Office of the City Clerk
E-signed 10/15/2026 11:28:35 PDT
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Seattle Parks & Recreation

Department Policy

Subject: **Supplemental Use Management Guidelines for Denny Blaine Park**	Number: **060-P 7.13.1.14**
	Effective:
	Supersedes: *NA*
Approved: Michele Finnegan (10/15/2026 11:27:41 PDT)	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 public and particularly those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, gender diverse, and/or queer 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, SPR) 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, SPR adopts 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 for members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, gender diverse, and queer communities, and 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 Denny Blaine Park for All
2.3 Residents of the Denny Blaine neighborhood
2.4 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 Policy 060-P 7.15.1: Trespass Warnings
3.4 RCW 9a.88.010: Indecent Exposure

4. POLICY

4.1 Clothing-optional recreation is an authorized and approved use of the park when conducted in accordance with RCW 9A.88.010, other applicable laws, and Section 4.2 and 6.2 of this policy.

4.2 Clothing is required in Area 1, and clothing optional use of the park is allowed in Area 2 and Area 3, which are to the east of the visual barrier and the stairs, as depicted on the map in Addendum 1. SPR identified these sections based on the limited size of the park, its geographical terrain, and its historical nude use. Toplessness is not prohibited in any area of the park. SPR shall maintain a visual barrier as depicted in Addendum 1 to separate clothing optional areas from clothing required areas. This barrier may include fencing, hedging, increased plantings, or other boundaries in alignment with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments.

4.3 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.

4.3.1 Allowing or permitting a dog or other pet to run at large or without a leash, and to allow a dog to enter any public beach (except service animals) (SMC 18.12.080);

4.3.2 Smoking or lighting cigars, cigarettes, hookah, tobacco, or other smoking material (Policy 060-P 7.21.00);

4.3.3 Sexual misconduct such as indecent exposure, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual acts, and lewd conduct (various RCWs);

4.3.4 Urinating or defecating, except in designated restroom fixtures (SMC 18.12.145);

4.3.5 Possession of liquor without all applicable permits (SMC 18.12.255 and .257);

4.3.6 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));

4.3.7 Removing, destroying, or mutilating, or in any way altering lawn, shrubs, plants, flowers, sand, soil or a habitat area without proper authorization (SMC 18.12.070(a));

4.3.8 Abuse or harassing behavior, including obscene language or gestures (SMC 12A.06);

4.3.9 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 adoption of this policy, there are no designated barbecues, grills, or fire rings at Denny Blaine.

4.3.10 Except as authorized by the Superintendent for specific events and times, amplified noise is not permitted (SMC 18.12.170).

4.4 Permissible typical use of Denny Blaine Park shall generally be limited to informal, drop-in activities and shall remain open for all public uses. SPR 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.

4.5 Vehicles may only park in designated spaces, indicated on Addendum 1, and parking violations will be subject to enforcement by Seattle Police Department's Parking Enforcement unit. SPR, in consultation with Seattle Department of Transportation and other City departments, 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 any changes. Park users shall not block or impede access to private driveways with their parked vehicles. (SMC 11.72.110).

4.6 These supplemental use guidelines are an initial policy adopted to implement a court-ordered abatement plan and may be revised as conditions in the park and in the surrounding neighborhood evolve. SPR may periodically review the effectiveness of these guidelines, hear from park stakeholders, and revise and update these guidelines as needed, following the City's normal rulemaking process.

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

5.3 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED): Defined by the International CPTED Association as "a multi-disciplinary approach to crime prevention that uses urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments."

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 SPR 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 SPR has a Park Ranger program that educates users about and supports compliance with park policies and SPR's general code of conduct and trespass policy (referenced in sections 3.2 and 3.3). Rangers will make regular visits to the park and may request assistance from the Seattle Police Department to trespass offenders for criminal conduct or continued violation of the Park Code where necessary.

6.5 SPR's maintenance division will perform regular maintenance necessary to maintain proper trash receptacles, manage the visual barrier and sign integrity, and ensure any graffiti, vandalism, or other needed maintenance is addressed in a timely manner.

6.6 SPR 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).

ADDENDA

- Addendum 1: Map of Denny Blaine Park

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