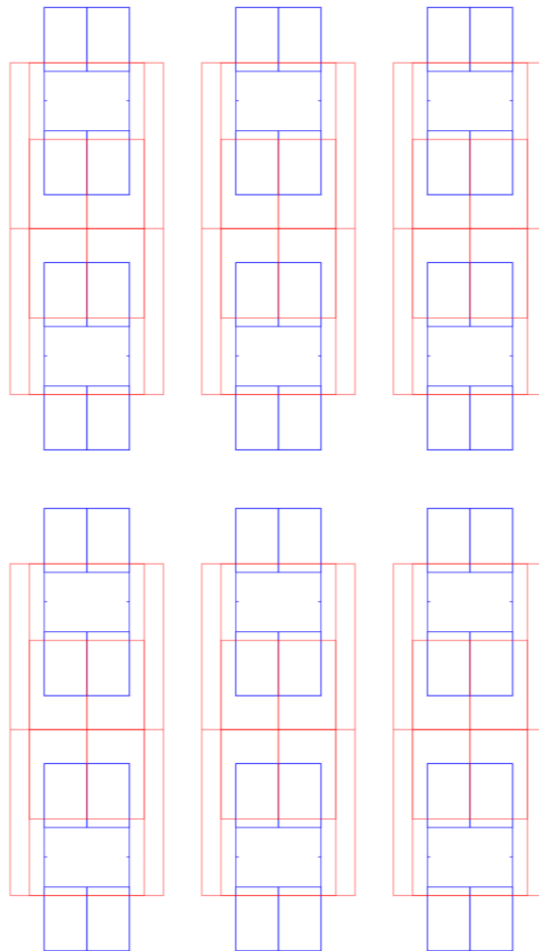
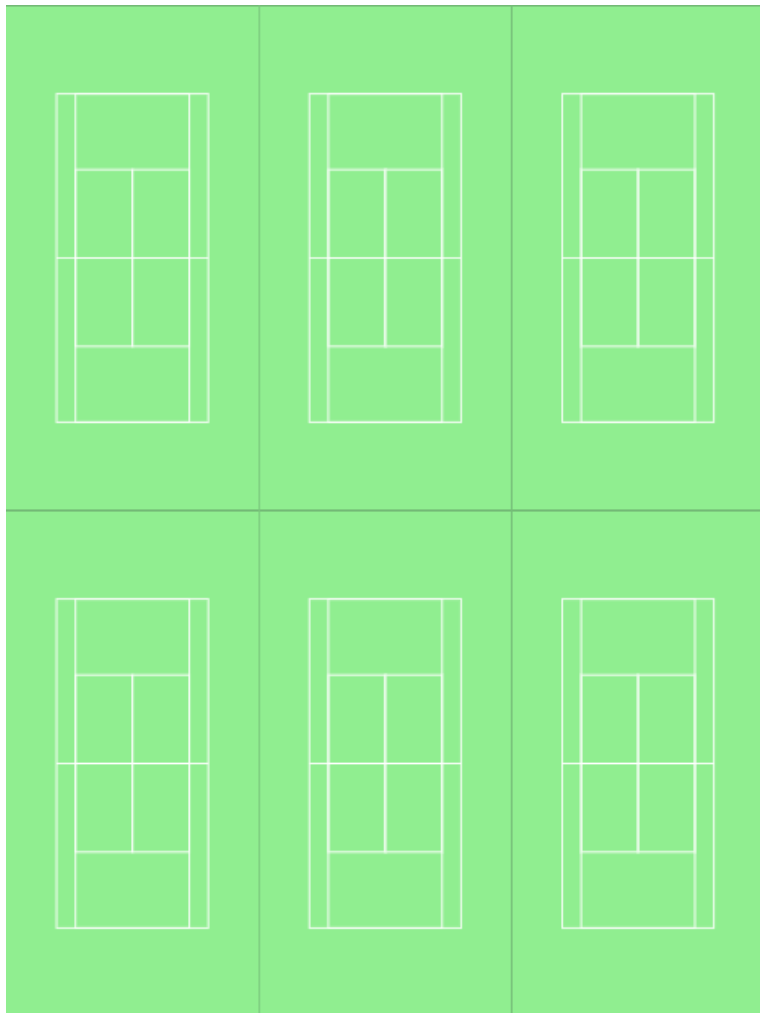


In Hawaii, pickleball is known as pukaball because the word *puka* means “hole” in Hawaiian.



#SeattleShines

SHARED DISTINCT USE COURT STRUCTURE



In Tennis, players are not allowed to use the ball to wipe off sweat.

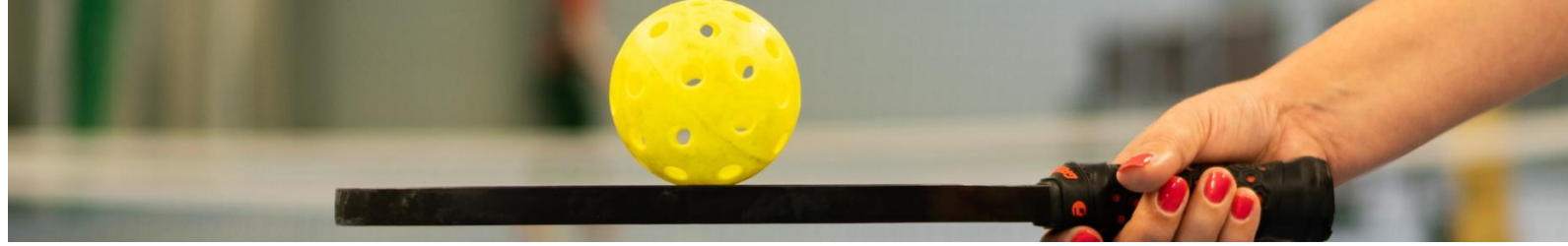


#SeattleShines

10



UTILIZATION



Pilot Dedicated Courts

- Dedicated Tennis and Pickleball Courts at single facilities separately
- Pickleball
 - East Green lake
 - Identify South Location
- Tennis
 - Lower Woodland
 - Amy Yee Outdoor



Scheduling

- Revise reservation structure
- Monitor usage



Pickleball Noise Reduction

- Piloting Noise Reduction Paddles developed w/ UW
- Collaborate w/ United States Pickleball Assoc. to develop standard
- Designate specific courts for noise reduction paddles only



COMMUNICATION



Sep-up Court Council

- Develop Charter
- Include Stakeholders
- Meet Quarterly
- Advance Vision Forward



Set-up Interactive Website

- CitizenLab
- Survey users
- Collect and respond to questions and comments



Court Signage

- Shared Facility “Code of Conduct”
- QR Codes to connect to Interactive Website
- Host Meet-ups and other community events

Understand
Equipment

Learn the
Rules

Practice Your
Strokes

You will find
a partner

Start Slow



#SeattleShines

OTHER TOPICS



- SPR inviting The Pro Tour of Pickleball (PPA) to host annual event at Amy Yee Tennis Center.
- The SMPA has not been able to host a tournament in Seattle due to lack of number of courts in one location.
- SPR needs a standard for colors used on dual-striped courts
- Inter-agency partnerships; 5th Ave & Taylor courts (SDOT), JUA (SPS)
- Private investment and/or public-private partnerships
- Partnerships with local educational institutions (SPS, UW, Seattle U)
- Partnership with nearby jurisdictions

The longest tennis match in history lasted an astonishing 11 hours and 5 minutes.

#SeattleShines

QUESTIONS?



#SeattleShines



THANK YOU!!

Jonathan Garner

Sr. Planning & Development Specialist

C: 206.619.9725

E: Jonathan.Garner@Seattle.gov



#SeattleShines