

Jim Ellis Freeway Park Neighborhood Association



Presentation to Seattle City Council
Parks & Recreation and Seattle Center Committee
April 21, 2011



The artist's vision: A Gathering Place



Freeway Park shortly after completion in 1976.



Sun, space, water
and activity—all on
top of the freeway

Freeway Park changes dramatically over time...



← view of plaza: SE toward Seneca St.



Cascade Plaza & Lawn
Shortly after opening (above)
and prior to restoration in 2008 (right)



A Park in Decline

- Environment changes ie: growth of trees creates a dark, somber, shady and uninviting place.
- As city context changes, crime in park rises due to lack of 'eyes on the park'.
- Park becomes physically and perceptually enclosed and unsafe.
- Plants are unattractive and unhealthy due to over crowding, root constriction and competition with heavy tree shade and canopy size.
- Large buildings close to the park create permanent shade and change character of the park.



Community Engagement Brings Renewal To Freeway Park



Highlights of Park Restoration:

1993: Freeway Park Neighborhood Association formed by Mike Evans , then Director of Security at Horizon House. The FPNA organizes neighbors and property owners, raises funds and awareness around the park. Spearheads several renovations within the park.

1998: FPNA and Seattle Parks work to complete a new pedestrian underpass.

2004: FPNA receives a Neighborhood Matching fund grant. FPNA partners with Seattle Parks to hire Project for Public spaces to activate community support and create a program plan for the park.

2008-2010: Landscape renovation plan by Iain Robertson is completed.

2011: FPNA receives another Neighborhood Matching fund grant toward the development of a park map, brochure and docent program.

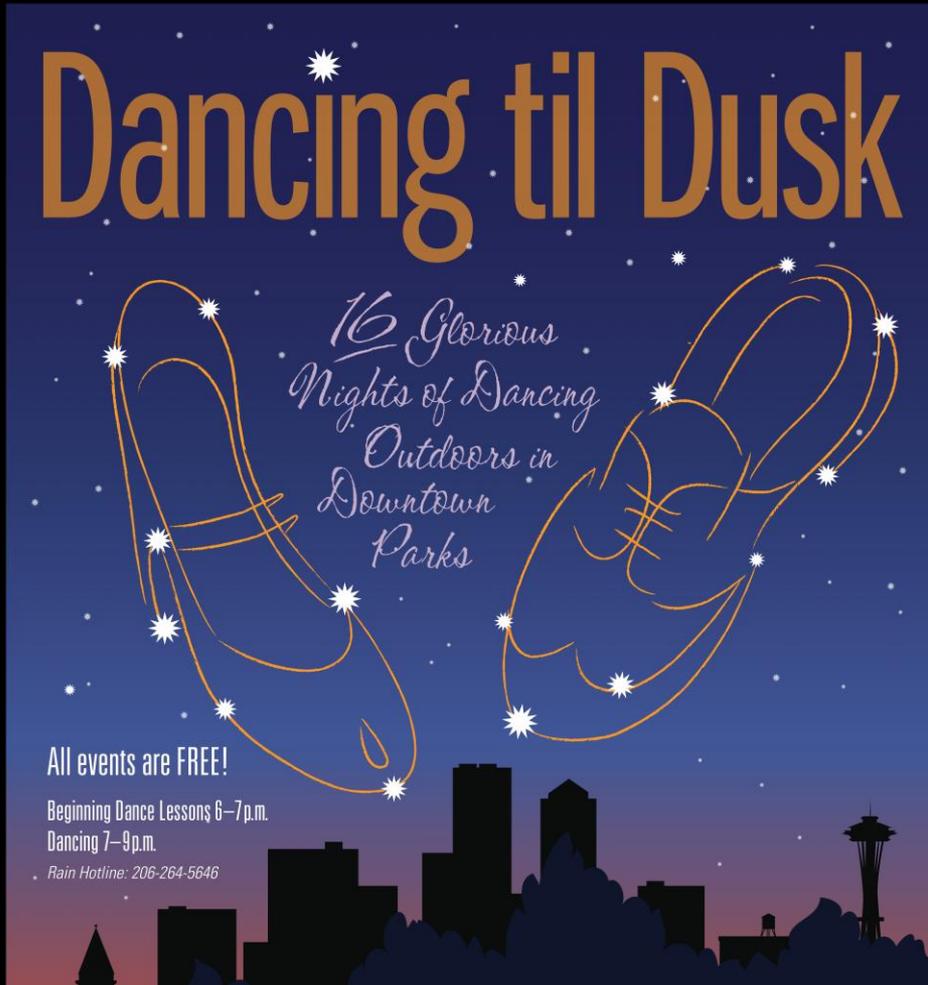
Continued Partnership: FPNA and Seattle Parks work together to support new activities in the park.

Jim Ellis Freeway Park Association Board

- Bob Anderson, President - Horizon House
- David Brewster, Vice President - Cross Cut, formerly Town Hall
- Dan Johnson, Treasurer - Washington State Convention Center
- Mike Evans, Secretary - FPNA Founder

- Joan Carufel, Community Volunteer - Horizon House
- Tim Holt, Community Volunteer - WA Holdings, One and Two Union Square
- Judith Ruskell, Community Volunteer - Virginia Mason Medical Center
- Marilyn Hoe, Community Volunteer - Crosscut, Town Hall
- Mark Linden, Community Volunteer - Exeter House

FPNA partners with Seattle Parks toward community engagement and park activation events



Dancing til Dusk

*16 Glorious
Nights of Dancing
Outdoors in
Downtown
Parks*

All events are FREE!

Beginning Dance Lessons 6–7 p.m.
Dancing 7–9 p.m.

Rain Hotline: 206-264-5646

The poster features a dark blue night sky with white stars and two large, glowing orange dance paths. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of the Seattle city skyline, including the Space Needle.



Seattle Tilth Classes



VEGETABLE GARDENING & COMPOSTING CLASSES



URBAN VEGETABLE GARDENING AND COMPOSTING CLASSES
URBAN GARDENING FOR APARTMENT DWELLERS BY SEATTLE TILTH
\$5 registration fee. To register, go to www.seattletilth.org

BELTOWN COTTAGE PARK ☘ 2512 Elliott Ave.

Book Carts



FRIENDS
of
THE SEATTLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volunteer

1:20 p.m.



Share the Music : Town Hall

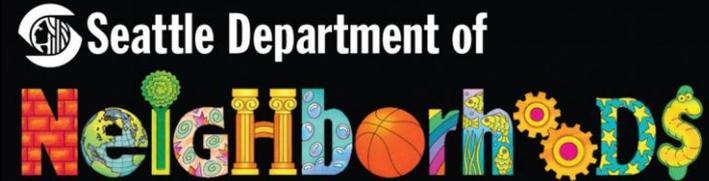


Share the Music : Town Hall

2011: Matching Fund Grant

The Jim Ellis Freeway Park Neighborhood Association was awarded a matching fund grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods toward the development of:

- a park map
- an educational brochure
- a docent program



Three Community Events:

- March 8th: Community Open House, Mapping and Information Gathering
- May 10th: Presentation of First Draft Brochure, Community Input
- July 2011: Distribute Brochure and Celebrate!!!

FPNA Keys To Success:

1. Build an association that represents key interests and constituents around the park.
2. Engage the broader community in ownership of the park. Give them a reason to advocate for the park.
3. Build and sustain a strong collaborative relationship with the Parks and Recreation Department.
4. Raise community funds, both individual and corporate, to leverage public support.
5. Activate the park with programs that attract visitors and users.
6. Don't let up. The park needs a sustained long range commitment.



Thank you

