

PARK(ing) Day
Friday, September 16, 2011
Seattle, Washington

Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions

What is PARK(ing) Day?

PARK(ing) Day is an annual one-day event where artists, activists, and citizens independently but simultaneously temporarily transform metered parking spots into “PARK(ing)” spaces: temporary public parks. PARK(ing) Day was created in 2005 by Rebar – a San Francisco art collective – and was originally devised as a creative exploration of how urban public space is allocated and used.

It is now an international event with PARKs hosted as far away as Australia. Seattle hosted their first PARK(ing) Day in 2007 with 4 PARKs. In 2010, 850 PARKs were created across 183 cities, 30 countries, and 6 continents. Seattle hosted 45 PARKs in 2009 and continues to grow.

Why are we celebrating PARK(ing) Day?

Nearly 28 percent of all land in Seattle is dedicated to automobile travel (*not* including private parking lots)! PARK(ing) Day shows residents what their city would look like if more public space was allocated for urban parks, recreation, social interactions, and other people-centric pursuits, rather than the movement and storage of cars. It aims to get people thinking about the use of public right-of-ways and the built environment, the dominance of the car in our society, and other travel options such as biking, walking and taking the bus.

People create PARK(ing) spaces for many different reasons and with many different themes. Some want to reclaim public space for a miniature park for their community to enjoy. Others want to express some local character and spice up the neighborhood with something artistic or perhaps raise awareness of an important issue.

How do I apply to create a PARK?

You need to fill out the application at http://feetfirst.info/assets/documents/parking-day-2011/Feet First Street Use Permit Application_2011.pdf and send that and the fee (below) to

Jack Bennetto
Feet First
314 1st Ave South
Seattle, WA 98104

It's due on Tuesday, September 5th. If you have any problems or questions contact Jack at jack@feetfirst.org beforehand.

What's the fee?

The application fee is \$10 plus \$10 per space used. Parks on arterial roads (including most of downtown; see <http://feetfirst.info/assets/documents/parking-day-2011/Arterial Map.pdf>) require at least two spaces (so \$30 total). Other parks can be a single space (\$20 total). This money goes to

- Permits from the city
- Rental of barricades. This will be delivered and set up 3 days in advance so no one else parks there that day.
- Rental of cones. These will be delivered prior to parking day for you to set up (as in <http://feetfirst.info/assets/documents/parking-day-2011/Park-ing- Day Standard Plan Attachment A.pdf>)

Do we need to go through Feet First?

No. But Feet First bundles the applications together to simplify the process and fees. If you do it yourself, prepare to pay a couple hundred dollars. If you contact Jack (jack@feetfirst.org) he can help walk you through the process.

Is there anything that can or should be used in the PARK?

A traffic control barrier is **required** to delineate the traffic lane and adjacent parking space(s) from the approved event parking space. The barrier should consist of 36" tall orange traffic cones. The number of cones required is based on the number of adjacent parking spaces utilized. One standard parking space requires a minimum of five cones delineating the space. Two adjacent parking spaces require a minimum of seven cones delineating the spaces. You can rent cones from a local barricade company (see attached list).

Other types of materials that can be used in your PARK include:

- Sod material (over a tarp) and potted plants
- Tables, chairs, or benches
- Arts and crafts, games, or other cultural activities
- Art displays or easels
- Rugs, carpet, blankets, or other similar surface material
- Freestanding umbrellas adjacent to the curb
- Informative signage or displays (non-commercial only)

Are there things to be careful about not putting in the PARK?

Please use common sense – be Safe and Sane and all that. Restricted activities include:

- Banners
- Sidewalk storage or overflow of activities onto sidewalk area
- Chairs or sitting on the sidewalk
- Charcoal BBQs (must obtain a Fire Marshall Permit for use of propane)
- Canopies or free-standing tents
- Vending or merchandise display
- Amplified sound
- Loose or uncovered material like sand or gravel

- Balloons, flashing lights, or other similar objects that may pose a distraction to motorists

When can I load my materials in and out of the parking spot?

PARK(ing) Day can only occur between the hours of 9am and 3pm on September 17th. All loading and un-loading activity on arterial streets must occur outside of the peak hours of 6am to 9am and 3pm to 7pm. Furthermore, all loading and un-loading must not impede pedestrian or vehicle mobility.

How do I get sod and trees and how much do they cost?

You can get sod from Home Depot. Each roll cost \$3.19 and is 2' x 5' (10 square feet). You may also want to ask local nurseries or garden centers if they would be interested in donating materials to help spruce up your PARK.

Can individuals eat their own food in their PARK? If one person has a food handler's permit, can they serve food or eat food?

Individuals are actively invited and encouraged to eat, have picnics, read books, play games, etc. in their PARK! However, if a group wants to serve food, you would need to get or already have a food handler's permit. You will need to look into this and obtain such a permit on your own. Feet First encourages PARK(ing) Day participants to host a PARK near a mobile food vendor or partner with a local independent restaurant.

Can businesses (i.e., cafés, bars, etc.) turn a parking space into outdoor seating for your restaurant?

Yes, you can set up a PARK and your customers can eat there, but it is not exclusive seating and you must also allow others to sit and eat there who are not customers. You may not sell food or goods from the PARK space and no alcohol will be allowed in the PARK area.

How will people know about our PARK(ing) spot?

Be sure and tell your friends about the event, but Feet First is also promoting the event through press releases, mass emails, presentations, word of mouth, websites, signs, etc., etc. The Trust for Public Land will produce a map of all the PARK(ing) spots in Seattle. All parks that have the proper permits will be included on the official map.

Do we need someone there all day?

Yes, someone must be present at all times. Ensure you have your permits at the PARK in case someone raises a fuss. You should also have PARK(ing) Day materials and information so people will know what it's all about. There are a number of flyers and posters that are online on the Feet First website under "Resources" (<http://www.feetfirst.info/resources>).

What do we do when The Man in his comes by in his Hummer comes around and wants to trample our party?

Be nice. It will be tempting to get angry yell at him to learn how to take the bus or walk or bike, but your best bet is to smile sweetly, describe what you are doing, and explain that you have all the right permits to be there. You could also (helpfully!) suggest an alternative parking spot for him and his oversized car.

What is expected of us at the end of the day?

As you would expect, you need to leave the site as you found it. SDOT will check some of the sites and groups will be charged for any further cleaning fees. Please place a tarp under the sod to protect the sod and make for an easier cleaning after you are done. Again, all loading of materials must be completed by 3pm on arterial streets and the street must be clear.

What should I do with photos?

If you take any photos we would love to see them. Please send them to jack@feetfirst.org and we will post them to our website and/or Facebook.

In addition, you can join the Seattle PARK(ing) Day group on the official PARK(ing) Day Network website (<http://my.parkingday.org/group/parkingdayseattle>) or on Facebook.