Creating a Safe Summer in Seattle Parks

Summer Parks Safety Strategy for 2025

Overview

Summers in Seattle offer long daylight hours, during which locals, families, and visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of the city and the Pacific Northwest. Our parks are one of the best examples of where people congregate and celebrate together. It is the best time of the year to get outside and enjoy Seattle and the vibrancy of our city. Our parks should be a safe and welcoming place for all – most importantly, our youth and families.

The significant increase in use of parks can bring an unfortunate rise in violent crime and other related safety issues. The Seattle Police Department analyzed data from 2022 to 2024 on all crime and CAD events at or within 100 feet of parks. The data exhibits violent crime with strong seasonality, with the highest counts occurring during the summer months which corresponds to national trends. For example, approximately 71% of community-generated calls happen during opening hours which are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. This is especially true for assaults and thefts. In contrast, burglary calls tend to be more frequent before 10 p.m.

Below is a list of other types of activities that are regularly reported and affect the overall safety and use of public parks:

- Violations of the City Park Code or the Seattle Municipal Code
- Nuisance activity affecting park users and neighbors: excessive noise, illegal vending, abuse of drugs and alcohol, illegal camping and parking, fires outside of designated rings or hours, graffiti and vandalism of City property, lack of adherence to park hours.
- Egregious behaviors placing the public, staff, or contractors, or City property at risk: use of weapons and gun violence, brandishing firearms, dangerous driving (doughnuts, road or street racing), vandalism to park assets such as arson, wire theft, and graffiti.

The Mayor envisions a Seattle where everyone can enjoy our vibrant public spaces. Recognizing this is a complex issue, the City has assembled a multi-departmental team to develop and implement a data-informed summer safety plan. This plan will utilize a One Seattle approach and best practices to implement a tiered approach to addressing our community's top summer safety concerns and ensuring a welcoming and accessible experience in our parks for all.

Through collaboration and coordination, we can achieve this goal. This approach builds on engagement with the impacted communities and data analysis to identify priorities, matched with available City resources to develop actionable strategies and solutions. As part of this commitment, the City will adopt a continuous improvement process to ensure summer safety strategies are responsive, adaptive, and informed by data and community feedback.

To turn this vision into action, the City’s summer safety plan is grounded in four key strategies:

1. **Implement environmental and capital changes to prevent crime and enhance accessibility.**
    a. Install gates at high-priority parks with sustained nuisance and criminal issues.
    b. Lock and clean restrooms more regularly.
    c. Use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) practices to better design and maintain the parks to reduce crime. This includes improved lighting, trimmed vegetation to ensure line of sight, and increased park maintenance throughout the season.
    d. Add jersey barriers and other elements to deter reckless driving in parking lots.

2. **Increase City presence in high-priority parks, including proactive enforcement measures.**
    a. Implement proactive police patrols at and around identified high-priority parks.
    b. Increase park ranger presence in parks and better respond to community concerns about illegal and nuisance activity at popular summer locations.
    c. Add security to support clearing and closing the parking lots every night.
    d. Assign parking enforcement to regularly patrol park properties, including enforcing the parking code, increasing visibility, and reporting non-parking issues to the appropriate authority.
    e. Increase park's staff presence in the city's park properties the area Monday through Saturday.
    f. The City Attorney's Office will provide advisory legal support to parks rangers and police related to public safety issues affecting parks property, including enforcing park trespass warnings and noise complaints.

3. **Re-establish Park safety norms.**
    a. Establish seasonal operational hours for parks and boat ramps to help the City manage late night, noisy activity at these sites that are not related to intended uses.
    b. Add new signage and reader boards in high-priority parks that discuss changes in operating hours and reiterate park policy.
    c. Implement a tiered park's response plan to address increasing and sustained issues within the parks that includes changes to park hours, park policy, and increasing ranger presence.

4. **Evaluate current actions and establish a continuous improvement process.**
    a. Hold regular meetings with departments to review updated data and reports.
    b. Engage in regular community engagement with different groups and neighborhoods.
    c. Develop an after-action report on the summer with recommendations for next year.
    d. Gather regular community feedback from parks visitors to better understand issues and needs, including adding QR survey options on park signage.

Together, these strategies aim to create safer, more accessible parks and public spaces this summer and are supported by operational changes, including updated park and boat ramp hours, to help reinforce a consistent and welcoming environment for all.

Updated Park Hours

Park Hours

Park	2025 Park Hours	Timeframe
Alki Beach	4:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	May 23 to September 1
Golden Gardens	4:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	May 23 to September 1
Hoa Mai Park	7:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	May 11 to February 5, 2026
Gas Works	6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Gates to be installed July 4

Boat Ramps

Boat Ramps	2025 Park Hours	Timeframe
Atlantic City	4:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	May 23 to February 17, 2026
Don Armeni	4:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	May 23 to September 1
Eddie Vine	4:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	May 23 to September 1
Fourteenth Avenue	4:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	May 23 to February 17, 2026
Stanley Sayres	4:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	May 23 to February 17, 2026
Sunnyside	4:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	May 23 to February 17, 2026

Technical Change

Park Amenity	2025 Park Hours (aligns with current signage)	Timeframe
Hamilton Viewpoint	6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Permanent Change
Magnuson Park Boat Ramp	6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Permanent Change