



Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) convened a virtual community working session on May 7, 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:

- SPR volunteering program has resumed its operations; SPR Volunteer Coordinator Junior Kitona will be providing a presentation on volunteering with SPR at this working session
- Reports from Concierge Staff at Cal Anderson Park show park visitors engaging with the newly installed Dine Out In & Around the Park map, showcasing local eateries around the park
- The permit for the tree lighting (by Hunters Capitol) along Nagle Place has been extended
- Some upcoming events currently being planned for the park
 - The past Wednesday (5/5/21) was the first session of an art class series, taking place between the shelter house and the restrooms 11AM-3PM, organized by www.vibrantpalette.org while they're unable to host art classes in their indoor studio; they will continue to meet through the end of May
 - June 6, 9AM-1PM
 - Taking Pride in Capitol Hill, a neighborhood clean-up event based in the park and organized by Seattle Pride
 - June 11-13, 11AM-8PM
 - The CHOP Art organization planning an anniversary celebration of CHOP, featuring art, music, and various booths; organizers working on developing a COVID compliant plan for the event
 - June 26, time TBD
 - Capitol Hill Pride, organized by Philip Lipson and Charlette LaFevre; this is a one-day event
 - Later in the summer, date TBD
 - Pridefest Capitol Hill, a two-day event at the park, organized by Seattle Pride

Some of the participants also provided the following updates on their community initiatives:

- The AIDS Memorial Pathway (AMP)
 - During the week of May 17th, Christopher Paul Jordan's large sculpture [andimgonnamisseverybody](#) will be installed
 - The new landscaping and pathway in the north part of the park are currently under construction, in preparation of the installation of Horatio Law's art piece, [Ribbon of Light](#)
 - The first of three pieces of Horatio Law's work will be installed by June 26th, and the remaining two pieces will likely be installed in July
 - A portion of Civilization's *We're Already Here* art work will be installed in the north part of Cal Anderson Park as well; this piece is expected to be installed by June 26th

In previous sessions, attendees have shared some questions about the idea of bringing food trucks to the park. SPR provided this follow up during the session:

- Between 2006 and 2016, we have had food vendors at Cal Anderson Park on two different occasions
 - Due to the abundance and variety of eateries and restaurants around the park, these vendors were unfortunately not successful in making enough sales to warrant returning
- In our experience, food trucks have similarly struggled with making enough sales to make it worth their time and costs

- For some additional information on mobile food vending and street food trucks, you can refer to these link:
 - Mobile Food Vending www.seattle.gov/office-of-economic-development/small-business/food-businesses/mobile-food-businesses
 - Street Food Carts or Trucks <https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/permits/common-projects/street-food-carts-or-trucks>
 - Street Food Checklist https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/economicDevelopment/Street_Food_Checklist.pdf
 - Seattle Food Truck.com <https://www.seattlefoodtruck.com>

During this session, one of SPR's Volunteer Coordinators, Junior Kitona, joined to share information about volunteering with SPR and below are some highlights from his presentation:

- All volunteers must follow COVID-19 safety guidelines
 - All volunteers must wear a mask and maintain physical distancing during the project
 - Volunteers must bring their own gloves and tools (if needed)
 - Please stay home if you are feeling sick on the day of the project
 - All volunteers must sign in on the provided Group Sign-in Sheet. This allows us to gather statistics for volunteer projects and to conduct contact tracing if needed
 - SPR is currently allowing volunteer work parties of up to 10 people
- You may sign up with SPR to become a long-term, consistent volunteer with SPR or you can participate in a single work party
- For upcoming volunteer opportunities across the City, you can visit: www.seattle.gov/parks/volunteer
- The community has the option to form a "Friends of.." group for Cal Anderson Park
 - "Friends of..." groups assist SPR in maintenance and development of parks and open spaces
 - Examples of tasks include:
 - Adopting an area
 - Organizing & leading volunteer work parties
 - Event planning
 - Community development
 - Reforestation
 - Removal of invasive plants
 - Litter clean-up
 - Leaf raking
 - Planting trees and shrubs
 - Weeding
 - Unique improvements to a park
 - "Friends of" groups enter an agreement with SPR, and are asked for a minimum of a 1-year commitment, which would include at least 4 events per year
- For more information about forming a "Friends of" group or about volunteering with SPR, you may contact Junior Kitona at Junior.Kitona@seattle.gov or visit our website at www.seattle.gov/parks/volunteer

Since the start of these Cal Anderson Park activation working sessions in January 2021, SPR staff have covered and offered support on a variety of topics:

- Identifying contact information for individuals across City of Seattle departments, in response to questions from participants about issues that do not fall under SPR jurisdiction; these topics included public safety and homelessness services (please refer to notes from previous sessions for the list of contacts)
- We have created opportunities for updates from SPR staff about the status of the park as well as updates from participants about community initiatives
- A number of SPR staff have attended these working sessions and presented on various topics including: repairs to park infrastructure, Event Planning at Seattle Parks, and Volunteering with SPR

Additionally, SPR has taken a number of unilateral actions to activate the park since January, including:

- Providing concierge staffing at the park
- Adding new temporary art work in the park for the enjoyment of the public
- Restarting scheduling sports for the Bobby Morris Playfield (at limited capacity due to COVID guidelines)

Given the conversations we've had so far, and as we plan for the further activation of Cal Anderson Park in the year ahead, it's important that we are increasingly in conversation with individuals and groups who have some prior experience and are interested in planning events at the park. These events may include (but are not limited to) theater performances at the park, fitness classes or a festival. To this end, we are requesting that participants of these activation sessions support this effort by connecting with at least one event organizer in the neighborhood and asking them to join our future session on May 21st. There is no minimum requirement for experience with event planning; the goal is to connect with those who have ideas for events at the park or are deeply interested in hosting an event for the first time. SPR staff will provide participants with draft language they may use in their communication with event organizers. Additionally, SPR staff will be available to provide guidance and answer any questions individuals may have.

Finally, participants were informed of two upcoming funding opportunities for community-held events at Seattle parks and green spaces:

1. SPR recently announced the Welcome Back Seattle grant, which offers community members and organizations up to \$10,000 to fund programming in Seattle parks and greenspaces. Although the website has May 7 as the deadline, it has been extended and proposals will be accepted through May 21, 2021 and all funded programming must happen between June 26th and December 12th, 2021. For more information, visit: <https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/Initiatives/2021%20Welcome%20Back%20Seattle%20Guidelines%20RFP.pdf>
2. Additionally, the Arts in Parks program, which we have presented on previously in our activation sessions, will open applications for 2021 soon. For the latest up-to-date information, please visit: <https://www.seattle.gov/arts/programs/grants/arts-in-parks-program>

Next Steps

- Consider how we may be able to make these sessions more accessible to more community members and who may be missing at the table
 - Do you know of community members you can connect and collaborate with on activation programming at the park? Are there individuals or groups who may be interested in hosting events that may not be participating in these sessions?
- The next Cal Anderson Park Activation working session will take place on May 21st at 11AM
 - If you would like to get on our email list and receive calendar appointments, reach out to us by email at 2020CalAnderson@seattle.gov