



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: July 3, 2018

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Patrick Merriam, Manager, Park Resources

Subject: Change in Park Hours for Haller Lake Street End

Requested Board Action

In response to concerns regarding illegal behaviors occurring in the Haller Lake Street End park and complaints from people with homes adjacent to the park, Parks would like to change the operating hours of the park from 4:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Based on Seattle Municipal Code Section 18.12.245, the Superintendent, in conjunction with the Board of Park Commissioners, holds a public hearing and the Board makes a recommendation on whether to make the change in hours. This decision is based on staff evaluation and public testimony. The Board's vote can occur the same day as the presentation of the evaluation or at a later date should the Commissioners require additional information to make a decision.

Staff Recommendation

Haller Lake Street End meets the established criteria to permanently change the operating hours. Staff recommend approval of changing the operating hours to 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. This adjustment in hours will reduce the illegal behaviors and reduce the number of complaints and negative impacts on the Haller Lake neighborhood.

Park Description and location

Haller Lake Street End, located at North 125th Street & Densmore Avenue North, Seattle, WA, 98133 is categorized as a Neighborhood Park. The park is an unopened right-of-way and includes turf and a pedestrian path that provides access to the shoreline.

Issues

We have received continuous complaints about illegal behavior occurring at Haller Lake Street End. People congregate at all hours, but there is a preponderance of drinking and vandalism that occurs in the evening hours. Neighbors and SPR staff cite four specific reasons for requesting the change in hours:

- 1) Maintenance workers are burdened with cleaning beer cans, broken glass, and laden trash. The park benches are often found damaged.
- 2) Tagging is pervasive especially late at night and after the park has closed. At sites with similar issues, changing the closing time to 10:00 p.m. enabled SPD to do a sweep through the park and enforce the closure time.
- 3) Neighbors frequently call 911 because of the late night activities which often include loud and boisterous behavior, in addition to illegal activity.
- 4) Community members do not feel safe confronting those who loiter in the park after hours and the earlier closure time enables the police to enforce the rules.

Additional Information

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Attachments

Map

