
SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION

PICNICS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON PARK AMENITIES AND MAPS OF THE PICNIC PARKS?

Follow this link and click on a specific site for more information and to find links to site photos (pdf) and maps (pdf).

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/reserve/picnic-reservations>

The Picnic Brochure has information on all the sites in one place, including site capacity, pricing, and ADA accessibility.

http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/Reserve/Picnic/Picnic_Application_2020.pdf

I DON'T SEE THE PARK I'M INTERESTED IN ON THE LIST. CAN I HAVE MY PICNIC THERE?

Parks Picnic facilities that are not listed are all first-come, first-served and you are welcome to enjoy those spaces when not in use by other park patrons. The following shelters are not able to be reserved, however they are available on a first-come, first-served basis: Van Asselt and Bradner Gardens. Events with bounce houses, canopies and catering can only be scheduled at one of our listed picnic parks.

Please note that we only book parks that are within the Seattle city limits. We do not book for parks on the Eastside, Mercer Island, Renton, Sea-Tac or King County. www.seattle.gov/parks

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE SHOULD I MAKE MY RESERVATION?

Picnic Reservation Applications can be submitted in January and February for the coming picnic season. Those applications are put in random order and processed during the month of March. You will be notified in March if you have received your requested locations.

Beginning the first business day of March, applications are accepted via email and are processed in the order they are received after the lottery applications have been processed.

On the first working day of April, please call our office to book a picnic site.

Some popular sites and dates will book out months in advance. If you are planning a last minute get-together we can usually accommodate groups with 48 hours' notice, however your choice of location will be restricted by what is available. Large groups of 50 or more should try to book at least one month in advance so that the proper amount of space can be secured.

I KNOW WHEN AND WHERE I WANT TO HAVE MY PICNIC. HOW DO I KNOW IF IT IS AVAILABLE?

Please call our office to inquire about availability of picnic sites. Our phone number is 206-684-4080. Please be aware that our phones can be quite busy during the spring and summer months and hold times can be long. We appreciate your patience.

HOW MUCH SPACE DO I NEED FOR MY GROUP?

We strive for a ratio of 1 table for every 10 people. The number of tables under each shelter varies and should be considered before booking. Site capacities listed in the Picnic Brochure refer to the maximum permitted attendance if you secure the shelter *and* all associated picnic tables.

CAN I SET UP ADDITIONAL TABLES AND CHAIRS FOR MY GUESTS?

The Seattle Parks Code prohibits setting up equipment such as tables and chairs. You are allowed to setup one Canopy 20x20 or smaller if a Picnic Permit has been secured.

CAN I RESERVE A BBQ GRILL OR FIRE CIRCLE? CAN I BRING MY OWN BBQ GRILL?

BBQ grills under shelters are reserved with the shelter reservation. Grills outside of the shelters and fire circles are all first-come, first-served. Charcoal and gas grills, with a 5-gallon tank or less, are allowed in parks, provided they're kept on a hard surface (not grass and not sand). With charcoal grills, we ask people to douse their charcoal ashes with water and remove them from the park rather than putting them in a trash can, and we ask grill users to be mindful that their smoke isn't bothering other park users.

CAN WE SERVE ALCOHOL TO OUR GROUP?

Drinking in Seattle parks is prohibited. If you wish to have an event with alcohol in one of our indoor facilities, please contact our office at 206-684-4080 or visit www.seattle.gov/parks/reserve/event-space-rentals

WHAT IS THE POLICY ON DOGS IN THE PARK?

The Seattle Municipal Code ([SMC 18.12.080](#)) states that dogs must be on a leash and kept under control at all times. Dog owners are required to immediately clean up after their dog. Dogs are not allowed in play areas, beaches or athletic fields.

I WILL BE HAVING CATERING/BOUNCE HOUSE/HIRED ENTERTAINMENT. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Seattle Parks and Recreation requires that any special equipment or hired vendors secure a permit prior to the event. There is a \$75 catering/special equipment fee as well as a catering/equipment application form. There are insurance requirements for the vendor. We are unable to block off parking for food trucks or vendors so you will need to select your site accordingly. We do not permit pony rides, petting zoos or dunk tanks due to potential damage to the turf and safety reasons. Please contact our office for more information on these requirements.

DOES SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION PROVIDE BOUNCE HOUSES OR EVENT PLANNING SERVICES?

Seattle Parks and Recreation does not provide these types of services.

CAN I PLAY MUSIC OR BRING A RADIO TO THE PARK?

Seattle Parks Code Sound Ordinance (SMC 18.12.170) prohibits amplification of sound/music at any park. This includes any music played from an electronic device. Bands and DJs with amplified sound are not permitted. You can have acoustic music/sound, if it is not impactful to other park users.

DOES SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION PROVIDE AMENITIES?

Seattle Parks and Recreation does not offer or provide any electricity or water for picnics.

During the peak picnic season the restrooms are fully accessible during park hours of operation. For any picnic outside of the peak picnic season, please contact the Event Scheduling Office for more information.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO THE PARK ON THE DAY OF MY EVENT?

Once we have fully processed your permit, we will send you a copy of the permit. Please print the permit and take it with you to the park. A copy of the permit is necessary for enforcement.

AM I ALLOWED TO DECORATE MY PICNIC SPACE?

We ask that you be mindful of the park space and other future park user by removing all decorations at the conclusion of your event. Nothing can be hung or staked in the trees, including piñatas.

WHAT IF I ARRIVE AT THE PARK AND SOMEONE ELSE IS IN THE SPACE?

Please let other parks users know that you have reserved the space with the Parks and Recreation Department and show them your permit. Then politely ask them to relocate. If you need additional support, contact the Parks Duty Officer at 206-684-7250.

If another group claims to have also reserved the space, please ask to see a copy of their permit. Every permit lists the spaces reserved. Check to make sure that everyone is in the correct location.

If a resolution is not approaching and the emergency Parks Duty Officers number has been used, please contact the non-emergency police department number at 206-625-5011.

WHERE CAN I REPORT A PARK MAINTENANCE CONCERN?

Do you see something that needs fixing in the park? Please call the Parks Work Order Line at 206-684-7250. Report graffiti at the graffiti report line 206-684-7587.

IF I MADE PAYMENT ONLINE THRU SPARC OR AT A COMMUNITY CENTER OR POOL, WHERE DO I GET MY PERMIT?

Please contact the Event Scheduling Office at 206-684-4080 or picnics@seattle.gov to let us know. Once payment has been confirmed, the scheduler will email you your permit.

DO PICNIC TABLES HAVE A FEE ASSOCIATED WITH THEM?

Yes, picnic tables do have a reservation fee associated with them of \$15.00 each table for a half day or \$25.00 each table for a full day. These are for designated picnic parks that have uncovered tables onsite. Please see pdf maps under the picnic reservation page and the tables will be numbered. Picnic tables are planted or chained into the ground and cannot be moved.