

Frequently Asked Questions

1125 Harvard Ave E

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) would like to acknowledge that this is a unique opportunity for SPR as an agency and for the Capitol Hill community. As we move forward with bringing this site into SPR's inventory, we recognize that there are several factors in transitioning from being a private yard and garden, to being under public ownership.

Q. What are you going to do about parking?

A. The amount of parking needed depends on the final design for the new park. Typically parks similar in size to this site, without a building, are not required to provide off-street parking. We anticipate needing to have at least one designated on-street drop off spot, and/or ADA parking spot. This may be located within the existing right-of-way or potentially near the existing driveway. We will know better as the design progresses.

Q. How will safety be enforced?

A. The new park site is on the Park Rangers safety and inspection route, and SPR grounds crew are starting their maintenance of the site. Safety is always important, so if you see suspicious activity or feel in danger we encourage you to call 911.

Q. What hours will the park be open?

A. The park will be open from 4 am – 11:30 pm per SPR's standard operating policy.

Q. What will happen to the house?

A. We cannot fully answer that question at this point in time given the age of the house and the site's history. SPR as property owner, is preparing a nomination for historic review by the Landmarks Preservation Board. Future uses will be in response to the public engagement process, SPR's maintenance and operating budget, and the final design and programming for the new park site.

Q. Will this site be considered for a Dog Off Leash Area (OLA)?

A. Per SPR's adopted OLA plan, all new park sites should consider if an OLA is feasible during the early design phase. The siting of an OLA is dependent on several factors:

- Cannot be in an Environmentally Critical Area
- Must meet Accessibility standards
- Must not have significant vegetation and large trees
- Needs to be at least 50 ft. away from other neighbors and property lines
- Needs to consider access to designated parking spots for OLA users and/or access by public transportation
- Should ideally be at least 5,000 sq ft in size
- Should avoid creating conflicts with other uses at the park
- Access to drinking water is encouraged
- Cannot be in a park that is designated a Seattle landmark, nor listed on the Washington State Heritage Register, nor the National Register of Historic Places.

1125 Harvard Ave E

<https://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/projects/1125-harvard-avenue-east>

Q. Will there be a park naming process?

A. Yes, this site will be included in future park naming processes. We do not know the exact date for this just yet.

Q. How much will this project cost? What is the project budget?

A. We do not know how much this project will cost just yet. It depends in a large part on the final design for the new park. We do expect to have a planning level cost estimate for the future park by the end of this initial phase of the project, which is scheduled for the end of this year 2022.

Q. Will Plant Amnesty continue to have access to the site and garden?

A. Plant Amnesty has now become an official 'Friends of Group' with SPR for the care and maintenance of plant areas within the new park site. If you are interested in joining a volunteer work party or finding out more information, please go to SPR's Volunteer website at: <https://www.seattle.gov/parks/volunteer>

Q. When will funding be available to construct the new park?

A. This early planning process will help us understand the community's desires for the site and the potential cost, but we do not have funding nor a construction schedule identified at this time. The City has several park sites that have been waiting for development funding and are higher up in the queue. Current funding cycle projections have this park being funded through the Metropolitan Park District (MPD) in 8-16 years.

Q. When will construction occur?

A. We do not have a timeframe for construction right now. It is dependent on having sufficient funding available. We might consider implementing the final design in phases if appropriate, or we may partner with other organizations on funding options going forward.

Q. What is Seattle Parks and Recreation doing about homeless encampments?

A. The City is addressing several encampments on streets, sidewalks, and in parks each month.

Seattle is partnering with King County and neighboring cities to develop a regional response to homelessness via the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA). While KCRHA is just ramping up, we anticipate a regional approach will increase accountability and transparency and achieve improved outcomes over time. To learn more about the regional work to address homelessness, please visit <https://kcrha.org/>.

To report specific issues regarding unauthorized encampments, please submit requests through the [Customer Service Bureau](#). This will ensure your request is reviewed and triaged in a timely manner. For more information on the City's efforts around homelessness, please visit the [Homelessness Response Blog](#). You can also visit the [Clean City Initiative](#) to learn more about the work to enhance trash and litter removal across the City.