



OPA'S PARK IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

Besides establishing and growing the Festival tradition, over the past decade, OPA has been the major guiding force in significant initiatives including but not limited to:

- Conducting a series of public input meetings to plan \$210,000 of safety and lighting improvements so that now the Park's beauty is enhanced and can be safely enjoyed in a winter evening stroll.
- Obtaining another \$100,000 from the Department of Neighborhoods to be added to a private grant of \$150,000 for additional capital improvements.
- Obtaining a \$547,000 grant for completion of the third and final phase.
- Organizing community clean-ups and Park improvement projects such as invasive plant removal by goats and planting of native plants on a bare hillside.

YOU CAN BE PART OF MAKING ALL THIS HAPPEN!

Long time OPA Board member, Mona Lee, says that her involvement in this productive organization with its visible and concrete community building outcomes has been one of the most rewarding experiences of her life. Please considering attending some OPA meetings, volunteering, and possibly joining the Board. Check us out on our website or Facebook page.

VISIT US ONLINE!

othellopark.org

For more information contact:

Mona Lee

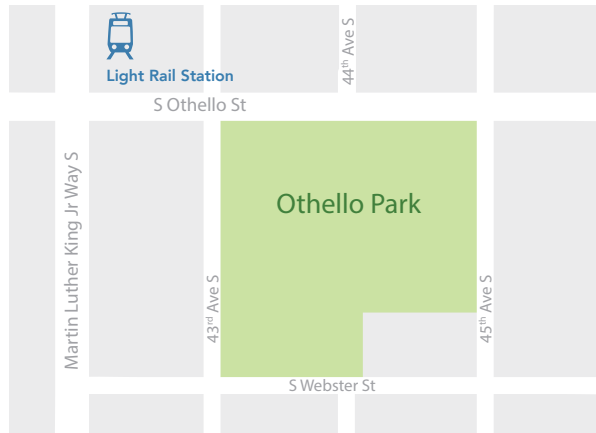
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FIND THE PARK!

4351 S. Othello Street

Just off Martin Luther King Jr.



Join the Othello Park Alliance



Othello Park Alliance
Integrating our park into community life

Help advance the unique diversity and unity of our Community

OPA VALUES & MISSION

Over a decade ago, a group of Othello neighbors joined together to form the Othello Park Alliance. Given that their community was gifted with a seven-acre meadow crowned by a high canopy of trees, the group developed a mission to assure that “Othello Park’s pastoral beauty would be retained, enhanced, and integrated into a pedestrian-friendly Othello Town Center and residential community.” They adopted the Park, located just a short block from the Othello business district, and established it as a village square where neighbors would come together and celebrate their rich cultural diversity. Since then, OPA’s work has activated the Park and brought about many improvements with the best yet to come.

OTHELLO PARK ALLIANCE VOLUNTEER SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES

There are many volunteer opportunities and roles to play in helping fulfill OPA’s mission. Festival volunteers set up tents and awnings, pop popcorn, direct traffic, operate giant puppets, and more. But OPA’s major accomplishments over the years have resulted from dedication on the part of skilled neighbors and friends. Some functions performed by OPA Board members include administration, website and social media Coordination, treasurer, publicity design, fund raising, event coordination, volunteer coordination, and more.

Thus, OPA offers a variety of opportunities for those who would like to enhance their skill sets while having a lot of fun and contributing to vital community efforts.



OTHELLO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL IS BORN

Roots of the Festival tradition were planted in OPA’s first summer, when it helped put on a concert series which in subsequent years became a festival. The tradition grew over the years in popularity to a become a large, important, and central community event. Partnering early on with Southeast Effective Development and the Rainier Chamber of Commerce, the Rainier Heritage Festival Weekend was sanctioned as an official Seafair event every August to include a parade in Columbia City on Saturday and the Othello Festival on Sunday. In 2018 both events were combined as one larger Festival in Othello Park. If all goes according to plan, the Rainier Heritage Festival Parade will be in Othello next year followed by an even bigger and better festival in Othello Park.

Through the Othello International Festival each year, OPA brings to life a magical tradition that has been acclaimed as one of Seattle’s most authentically diverse community festivals.

It is a coming together of people from many nationalities as one community sharing their art, music, dance, and cultural pride.

OTHELLO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL COMPONENTS

Dozens of languages are spoken in the Rainier Valley with its rich treasure of cultural diversity. The Festival stage features performers authentically representing the community’s unique variety of music, dance and art.

The Festival also includes children’s games, bouncy houses, a petting zoo with live camel and other exotic friends, an art creation station staffed by local artists providing projects that festival attendees can create and take home. Booths feature local businesses, community organizations, and multi-cultural food vendors surrounding the meadow where a dance floor invites attendees to join in the fun and learn from one another.

