



Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) convened a virtual community working session on February 5, 2021, to review and generate ideas for continued activation and increased coordination for programming at Cal Anderson Park. During this working session, SPR provided the following updates to attendees about activation efforts since the January 15th working session:

- Decorative tree lighting along Nagle Pl has been installed; this is a joint effort between the business community, the property owners along Nagle Place and SPR
- SPR held its first volunteer work party in 2021 at Cal Anderson on January 30th, under the supervision of an SPR staff; volunteers assisted in litter pickup throughout the park
 - COVID-19 restrictions limit the number of volunteer who may participate and all slots for the next volunteer work party, scheduled for February 13th, have been filled at this time
 - SPR hopes to schedule volunteer work parties on every 2nd and 4th Saturdays in the coming months; to learn more and participate in a future volunteer work party, please contact SPR Volunteer Coordinator, Junior Kitona, at junior.kitona@seattle.gov

Community led initiatives

- Keith Harris, with UW's College of Built Environments, has submitted a grant application to perform a study of gaps in health and human services on Capitol Hill in partnership with the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict, as well as working with Black Star Farmers on the development and maintenance of a future garden at Cal Anderson Park
 - To learn more and get involved, you can contact Keith Harris at gkh2@uw.edu
- Attendee question: Has the location of the future garden been identified?
 - No, a specific location has not been determined; the first step is for SPR and Black Star Farmers to agree on an operating agreement for the future garden; the design and location of the garden will be determined through a community engagement process led by the parties involved

Attendees at this working session engaged in a review of some of the activation ideas from our previous session. For a full list of ideas, you can refer to notes from the January 15th working session. Below are comments and questions the attendees shared:

- Some of the ideas speak to the need for better services for the unhoused population on Capitol Hill; however, SPR is only part of a larger City effort to respond to the homelessness crisis and this topic requires a bigger venue for discussion
 - Guiding question: what is the best way to provide services and aid to the unhoused community? And how might it involve (or not involve) our parks and green spaces like Cal Anderson Park?
 - The urgent need for a better understanding of our unhoused population and their current needs was raised; better coordination between SPR and HSD is needed
 - SPR offered to connect with the newly-formed Homelessness Outreach and Providers Ecosystem (HOPE) Team about a future information session for the Capitol Hill neighborhood about the City's strategies to address homelessness in Seattle
- Honoring the Black Lives Matter movement at Cal Anderson Park through art and education
 - This would be an impactful way to elevate the voices of Seattle's Black community and share their stories with those visiting the park

- Increased programming at the Shelter House as a way of deterring vandalism and other destructive activity
 - How do we ensure better safety at the park for all those who visit?
 - SPR sees activation as a strategy for reinforcing positive behavior in parks and green spaces; we are convening these sessions in order to develop collaborative ideas that lead to people using the park in positive ways that are consistent with the Parks Code, that more people are using the park for the right reasons more of the time as appropriate for a public park
 - However, SPR must continue to stay compliant with COVID-19 guidelines, which may limit some activities in the short term
- For some, the increased activity at the park has been a positive improvement, including frequent use of the ping pong tables and families returning to the park for recreation
- Preservation and showcasing of CHOP art at Cal Anderson Park as a form of educating the community about the history of activism at the park
- In order to bring more people and activities to the park, SPR should better communicate to the public that the park is now open, and SPR and Cal Anderson communities are gearing up to bring more activation in the coming months; more transparency and information sharing is needed between SPR and the communities using the park
- One of the biggest advantages to Cal Anderson Park for many (pre-COVID) was that you could go to the park at any time and join an established community event taking place at the park; important to consider how we can make the park a more welcoming place for more of our communities looking for respite and recreation opportunities
 - Decreasing the police presence at the park is one strategy to create a more welcoming space at the park; it's important for the City to recognize there has been harm done in the community and there's a need for healing between the City and the community
 - What are the signals of invitation that help people feel welcome? And how do we cultivate that? A community pantry and mutual aid support are two strategies to build bridges between the City and the community
 - How do we create a safe environment that is clean and free of violence for all who visit the park?

SPR shared the following updates on next steps in the process:

- Future activation working sessions will be scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 11AM; the next Cal Anderson Park activation working session is scheduled for February 19, 2021, at 11AM
 - If you're interested in participating, please reach out to us via email
- At our future sessions, we will continue to address the question of how to make Cal Anderson Park a more welcoming place for all members of our community and what strategies may help us achieve this goal

The community is encouraged to continue sharing their ideas and feedback with us by emailing us at 2020CalAnderson@seattle.gov. We also encouraged attendees to consider who may be missing at the table; this is intended to be a community process and we welcome additional individuals or organizations interested in this work to join us at future sessions.

