



Kirkland Parks and Community Services

Busking in Parks

Overview

The City of Kirkland recognizes the life, color, and interest that buskers bring to a public space. To balance the needs of park users, neighbors of parks, and the busking community, the following rules are in addition to all other rules/regulations in Kirkland Municipal Code 11.85 – Busking.

Busking Rules

1. A busking permit is required to busk in select Kirkland parks.
 - a. Annual Permit fee: \$175
 - b. Permits are valid until December 31st of the year for which they are designated.
2. Busking is only allowed at designated locations at select parks. Designated locations are posted on the Busking in Parks website www.kirklandwa.gov/Busking.
 - a. Designated locations were selected to reduce conflict between buskers, park users, and those people who live or work near the park.
 - b. Busking locations are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
 - c. Buskers shall not perform for longer than two (2) hours at any location. The time begins to count when a Busker initially occupies the busking location.
 - d. To allow for other buskers to access busking locations, upon completion of a two (2) hour set, buskers must vacate the location for at least one (1) hour prior to beginning a new performance at the same location.
 - e. Buskers are not allowed to hold a location by leaving equipment in place before or after a performance.
 - f. Requests for additional locations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
3. Busking is only allowed during the times indicated for each designated busking location.
 - a. Busking hours may vary by location or time of year.
 - b. Busking is not allowed during permitted special events, unless written authorization is granted by the event organizer.
4. No busker may generate noise that can be heard fifty (50) feet or more from the source.
 - a. A permitted busker may use amplification as long as the sound limit is not exceeded.
 - b. The use of prerecorded music is prohibited, except as backup accompaniment to a live performance. All prerecorded music shall be turned off when not actively performing.
5. Busking is limited to no more than five (5) people in a group.
6. Donations may be accepted; however, no commercial sales are allowed; however,
 - a. Contributions may be received in any receptacle.

7. No busker shall prevent the public from utilizing any public benches, waste receptacles or other street furniture during the performance.
 - a. A busker may occupy a park bench during a performance and not be in violation of this rule.
 - b. Buskers are not permitted to move or relocate any park equipment including but not limited to benches, picnic tables, waste receptacles, etc.
8. No busker shall obstruct sidewalks or pathways or set up in the middle of a sidewalk or pathway. Buskers are to remain at designated locations.
9. No busker shall use profane, obscene, or lewd language or imagery while performing.
10. No busker shall use any knife, sword, torch, flame, axe, saw or other object that can cause serious bodily injury to any person.
11. The use of park power outlets or portable generators is prohibited. Any electronic devices used as a part of a busking performance must be self-powered.
12. Buskers shall not ask or allow any observer, bystander, or audience member to engage in any activity that can cause serious bodily injury to any person, including, but not limited to, acrobatics, tumbling, or cycling.
13. Buskers must obey all local, state, and federal laws and must comply with police officer directives to ensure public safety.
14. Buskers must follow all park rules and must comply with Parks and Community Services' staff directives.
15. A busking permit may be suspended, revoked, or denied based on repeated violations of park rules, if it is discovered a permit application contained false information, or violations of any other park rule(s). In extreme cases, a busker may be trespassed from park(s) for up to one (1) year. The Director shall provide written notice to affected parties within thirty (30) days.