

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) convened a virtual community working session on March 5, 2021, to review and generate ideas for continued activation and increased coordination for programming at Cal Anderson Park.

During this working session, SPR provided the following updates to attendees:

- The UW College of Built Environments, in partnership with the Capitol Hill Eco District and others, has been awarded grant funding for their proposed work around researching best practices in affordable housing, health services, social connection and community and environmental resilience
  - If you are interested in learning more and getting involved with this work, you can contact Keith Harris at [gkh2@uw.edu](mailto:gkh2@uw.edu)
- Participants have raised the issue of public safety at and around Cal Anderson Park in past meetings
  - For those interested in developing a community conversation around this topic, you may contact SPD's East Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator, Joe Elenbaas at [joseph.elenbaas@seattle.gov](mailto:joseph.elenbaas@seattle.gov)
- Participants have also indicated an interest in connecting with HSD's newly formed HOPE Team, to learn more about their work and the gaps in social services on Capitol Hill
  - If you'd like to collaborate with the HOPE Team on a community conversation, you may contact HSD's Kevin Mundt at [kevin.mundt@seattle.gov](mailto:kevin.mundt@seattle.gov)
- As the days get longer, our concierge staffing shifts at Cal Anderson Park will begin to expand; previously, our concierge staff were at the park 10AM-4PM, but they are now staying until 4:30PM
- Athletic groups are now being scheduled for Bobby Morris Field and we expect this activity to increase over the coming months

Some of the participants also provided the following updates on their community initiatives:

- The Capitol Hill Farmers Market is slated to move from its current location, at the Seattle Central College, to its new location, the plaza at the Capitol Hill Station as well as on E Denny Way
  - Permits are being acquired from City
  - The Capitol Hill Farmers Market is scheduled to move to its new location on April 18, 2021
- The AIDS Memorial Pathway (AMP) recently installed the first of its art works in the plaza at the Capitol Hill Station
  - There will be more art pieces installed in the next couple of months
  - There will be 2 art elements in the north end of Cal Anderson Park, slated to be installed in May or June 2021
  - The AMP is considering a dedication ceremony for all the art pieces at the end of June

SPR staff re-iterated the goal of these working sessions, which is to establish partnerships between Cal Anderson Park communities and SPR. Most importantly, the aim is to empower community members and support them in bringing to life activities or programs they and their fellow park users would like to participate in. The communities we work with are most knowledgeable about the needs of their communities and we rely on them to inform our activation and programming decisions.

Per requests from participants in previous working sessions, SPR staff gathered and shared the data below, showing different Park Use Permits issued in 2019 for organized events at Cal Anderson Park:

- Meadow area events: 19 (includes Use Permits issued for the meadow area OR meadow area + shelter house)
  - Rally/March: 5 (Trans Pride Festival, etc)
  - Music/Art: 4 (Outdoor Movie Nights, other staged performances)
  - Events, other: 7 (picnics, etc)
  - Photo/Film: 3
- Shelter house events: 9 (reservations for Shelter house only)
  - Civic use: 2
  - Class: 1
  - Retreat: 1
  - Private events: 7

Given this data, some attendees were concerned that Cal Anderson Park may be underutilized and recognized a clear opportunity for bringing more events and programming to the park. Working session attendees spent some time discussing potential barriers to acquiring a Park Use Permit:

- People's awareness of the permitting process
  - Over the years, SPR staff have worked with various communities on better educating them on the process and requirements for receiving a Park Use Permit; this works is and needs to be ongoing in order to educate more individuals and community groups
- The associated costs of the permitting process and making a reservation
  - Insurance Coverage requirements; not all organizations have their own insurance or the ability to purchase insurance for an event
  - Hourly rental fees for facility reservations (i.e. shelter house)
  - Staffing costs; SPR requires a staff member be present for permitted events at facilities

Suggested solutions:

- Simplifying the permitting process
- Making facilities reservations more affordable to communities
- A third party managing the permitting process
- Increased municipal uses to establish the shelter house as a community space

Below are links to more information about SPR's reservations and Park Permit process:

- General Parks reservations site:
  - <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/reserve>
- Park Use Permit for the meadow area:
  - <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/reserve/park-use-permits>
- Event Space Rental info for the shelter house:
  - <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/reserve/event-space-rentals>

SPR, similar to some other departments, makes available to the public some grant funding for activation and programming. The Arts in Parks\* program is an example of this. There is a fund available for short term activation of Cal Anderson Park and SPR aims to work with the participating communities on developing plans for that funding.

Some information about the Arts in Parks program:

- The Arts in Parks program was specifically created to provide a dedicated funding source for community events in parks. It was created in 2016 using Seattle Park District revenue, and funds around 30 community events and festivals in parks per year, including many at Cal Anderson Park. A link to the 2019 program material is here: <https://www.seattle.gov/arts/programs/grants/arts-in-parks-program>
- Among the events at Cal Anderson Park that the Arts in Parks program has funded are the outdoor movie nights by Three Dollar Bill Cinema, a weekly DJ show hosted by THIRST featuring Queer Femme DJs (in 2019), Anima: celebrating ancestry and history through interactive multimedia performances and storytelling, and a lion dance (in 2017 & 2018), Stop Beefin' - Zulu Park Jam with bands, DJs, live art, interactive art and food (in 2019 & 2017), Un Baul LLeno de Cuentas Y Musica (a chest filled with tales and music): a children's show and storytelling with puppetry and live music performance (in 2017), and a temporary public art installation "2027" by artist Sierra Graves (in 2016).

One idea that has been discussed previously is establishing a "community fund" whose goal would be to cover all or some of the costs of reservations/Park Use Permits, so that more groups can gain access. Another area of opportunity for the shelter house is to engage with multi-unit buildings surrounding the park in a marketing campaign to encourage increased use of the shelter house for their future community gatherings or celebrations; in other words, making the shelter house more of a de facto community gathering space. In the past, local businesses have utilized the shelter house for team retreats and other company events. One significant benefit of increased usage of the shelter house and meadow area would be to help discourage negative and harmful behavior, such as tagging the building or damaging the gender neutral public restrooms.

#### Next Steps

- The next Cal Anderson Park Activation working session will take place on March 19, 2021, at 11AM
  - If you would like to get on our email list and receive calendar appointments, reach out to us by email at [2020CalAnderson@seattle.gov](mailto:2020CalAnderson@seattle.gov)
- Consider how we may be able to make these sessions more accessible to more community members and who may be missing at the table