



## **PICNICS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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

Follow this link, scroll towards the bottom of the page, click on a specific park site for more information and to find links to photos (pdf) and maps (pdf): <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/reserve/picnic-reservations>

The Picnic Brochure & Application has information on picnic sites all in one place, including capacity, pricing, and ADA accessibility.

### **I DON'T SEE THE PARK I'M INTERESTED IN ON THE LIST. CAN I HAVE MY PICNIC IN OTHER PARKS?**

Parks Picnic tables and shelters that are not listed are 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 and are available on a first-come, first-served basis: Van Asselt and Bradner Gardens. Events with bounce houses, laser tag, 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 reserve parks on the eastside, Mercer Island, Renton, Sea-Tac or King County.

### **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 lottery order and processed during the month of March. You will be notified in March if you have received your requested location(s).

Beginning March 1st, applications are accepted online or by email and are processed in the order they are received after the lottery applications have been processed.

On the first working day of April, we continue to accept applications online or by email, and we begin accepting reservations by phone. Phones can be very busy and voicemail response may be slow. Online or email applications are recommended.

Popular sites and dates 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. Groups of 50 people or more should book at least one month in advance so that the proper amount of space can be reserved.

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

You can list up to 5 choices of dates and/or locations on your application. It is best to submit an application as soon as possible to try and secure one of your top 5 choices. You can also call our office to inquire about availability of picnic sites. Our phone number is 206-684-4080 x 2. Please be aware that our phones can be quite busy during the spring and summer months and hold times can be long. Leave a message and we will return your call within a few business days. 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, including. 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 outside 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 with your Picnic Permit.

## **CAN I RESERVE A BBQ GRILL OR FIRE PIT? CAN I BRING MY OWN BBQ GRILL?**

BBQ grills under shelters are included with the shelter reservation. Grills outside of the shelters and fire pits 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 on 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 alcohol 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 x 1 or visit

[www.seattle.gov/parks/reserve/event-space-rentals](http://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, on beaches, or on 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 in addition to a Picnic Permit. There are insurance requirements for the vendor. We are unable to reserve parking for food trucks or vendors so 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. 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 application, you have received your picnic confirmation and paid for your reservation, you may print your permit. Please print the paid permit and take it with you to the park, a copy of the permit is necessary for enforcement. Unpaid reservations are not valid permits.

#### **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 trees, including piñatas.

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

Let other parks users know that you reserved the space and show them your paid 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 paid permit. Every permit lists the spaces reserved. Check to make sure that everyone is in the correct location, and for the correct date.

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.

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

Please contact the Event Scheduling Office at 206-684-4080 x 2 or [sprevents@seattle.gov](mailto:sprevents@seattle.gov) to let us know. Once payment has been confirmed, you will print your completed permit and bring with you to the park.

#### **DO PICNIC TABLES HAVE A FEE ASSOCIATED WITH THEM?**

Yes, picnic tables 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. See picnic site maps under the picnic reservation page and the tables will be numbered. Reservable picnic tables are secured or chained into the ground and cannot be moved.