Seattle
Parks & Recreation

# Summary of Public Comment on Proposed Supplemental Use Guidelines for Denny Blaine Park

*October 14, 2026*

Thank you for your interest in Denny Blaine Park! This document summarizes community feedback that SPR received during public comment on proposed supplemental use guidelines for Denny Blaine Park.

## Background

Based on a court order in the *Denny Blaine Park for All v. City of Seattle* lawsuit, Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) will adopt supplemental use guidelines for Denny Blaine Park, which are park-specific guidelines that define acceptable and prohibited behaviors and help clarify how the park can be used. Additionally, SPR is using the new guidelines as an opportunity to acknowledge the history of clothing-optional use at Denny Blaine, and the park's significance to Seattle's Queer community.

## Proposed Supplemental Use Guidelines

SPR's proposed guidelines:

- ☑ Recognize the long history of the park a place for access to the shoreline for all and as a safe space for LGBTQ community
- ☑ Acknowledge that clothing-optional recreation is an authorized and approved use of the park (when conducted in accordance with relevant laws and policies)
- ☑ Adopt elements of a court-ordered abatement plan as formal park policy (clothing-optional and clothing-required areas, visual screening)
- ☑ Reiterate existing park rules that apply to Denny Blaine, related to parking, alcohol, sexual behavior, amplified sound, and abuse or harassment
- ☑ Generally limit use of Denny Blaine to informal, drop-in activities, meaning SPR will generally not permit large events or amplified sound
- ☑ Note that SPR may periodically review these guidelines, listen to park users and neighbors, and revise and update as needed.
- ☑ Acknowledge the role of Friends of Denny Blaine as stewards of the park, and requests their support in education re: these guidelines

## Public Engagement Efforts

SPR hosted two rounds of public engagement for this process. The **first round** of public engagement began when SPR released a first draft of the guidelines in August 21, 2026. This round included an in-person public meeting at Miller Community Center on September 15, 2026 with approximately 50 people in attendance, and an online public meeting on September 17, 2026 with approximately 20 people in attendance. SPR also opened an online portal for written public comment on August 21, and as of September 23, SPR received 108 public comments. The themes between the various forms of comment are similar, and are summarized below.

The **second round** of public comment began on September 24, 2026 when SPR released a second draft of the propose guidelines and opened a final, 14-day comment period, and SPR received 202 comments on an online survey. The themes and selected quotations from public comment are summarized below.

## Summary of Public Comment from Round One

- Many commenters emphasized the park's decades of **history as a sanctuary for members of the LGBTQ+ community** and a place for body-positive recreation, and urged SPR to protect these communities from discrimination and overly restrictive policies.
    - Some commenters requested *signage, education, and landscape changes* to reflect the historic culture of the beach as being a place where folks of all ages are welcome.

- Many commenters registered **objections to designating portions of the park as clothing-required**, based on their belief that nudity in Seattle is legal, and many expressed anger that SPR policies and park management would need to be altered based on complaints from adjacent property owners.
    - Some commenters emphasized the *history of nudity at the park*, while others disputed how long nudity has been the norm.
    - Some commenters requested *changes to the specific location of the clothing optional area*, with many requesting it be expanded to include the upper grass area of the park, and one speaker suggesting it be shrunk to allow for a clothing-required zone on part of the beach.
    - Some commenters urged SPR to *take a stricter approach to enforcing the court order*, noting that a neighborhood park is not the place for a nude beach.

- Commenters requested **clear and enforceable rules prohibiting lewd conduct**, masturbation, sexual acts, voyeurism, and harassment at the park.
    - Some commenters described very *negative experiences at the beach*, including lewd behavior, sexual acts, and a general sense of "chaos."
    - Some commenters requested a publicized *single point of contact for users to report incidents of harassment*.

- There was **widespread concern regarding security cameras on neighboring properties filming into the park**, creating an atmosphere of non-consensual surveillance, with commenters urging SPR to address this issue in these guidelines.
    - Some commenters suggested *plantings or screenings to block security cameras*, and to explore whether any cameras were illegally on SPR property.
    - Some commenters asked SPR to *prohibit private security from tracking or harassing park users*, such as logging license plates.

- Several commenters highlighted the importance of **access for people with disabilities to the beach**, and asked SPR to include this in site plans.

## Summary of Public Comment from Round Two

- Many commenters noted that the park was an important **safe space for members of the queer community** and that **nudity has long been the norm**. Some examples:
    - "The park has existed as a nude park for over 100 years without issues."
    - "Denny Blaine is a critical cultural space!"
    - "Denny Blaine is an important piece of queer culture in Seattle. People gather to feel empowered among like-minded people, with all different types of bodies, and to feel community connection."
    - "Denny Blaine Park is both historically and culturally important, but even more than that, it's value as a safe place for LGBTQ+ body autonomy is a precious thing; it's a piece of freedom and safe self-expression for many. It has been for 50 years, and to stop that is to tell people."
    - "Keep Denny Blaine Park as a clothing optional park."
    - "Denny Blaine park is a wonderful haven for all who choose to be clothed or naked. I have walked by there and also swam by it many times and have always found people to be well behaved and polite…In my opinion, both personal and professional (I am a physician specializing in psychiatry), the value of a place that often marginalized citizens can be themselves vastly outweighs any mild inconvenience that neighbors may experience when 'outsiders' frequent their neighborhoods. Please preserve Denny Blaine park and beach as is."

- Other commenters felt that **clothing-optional spaces excluded some**, and that some **bad actors were causing too many problems**. Some examples:
    - "It seems clear that a general acceptance of passive nudism at the park has been taken advantage of by a number of outspoken individuals. The move to push past generally neutral activities such as nude sunbathing to forcing people to endure a variety of public sex acts is plain wrong."
    - "SPR and City of Seattle are happy to make Denny Blaine Park a 'nude' park as they don't have to live or work near the park to witness what happens on a regular basis. Out of sight out of mind!"
    - "Since when does a special interest group have the right to demand special treatment at a public facility and restrict the rights of others."
    - "I oppose the proposed Supplemental Use Guidelines for Denny Blaine Park. Formally authorizing clothing-optional use in a small residential neighborhood park undermines meaningful access for children, families, nearby residents, and ordinary park users. This policy is turning a postage size neighborhood park into a national tourist attraction. It doesn't work!"
    - "I want to be able to walk around my neighborhood with my kids and friends/family. I have to actively stay away from this area and am embarrassed by it."
    - "This city, including Denny Blaine Park, has become a lawless dystopia. Please do your job and enforce the laws surrounding vandalism and public sex acts in this and any public park."

- Many commenters requested **revisions to the locations of the clothing-optional area** and clothing required areas, to include either more or less of the park as clothing optional. Some examples:
    - “The clothing optional region should extend to the edge of the parking lot to include the grassy region just above the beach. It is a very busy beach and having it restricted to the lowest shore area pushes everyone very tightly together.”
    - “The city's fence has effectively halved the area where people could enjoy being themselves. In the years that I have been at DB I haven't seen any sexual or otherwise inappropriate activity. Just joy and people enjoying the sun and the water.”
    - “In accordance with the court order that states everyone should have access to the shoreline, there should be a section of the shoreline where clothing is required, otherwise you are denying shoreline access to children and the general public.”

- Commenters made **suggestions for improving access, parking, restrooms, and other infrastructure**. Some examples:
    - “The park should be improved to support users with disabilities.”
    - “Please replace the current fencing dividing the clothing optional and required areas with nice plantings and/or much nice fencing that fits with the park.”
    - “Please add a clearly posted QR code at Denny Blaine for easy and discreet reporting of harassment, sexual misconduct and safety concerns.”
    - “A restroom with and outdoor faucet should be added in the grass circle, or on the level below the parking lot.”
    - “Parking should be expanded.”
    - “The designated nude areas should be clearly identified through the use of signs.”

- Park users **maintained concern about private security and private security cameras**. Some examples:
    - “Cameras on adjacent properties should be ordered to be removed.”
    - “Parks should address the commercial surveillance operation that has been conducted in and around Denny Blaine.”
    - “I would love to echo the sentiments of my fellow park goers in requesting bringing in plants to block the cameras set to monitor the park, and to protect park goers and by prohibiting the documentation of vehicles.”
    - “Cameras spying on park users should not be permitted.”

## Court Ordered Elements

SPR strives to be responsive to the needs and hopes of Seattle residents and park users. Many comments related to aspects of the proposed guidelines that are set by Court order and cannot be unilaterally changed by the City through this rulemaking process. Portions of the draft guidelines not subject to change as part of this process include designation of clothing optional and clothing required areas, the specific line where the areas are divided, the requirement for visual screening between areas and other visual buffers, and the allowance of toplessness throughout the park. Other aspects of the Court order that are beyond the scope of the rulemaking process include the minimum frequency of visits and monitoring by Park Rangers and maintenance staff. This is also set by Court order.