

Proposed Denny Blaine Abatement Plan

We are writing as co-leaders of Friends of Denny Blaine Park (FODB) in response to the July 14th injunctive order by Judge Chung. As the Seattle Parks Department's designated partner for Denny Blaine Park since 2023, we've worked with the City of Seattle, the Seattle Parks Department, the Seattle Police Department, neighbors, and beachgoers for a peaceful and dignified park for all. That work has produced recommendations on how to reduce or eliminate nuisance at Denny Blaine, which we believe positions us well to propose an effective abatement plan for these issues.

We do not see a conflict between addressing nuisance at Denny Blaine while also maintaining the park's longstanding tradition of nude use. Parkgoers do not want masturbation, harassment, or sex acts at the park for the same reason Denny Blaine For All does not want them: they are not conducive to a peaceful and dignified park for all.

Judge Chung stated that nudity as *currently constituted* at Denny Blaine has contributed to nuisance. We propose clear and actionable steps to reduce illegal and disruptive activity at the beach. These recommendations would enable the City to comply with the court order to abate problematic behavior while preserving Denny Blaine's historical usage for nude expression.

We believe that the plan below fulfills the requirements of the order of abatement.

Proposed Abatement Plan

1. Park Ranger Presence

We recommend stationing a Seattle Park Ranger, or significantly increasing current patrols, at Denny Blaine to prevent illegal activity and clearly distinguish between legal nude usage and nuisance.

If continual park ranger monitoring during park hours for the duration of the injunction is not feasible, working to ascertain peak problem times in collaboration with neighbors and beachgoers would allow efficient use of the City's resources.

2. Signage

Alongside Seattle Park Rangers' presence, we see an effective abatement plan pairing enforcement with the posting of clear signage so that beachgoers, neighbors and law enforcement would all have a shared set of standards to reference.

Example signage:

Welcome to Denny Blaine Park!

Please be aware of the following:

- At this park, you may encounter nudity.
- Affronting or alarming actions towards others while nude can constitute indecent exposure. All sexual activity is against the law.

All Seattle Parks strictly prohibit:

- Abuse of harassing behavior
- Masturbation or sexual activity
- Public urination and defecation
- Possession of liquor without applicable permits
- Illegal parking or blocking entrances, exits, or public walkways
- Destroying or altering landscaping
- Maintaining fires

The appearance of neglect, or the perception that Denny Blaine is a secret place far from the public eye, contributes to a handful of bad actors who behave as though the park exists in the City's blind spot. Stating clearly that the City is aware of nudity and has expectations for how it can occur in the Park rejects those ideas, and deters the behavior that stems from them.

3. Prioritize Repeat Offenders

Public records, 911 logs, and surveys indicate that the overwhelming majority of nuisance incidents come from a small minority of users. We believe that enforcing pre-existing law and policy on public sex acts would hugely reduce nuisances at the park, especially if focused on the core group of offenders. A park ranger stationed at the park would be able to take swift action to ban offenders and enforce those bans.

Next Steps and Long Term Solutions

We look forward to meeting with City stakeholders in the next week to fulfill the terms of the abatement injunction. If you have alternative proposals for abatement, we also would appreciate the opportunity to review them with you.

The above recommendations are proposed to last for the duration of the injunction. We also see long-term solutions for structural causes of nuisances at Denny Blaine. A structural issue that enables offenders at the park is the current parking layout. It allows for sexual activity in cars with quick exits if trouble arises. Re-envisioning parking and access at Denny Blaine could significantly address this behavior cited in the complaint. Friends of Denny Blaine would be interested in collaborating with the City on this topic.

As discussed with the Seattle Police Department and Mayor's Office, we would also like to see a [Micro-Community Policing Plan](#) used to create a coherent, cohesive plan for how nuisances at Denny Blaine are handled while protecting First Amendment expressive nudity.

Friends of Denny Blaine are grateful for what the City of Seattle has done to support public use of public space. Your ongoing efforts to serve all communities in Seattle, including those that depend on public spaces like Denny Blaine Park to feel safe, free, and accepted are appreciated.

FODB is well-positioned to assist in communicating resolutions and gathering community buy-in with the thousands of Seattleites who use this beach. We look forward to supporting an abatement plan from the city that preserves historic nude use of the beach and addresses nuisance.

Sincerely,

Friends of Denny Blaine Co-Leads

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