

DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

Description: **Denny Blaine Park Supplemental Use Management Guidelines:** Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) is proposing to adopt supplemental use management guideline(s) for Denny Blaine Park related to the use of the park, parking at the park and delineating the areas of the park where park users are and are not requested to wear clothing or a towel. The proposed adoption of the guidelines by the Superintendent is a non-project action.

Proponent: **Seattle Parks and Recreation**

Location: **Denny Blaine Park, 200 Lake Washington Blvd E, Seattle, WA 98122**


Lead agency: **Seattle Parks and Recreation**

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

- There is no comment period for this DNS.
- This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of publication (May 20, 2024).

Written comments must be submitted by June 4, 2024.

Responsible official: Andy Sheffer
Position/title: Deputy Superintendent, Planning & Capital Development Branch, Seattle Parks and Recreation
e-mail: andy.sheffer@seattle.gov
Address: 300 Elliott Avenue West, Suite 100, Seattle, WA 98119

Date: 05/16/2024 Signature: 

Please contact: David Graves, Strategic Advisor, Seattle Parks and Recreation if you have questions or written comments related to this determination.

Phone: (206) 684-7048; **e-mail:** david.graves@seattle.gov.

You may appeal this determination to **Office of the Hearing Examiner at PO Box 94729, Seattle, WA 98124-4729** or 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4000, Seattle, WA 98104 no later than **5:00 pm** on June 11, 2024 by **Appeal Letter** and **\$85.00 fee**. You should be prepared to make specific factual objection(s). Contact the Seattle Examiner to read or ask about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

City of Seattle

ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION

Proposal Name: **Denny Blaine Park Supplemental Use Management Guidelines**

Location of proposal: **Denny Blaine Park, 200 Lake Washington Blvd E, Seattle, WA 98122**

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) is proposing to adopt supplemental use management guideline(s) for Denny Blaine Park related to the use of the park, parking at the park and delineating the areas of the park where park users are and are not requested to wear clothing or a towel. The proposed adoption of the guidelines by the Superintendent is a non-project action.

SEPA DETERMINATION: Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)

BACKGROUND DATA

Denny Blaine Park is a relatively small park on the Lake Washington shoreline located between the Madison Park and Leschi neighborhoods. The focus of the park is a grassy non-lifeguarded beach that is surrounded by a stone wall. The wall marks the historic shoreline before 1917 when the lake level was lowered nine feet by the construction of the Lake Washington Ship Canal. There is limited parking adjacent to the park.

The park has a long history as a place for visitors and residents from around the City to access the Lake Washington shoreline. Indigenous people used the general area for seasonal camps and hunting and fishing grounds since time immemorial. The area officially became a park when it was donated in 1901 by E.F. Blaine, O.O. Denny, and Charles and Viretta Denny for “the use of the Public and the City of Seattle forever.” The park was incorporated into the 1903 Olmsted Brothers’ comprehensive plan for Seattle’s park system, with a philosophy of providing access to open space and restorative environments for the public. In recent decades, the park has been embraced by members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, gender diverse, and queer community as a place for community gathering and expression, including, at times clothing optional uses.

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

As usage at the park has increased, there have been parking conflicts in the neighborhood as the demand at times exceeds the parking supply at the park. In addition, people have raised concerns related to the park’s usage as a clothing optional space. To that end, Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) is proposing to adopt supplemental use management guidelines for Denny Blaine Park related to the use of the park, parking at the park and delineating the areas of the park where park users are and are not requested to wear clothing or a towel. The bulk of the proposed guidelines simply restate activities that are prohibited in all City of Seattle parks, which includes Denny Blaine Park, to remind current and future users of existing SPR policy. In addition, the proposed policy

identifies the parking area for the park and delineates the areas of the park where park users are and are not requested to wear clothing or a towel. Signage will be installed at the park once the policy is finalized and adopted by the Superintendent to alert park users to the guidelines. Adoption of the supplemental use management guidelines is considered a non-project action.

ANALYSIS – SEPA

Initial disclosure of potential impacts from this project was made in the applicant’s Environmental Checklist, dated April 24, 2024. The basis for this analysis and decision is formed from information in the Checklist, familiarity with the site and site issues, and the lead agency’s experience with review of similar projects.

The environmental review indicates no probability of significant adverse environmental impacts occurring as a result of the proposal. The Environmental Checklist submitted with the application adequately discloses expected environmental impacts associated with the proposal. The City codes and requirements, including the Stormwater, Grading & Drainage Control Code, Land Use Code, Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, the Shoreline Master Program, Building Code and other construction codes are expected to mitigate potential environmental impacts.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 23.05.665) discusses the relationship between the City’s code/policies and environmental review. The Overview Policy states, in part, “[w]here City regulations have been adopted to address an environmental impact; it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation”. The Policies also discuss in SMC 23.05.665 D1-7, that in certain circumstances it may be appropriate to deny or mitigate a project based on adverse environmental impacts. This may be specified otherwise in the policies for specific elements of the environment found in SMC 25.05.675. In consideration of these policies, a more detailed discussion of some of the potential impacts is appropriate.

Short Term Impacts

The purpose of the proposed guidelines is to minimize impacts associated with the passive recreational use of the park. The proposal is a non-project action, and no short-term impacts are anticipated associated with the adoption of the proposed supplemental use management guidelines for Denny Blaine Park. As such, no mitigation is warranted or necessary.

Long Term Impacts


The purpose of the proposed guidelines is to minimize impacts associated with the passive recreational use of the park. The proposal is non-project action, and no long-term impacts are anticipated associated with the adoption of the proposed supplemental use management guidelines for Denny Blaine Park and subsequent use of the park consistent with those guidelines. As such, no mitigation is warranted or necessary.

DECISION

This decision was made after the responsible official, on behalf of the lead agency, reviewed a completed environmental checklist, the 2017 Plan and other information on file with the responsible department. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and final decision on application of SEPA's substantive authority and mitigation provisions. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21.C), including the requirement to inform the public of agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

- (X) Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C).
- () Determination of Significance. This proposal has or may have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. AN EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C).

Signature:



David Graves, AICP
Strategic Advisor, Planning & Capital Development Branch
Seattle Parks and Recreation

Date: May 16, 2024

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. **You may use “not applicable” or “does not apply” only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown.** You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to **all parts of your proposal**, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for lead agencies

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B, plus the [Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions \(Part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in “Part B: Environmental Elements” that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background [Find help answering background questions](#)

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:** Supplemental Use Guidelines for Denny Blaine Park
2. **Name of applicant:** Justin Hellier, Strategic Policy Advisor, Seattle Parks and Recreation
3. **Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:** justin.hellier@seattle.gov
4. **Date checklist prepared:** April 24, 2024
5. **Agency requesting checklist:** Seattle Parks and Recreation
6. **Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):** Proposed adoption of the policy potentially as early as May 24; education and compliance efforts would begin immediately thereafter.
7. **Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.** None at this time. In future years, we may consider changes to site parking, and possible changes to support ADA access to the site, but those would be considered separate actions.
8. **List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.** Because this is only a policy action that acknowledges the legality of existing park use, no environmental information has been gathered specifically for this project.
9. **Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.** No.
10. **List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.** None.

11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Denny Blaine Park is an approximately 2 acre park managed by Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) that is enjoyed by many park users as a clothing optional space. This use is a legal activity, so long as behavior does not violate RCW 9a.88.010. However, in recent years, alongside this legal use has been an increase in behaviors that are either illegal according to various RCWs and SMCs or that violate SPR's official code of conduct.

Based on recent community engagement and review of relevant laws, SPR has developed a draft policy for the use and management of Denny Blaine Park. This proposal would adopt supplemental use policies to provide clarity regarding this use of the space—not designating or sanctioning nudity but rather reiterating existing state and local laws and policies regarding conduct that is and is not prohibited at the space. Specifically, the policy notes that nudity that does not violate state and local statutes regarding indecent exposure is not prohibited, but reiterates that a variety of other actions are prohibited (drug use, sexual conduct, use of drugs, public urination, blocking access, etc).

Accompanying this policy would be efforts to educate the public about the new policy and seek compliance, include signage, visits by Park Rangers, etc. No other physical changes are currently proposed as a part of this action.

Draft policy is attached here as Exhibit A.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Denny Blaine Park, 200 Lake Washington Blvd E, Seattle, WA 98122.

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth [Find help answering earth questions](#)

General description of the site: A small, terraced park on the Lake Washington shoreline in the Denny Blaine – Washington Park neighborhood of Seattle, WA. The park area consists of three tiers, in addition to a grassy area within the oval loop of E. Denny Blaine Place. The upper level between the parking lot and the original seawall is grass covered and has several large trees that provide shade. The middle level between the lake-side base of the seawall and the beach area is also grass. The lower lake level encompasses a sandy beach area with a rocky shoreline that is covered with small, smooth river pebble extending the first few feet into the lake.

- a. **Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:** Site is terraced with several generally flat areas.
- b. **What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?** The high point of the site is approximately 75 feet above sea level, while the low point is approximately 20 feet above sea level, over a distance of approximately 500 feet, but because of terraces there is very little slop on the site.
- c. **What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.** Generally sandy soils, including glacial till.
- d. **Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.** No.
- e. **Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.** Not applicable, no filling, excavation, or grading proposed.
- f. **Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.** No.
- g. **About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?** Not applicable, no change to surface coverage at the site as a result of this proposal.
- h. **Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.** Not applicable, no physical site changes are proposed. The adoption of the proposed policy will not have any impact on the physical environment.

2. Air [Find help answering air questions](#)

a. **What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.** Not applicable, no proposed construction or maintenance changes proposed.

b. **Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.** Not applicable.

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any.** Not applicable, no proposed construction or maintenance changes proposed. The adoption of the proposed policy will not have any impact on the physical environment.

3. Water [Find help answering water questions](#)

a. Surface Water: [Find help answering surface water questions](#)

1. **Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.** Lake Washington, a large freshwater lake that drains into Puget Sound.

2. **Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.** No.

3. **Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.** None.

4. **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.** No.

5. **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.** No

6. **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.** No.

b. Ground Water: [Find help answering ground water questions](#)

1. **Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.** No.

2. **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.).**

Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.
Not applicable.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

- a) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. Not applicable, no physical changes to the site are proposed.
- b) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. Not applicable, no physical changes to the site are proposed.
- c) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. No.
- d) Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any. Not applicable, no physical changes to the site are proposed. The adoption of the proposed policy will not have any impact on the physical environment.

4. Plants [Find help answering plants questions](#)

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? Not applicable, no change to existing vegetation or land management.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. None known.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any. Not applicable, no change to existing vegetation or land management.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. None known.

5. Animals [Find help answering animal questions](#)

- a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

- **Birds:** hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, **other:** Various birds including crows, bald eagle.
- **Mammals:** deer, bear, elk, beaver, **other:** NA
- **Fish:** bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, **other:** As part of the Lake Washington shoreline, it is likely that migratory fish may pass by.

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Puget Sound Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coastal-Puget Sound bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), and Puget Sound steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), all federally threatened species, are known to occur in Lake Washington. Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), a federal species of concern, also occur in the lake.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Seattle is within of the Pacific Flyway, a major north-south flyway for migratory birds in America, extending from Alaska to Patagonia. Anadromous salmon and trout species that spawn in Lake Washington and the Cedar River system pass the site in both the juvenile and adult stages as they move to and from their spawning sites.

- d. **Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.** NA – The adoption of the proposed policy will not have any impact on the physical environment.
- e. **List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.** None known.

6. Energy and Natural Resources [Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)

1. **What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.** None, this is only adoption of a policy that reiterates the legality of certain existing uses and reiterates the existing illegality of certain other activities.
2. **Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.** No.
3. **What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.** None, not applicable.

7. Environmental Health [Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)

- a. **Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and**

explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe. No.

1. Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses. None known.
2. Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. Not applicable.
3. Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project. None. Project is only a policy action, no physical change to the site.
4. Describe special emergency services that might be required. None. Project is only a policy action, no physical change to the site.
5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any. Not applicable - the adoption of the proposed policy will not have any impact on the physical environment.

b. Noise

1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? The location is a public park located on a neighborhood street with minimal traffic sounds.
2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site)? Likely no impact, policy action only.
3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any. NA

8. Land and Shoreline Use [Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. Site is currently a public park, containing Lake Washington shoreline. Proposal will have no impact on land use.
- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? No.
- c. Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how? No.

- d. **Describe any structures on the site.** Several rock walls, as part of Olmsted park design.
- e. **Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?** No.
- f. **What is the current zoning classification of the site?** Neighborhood Residential (NR1)
- g. **What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?** City-Owned Openspace
- h. **If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**
Conservancy Recreation
- i. **Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.** Yes – Liquefaction Prone Area
- j. **Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?** None will reside in the park. A small number of SPR workers visit the park for maintenance on a regular basis. Our compliance strategy will likely increase the number of SPR workers visiting regularly.
- k. **Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?** No one would be displaced from their residences.
- l. **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.** Not applicable.
- m. **Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.** Not applicable, no change to land management or land use.
- n. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any.** Not applicable, the adoption of the proposed policy will not have any impact on the physical environment.

9. Housing [Find help answering housing questions](#)

- a. **Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.** None.
- b. **Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.** None.
- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.** Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics [Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)

- a. **What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?** No structures proposed.
- b. **What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?** None.
- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.** Not applicable.

11. Light and Glare [Find help answering light and glare questions](#)

- a. **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**
None.
- b. **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**
Not applicable.
- c. **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?** Lights from residential houses and street lights are existing sources of light, but will not impact this proposal.
- d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any.** Not applicable.

12. Recreation [Find help answering recreation questions](#)

- a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

The primary purpose of the site currently is as a park to provide passive recreation opportunities. Other nearby recreational opportunities include a variety of other parks also allowing for passive recreation, including Viretta Park, Howell Park, Lakeview Park, Madrona Park, and several street ends that provide public access to the shoreline.

- b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.** No, it seeks to provide clarity as to the legality of existing uses and reiterate that certain activities are already prohibited.
- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any.** We anticipate that clarity as to the legality and illegality of specific uses will not have major impacts on recreational opportunities compared to the status quo. If anything, our efforts to educate and seek compliance will reduce illegal activities and problem behaviors, making the site more welcoming for legal recreational activities.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation [Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)

- a. **Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.**

The park is an Olmsted site, and includes characteristic design elements of Olmsted parks, including several stone walls older than 45 years old. However, the adoption of the proposed policy will not have any impact on these historic and design elements.

- b. **Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.** None known.
- c. **Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.** Because this proposal will not impact land management or land use and there will be no ground disturbance, we did not perform assessment of cultural and historic resources at the site.
- d. **Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.** Not applicable. The adoption of the proposed policy will not have any impact on the physical environment.

14. Transportation [Find help with answering transportation questions](#)

- a. **Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.** The site is at the intersection of E Lake Washington Blvd and E Denny Blaine Pl.
- b. **Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?** The site is not currently well-served by transit, but Metro busses #2 and #3 stop approximately half a mile from the site.
- c. **Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).** No.
- d. **Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.** No.
- e. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?** We do not believe this policy will significantly increase the

total number of vehicle trips compared to the status quo, as the park is already quite popular and well-known as a clothing optional space. It is possible the increased parking enforcement envisioned will decrease total vehicle trips to the site as users seek other methods to arrive.

- f. **Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.** No.
- g. **Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.** Parking enforcement at the site will be increased to minimize the potential for neighborhood parking impacts from park visitors.

15. Public Services [Find help answering public service questions](#)

- a. **Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.** No.
- b. **Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.** N/A - The adoption of the proposed policy will not have any impact on the physical environment.

16. Utilities [Find help answering utilities questions](#)

- a. **Circle utilities currently available at the site:** electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other: Water, refuse service, temporary portapotty.
- b. **Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.** None.

C. Signature [Find help about who should sign](#)

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Justin Hellier
Justin Hellier (May 14, 2024 10:11 PDT)

Type name of signee: Justin Hellier

Position and agency/organization: Strategic Policy Advisor, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Date: 05/14/2024

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet](#)

IT IS NOT REQUIRED to use this section for project actions.

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. **How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?** The proposal is the adoption of a policy related to the existing usage of the park as a clothing optional space. Adoption of the policy will not have any impact on the physical environment.
 - **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:** N/A

2. **How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?** The proposal is the adoption of a policy related to the existing usage of the park as a clothing optional space. Adoption of the policy will not have any impact on the plants, animals or fish.
 - **Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:** N/A

3. **How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?** The proposal is the adoption of a policy related to the existing usage of the park as a clothing optional space. Adoption of the policy will not have any impact on energy usage or natural resources.
 - **Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:** N/A

4. **How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection, such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?** The proposal is the adoption of a policy related to the existing usage of the park as a clothing optional space. Adoption of the policy will not have any impact on environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated for governmental protection.

- **Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:** N/A

5. **How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?** The proposal is the adoption of a policy related to the existing usage of the park as a clothing optional space. Adoption of the policy will not affect land or shoreline use.

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:** N/A

6. **How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?** The proposal is the adoption of a policy related to the existing usage of the park as a clothing optional space. Adoption of the policy will not have any impact on the demand on transportation or public services and utilities.

- **Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:** N/A

7. **Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.** The proposal is the adoption of a policy related to the existing usage of the park as a clothing optional space. Adoption of the policy will not conflict with local, state and/or Federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.



Department Policy & Addenda

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|--|---------------------------------|
| Subject: Supplemental Use Management Guidelines for Denny Blaine Park | Number: 060-P 7.13.1.14 |
| | Effective: <i>Upon adoption</i> |
| | Supersedes: <i>NA</i> |
| Approved: | Page 1 of 3 |

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

- 1.1** Denny Blaine Park has a long history in Seattle as a place for neighbors and community members from around the city to access the Lake Washington shoreline. Indigenous people used the general area for seasonal camps and hunting grounds since time immemorial. The area officially became a park when it was donated in 1901 by E.F. Blaine, O.O. Denny, and Charles and Viretta Denny for “the use of the Public and the City of Seattle forever.” Soon thereafter, the park was incorporated into the 1903 Olmsted Brothers’ comprehensive plan for Seattle’s park system, with a philosophy of providing access to open space and restorative environments for the public. In recent decades, the park has been embraced by members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, gender diverse, and queer community as a place for community gathering and expression, including, at times clothing optional uses.
- 1.2** Per Policy 060-P 7.13.1, Seattle Parks and Recreation (hereafter, the Department) endeavors “to the maximum extent possible to equitably accommodate the user populations who wish to use park and recreation facilities” and to “minimize the adverse impact of use activities on park grounds and facilities and the surrounding environment.” In pursuance of this dual goal, we adopt Policy 7.13.1.14 as supplemental use management guidelines for Denny Blaine Park:
 - 1.2.1** To acknowledge the use of Denny Blaine Park as a place where clothing-optional use occurs and to support the area as a safe space by members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, gender diverse, and queer community, as well as the public at large.
 - 1.2.2** To develop shared understandings between park users and the surrounding neighborhood regarding legal and illegal activities, and to reemphasize the existing Code of Conduct for all parks.
 - 1.2.3** To recognize legitimate and legal recreational uses and to minimize adverse impacts and misuses of Denny Blaine Park on the park and the surrounding neighborhood.

2. ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED

- 2.1** Friends of Denny Blaine Park
- 2.2** Residents of the Denny Blaine neighborhood
- 2.3** Users of Denny Blaine Park

3. REFERENCES / SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- 3.1 Policy 060-P 7.13.1: Use Management Guidelines for Parks and Recreation Facilities
- 3.2 Policy 060-P 7.21.00: Code of Conduct
- 3.3 RCW 9a.88.010: Indecent Exposure

4. POLICY

- 4.1 Nudity that does not amount to indecent exposure as defined by RCW 9a.88.010 or Section 6.2 of this Policy is not prohibited. However, out of consideration for the surrounding neighborhood, Addendum 1 displays locations where park users are requested to wear clothing or a towel.
- 4.2 Per Policy 060-P 7.21.00, the following activities are prohibited in all parks, and are also prohibited in Denny Blaine Park. They are restated here because of repeated violations of these prohibitions, causing adverse impacts on neighbors and park users.
 - 4.2.1 Sexual misconduct, such as indecent exposure, offensive touching, sexual acts, and lewd conduct (various RCWs);
 - 4.2.2 Urinating or defecating, except in designated restroom fixtures (SMC 18.12.145);
 - 4.2.3 Possession of liquor without all applicable permits (SMC 18.12.255 and .257);
 - 4.2.4 Blocking entrances, exits, fire exits, handicap access areas, public walkways, or roadways, or obstructing pedestrian traffic or otherwise interfering with the provision of services or the use of park property, including, but not limited to vehicles, bikes, structures, personal belongings, makeshift structures and non-permitted structures (SMC 18.12.070(c));
 - 4.2.5 Removing, destroying, or mutilating, or any way altering lawn, shrubs, plants, flowers, sand, soil or a habitat area without proper authorization (SMC 18.12.070(a));
 - 4.2.6 Abuse or harassing behavior, including obscene language or gestures (SMC 12A.06); and
 - 4.2.7 Igniting or maintaining a fire or use of flammable liquids, except in designated barbecues, grills, and fire rings (SMC 18.12.270); at the time of passage of this policy, there are no designated barbecues, grills, or fire rings at Denny Blaine.
- 4.3 Permissible normal use of Denny Blaine Park shall generally be limited to informal, drop-in activities and shall remain open for all public uses. The Department reserves the right to permit the park for organized or special events and/or close the park as necessary for maintenance or other Department uses.
- 4.4 Park users may only park vehicles in designated spaces, indicated on Addendum 1, and parking violations will be subject to enforcement by Seattle Police Department's Parking Enforcement unit. The Department reserves the right to change aspects of the roadway and parking to improve conditions, contingent upon full review and available funding; Addendum 1 will be updated as necessary to reflect changing site conditions. Park users and the general public shall not park vehicles in any way that blocks or impedes access to private driveways (SMC 11.72.110).
- 4.5 Except as authorized by the Superintendent for specific events and times, amplified noise is not permitted (SMC 18.12.170).

5. DEFINITIONS

- 5.1 See supplemental use guidelines definitions in reference 3.1.
- 5.2 **Indecent Exposure:** Defined by RCW 9a.88.010 as intentionally making any open and obscene

Policy 060-P 7.13.1.14

exposure of one's person or the person of another knowing that such conduct is likely to cause reasonable affront or alarm.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 The responsibilities inherent in all use management guidelines for parks, detailed in the policies referenced in section 3.1 apply here as well. In addition, the following responsibilities also apply.
- 6.2 Park users are responsible for following the code of conduct as it relates to their individual behavior.
- 6.3 Department signage will educate park users about these use guidelines, and the Department also requests that the Friends of Denny Blaine take an active role in educating park users and the broader community about the code of conduct.
- 6.4 The Department has a Park Ranger program that educates users about and supports compliance with park policies and the Department's general code of conduct (referenced in section 3.2).
- 6.5 The Department will work in partnership with the Seattle Police Department's Parking Enforcement staff to enforce rules related to illegal parking, up to and including ticketing and towing.

These guidelines are issued as a Superintendent's rule in accordance with the Administrative Code of the City of Seattle (SMC 3.02). A public hearing was held during the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioner's meeting on May 23, 2024.

ADDENDA

- Addendum 1: Map of Denny Blaine Park

