



Department Policy & Addenda

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

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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

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