



Date: March 27, 2025
To: Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners
From: Daisy Catague, Deputy Superintendent of Park and Recreation Services
Subject: 2025 Park Hours Changes Proposal

Action Requested: The Superintendent seeks a recommendation from the Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners regarding a proposal to change hours for select parks and boat ramps.

Summary: This memo outlines proposed changes to operating hours for some of Seattle Parks and Recreation’s (SPR) popular parks and boat ramps. These adjusted hours will address both the large number of visitors at these locations and challenges that arise from illegal and nuisance behavior.

Background: SMC 3.02 (Administrative Code) establishes rule-making procedures for City agencies including allowances for Emergency Rulemaking (3.02.050) for 60 days or less and notice requirements prior to the adoption, amendment or repeal of any rule.

Summarized in the table below are the municipal code outlining the Superintendent’s authority to set park hours and SPR policies that stem from this authority.

Park Hours	Details	Guiding Code or Policy
4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	All Parks - Unless Otherwise Posted. SMC also provides Superintendent authority to also set specified hours for individual parks or facilities, including 24 hours a day.	SMC 18.12.245
Open 24 hours/day	Kerry Viewpoint, Green Lake Park, Myrtle Edwards Park, a portion of Lake Washington Blvd Path and certain boat ramps are currently open 24 hours a day.	SPR Policy: Park Operating Hours Exception. 4.2
6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	<i>Exceptions to the two options above will be limited to this time frame, unless there are clearly identified extenuating circumstances justifying different hours.</i>	SPR Policy: Park Operating Hours Exception. 4.7
Pilot Hours	Superintendent may establish pilot hours for a park for up to 270-days to address public safety or other issues. SPR is required to file pilot period notice with the city clerk. Public hearing also required.	SPR Policy: Park Operating Hours Exception Policy. 7.2.3
Public Signage	Once new operating hours are approved by the Superintendent, SPR must post signs to inform park visitors of new hours. Web sites should also be updated.	SPR Policy: Park Operating Hours Exception Policy. 6.1

Recommendation: The staff recommendation outlined in this section includes permanent park hours changes and 270-day pilots. The driving factors for these changes:

- Support and managing the beach fire programs at Alki and Golden Gardens.
- Respond to community concerns about illegal/nuisance activity at popular summer locations.
- Establish seasonal hours for certain boat ramps to help SPR manage late night, noisy activity at these sites that are not necessarily related to boat launch uses.
- Align hours consistently across sites to maximize effective collaboration with Seattle Police, SPR Park Rangers, and security contractors.

Park Hours

Park	Current Hours	2025 Park Hours Proposal	Staff Recommended Timeframe
Alki Beach	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Permanent Seasonal ¹
Golden Gardens	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Permanent Seasonal
Hoa Mai	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	7 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	270-day pilot

Boat Ramps

Boat Ramp	Current Hours	2025 Park Hours Proposal	Staff Recommended Timeframe
Atlantic City	24 hours	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	270-day pilot
Don Armeni	24 hours	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Permanent Seasonal
Eddie Vine	24 hours	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Permanent Seasonal
Fourteenth Avenue	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	270-day pilot
Stanley Sayres	24 hours	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	270-day pilot
Sunnyside	24 hours	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	270-day pilot

Technical Changes

Park Amenity	Current Hours by Policy	2025 Parks Hours Proposal <small>(aligns with current signage)</small>	Staff Recommended Timeframe
Hamilton Viewpoint	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	Permanent Change ²
Mag Park Boat Ramp	24 hours	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.	

New Permanent Seasonal Recommendation: Staff recommend reducing park hours for select parks and boat ramps by one-hour to support staff in closing procedures and mitigate misuse and nuisance behaviors that have become more common in recent years during peak season. These seasonal hours would only run from Memorial Day to Labor Day each calendar year. Outside of this timeframe, operating hours will revert to hours listed in the “current hours” column above. Staff believe this recommendation is consistent

¹ An ongoing adjustment to park operating hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day each calendar year; reducing public access by only one hour.

² Hamilton Viewpoint and Magnuson Boat Ramp proposed as permanent change given these hours were previously piloted at Hamilton and align with what is currently advertised at the sites and on the SPR web.

with Section 4.7 of the Park Operating Hours Exception Policy allowing for extenuating circumstances.

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners Action:

- 3/27: Presentation and BPRC Q&A
- 4/10: Public Hearing
- 4/24: BPRC Recommendation Vote
- May: Superintendent decision and SPR updates to signage and websites

Attachment:

- SPR Park Operating Hours Exception Policy. Adopted 1995, amended 2009.