



Help Transform Front Street into a Place for People

Join the Historically Hip Pop-Up Park Initiative During Al Fresco on Front

[Apply for Your Pop-Up Park Space Here](#)

This August 29, Front Street becomes more than a street—it becomes a place where creativity, community, and connection take center stage.

The Downtown Issaquah Association invites residents, businesses, artists, schools, nonprofits, families, and community groups to adopt a parking space and transform it into something extraordinary during **Al Fresco on Front**.

Inspired by the international Park(ing) Day movement, participants will reimagine ordinary parking stalls as vibrant public spaces that inspire conversation, creativity, relaxation, play, and joy.

This Year's Theme: Hope Core

Hope Core celebrates the small moments that remind us why community matters.

Your installation might make someone:

- Smile
- Pause and reflect
- Meet a new friend
- Feel welcome
- Discover something beautiful
- Laugh
- Feel inspired

There is no single interpretation of Hope Core. Whether your space is playful, peaceful, artistic, educational, or simply inviting, the goal is to create an experience that brings people together.

Who Can Participate?

No artistic experience is required. Everyone is welcome to apply, including:

- Downtown businesses
- Artists and makers
- Families
- Schools and youth organizations
- Nonprofits
- Neighborhood groups
- Community organizations
- Garden clubs
- Musicians and performers
- Authors
- Faith communities
- Anyone with a creative idea

What Can You Create?

Every installation should encourage visitors to stop, engage, and connect.

Think of your parking space as a tiny public park. It doesn't need to be elaborate or expensive—it simply needs to invite people in.

Ideas include:

- Outdoor living rooms
- Pocket gardens
- Mini art galleries
- Community chalk murals
- Reading nooks
- Kindness stations
- Storytelling spaces
- Acoustic music corners
- Coffee and conversation cafés
- Kids' creativity zones
- Poetry parks
- Local history exhibits
- Interactive games
- Wellness or mindfulness spaces

Design Guidelines

The emphasis is on creating memorable experiences—not expensive displays.

Each participant will receive one standard parking space (approximately 10 feet by 18–20 feet).

Installations should be:

- Family-friendly
- Interactive
- Safe
- Welcoming
- Accessible whenever possible
- Weather-resistant
- Inspired by the Hope Core theme

Participant Responsibilities

Participants provide:

- Furniture and decorations
- Activities or interactive elements
- Volunteers or staffing (if desired)
- Setup and cleanup

The Downtown Issaquah Association provides:

- Parking space assignments
- Event coordination
- Promotional support
- Event maps and wayfinding
- General participant assistance

Rules & Safety Requirements

Participants are responsible for the safety of their installation and should leave the space clean and undamaged after the event.

To help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, participants must:

- Use only the assigned parking space unless additional space has been approved.
- Bring their own materials and equipment.
- Secure all lightweight items against wind.
- Keep pedestrian walkways open and accessible.
- Avoid blocking sightlines for pedestrians or emergency access.

- Use sturdy, safe, and accessible seating whenever possible.
- Be prepared to supervise interactive activities during operating hours between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- Set up day of can be between 8:30 a.m and 11 a.m. Take down needs to be between 9 and 10 p.m.

The following are **not permitted**:

- Open flames
- Generators
- Hazardous materials
- Permanent structures
- Installations requiring special permits
- Activities that create unsafe conditions or obstruct emergency access
- Sales of any product, including food (unless you arrange it in advance through the Downtown Issaquah Association).

Selection Process

Our goal is to create a diverse collection of installations that appeal to visitors of all ages.

Participation is through an application process.

If applications exceed available spaces, selections will be based on:

- Creativity and originality
- Alignment with the Hope Core theme
- Visitor engagement opportunities
- Variety of experiences throughout the event
- Operational readiness
- Balance among businesses, artists, nonprofits, and community groups

Recognition & Awards

Additional participant recognition and prizes will be announced before the event.

To celebrate the creativity of our community, installations may be recognized with an award in the following categories:

- People's Choice Awards
 - Best Hope Core Experience
 - Best Family Experience
 - Best Green Initiative
 - Most Historically Hip

Ready to Reimagine a Parking Space into a Pop-Up Park? [Apply for Your Pop-Up Park Space Here](#)

Create a space that invites people to stop, smile, and connect. Every idea helps make Front Street more welcoming, creative, and fun. **Apply today and help turn parking spaces into people places—one space, one smile, and one moment of hope at a time. ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 11:59p.m. PDT AUGUST 16, 2026.**