

# Daily Journal of Commerce

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## Cal Anderson Park opens Saturday

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Cal Anderson Park on Capitol Hill will open Saturday. It honors Anderson, who served in city government and in the State House of Representatives for the 43rd district until he died in 1995 of complications from AIDS.

From noon to 3:30 p.m., Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Public Utilities will offer public tours and lectures about the park's history.

The 7-acre park is between East Pine and East Denny Way, near Broadway, and is part of a \$27 million project to cover the open-air Lincoln Reservoir. Planning and construction took eight years.

The Olmsted Brothers designed the park in 1904. To improve water quality and provide more open space in the dense neighborhood, city officials decided to put a lid on the reservoir and create a new park above it.

SPU hired the Seattle landscape architecture firm The Berger Partnership in 1997 to do master planning and design. Seattle-based Tetra Tech/KCM headed up engineering work. Subconsultants included ECS Engineering for electrical and Garry Struthers Associates for civil.

The parks department spent \$7.8 million on paths, lighting, benches, irrigation systems, pools and a fountain. It also renovated the community center, called the Shelter House, and the Bobby Morris Playfield.



Photo by Dipika Kohli

**The reservoir was covered to improve water quality and provide more open space in the dense neighborhood.**



Photo courtesy Berger Partnership

**Cal Anderson Park on Capitol Hill sits atop two holding cells that together contain 13 million gallons of water.**

SPU spent \$19 million on master planning, design and construction of the reservoir lid. There are two cells beneath the park that can hold a total of 13 million gallons of water.

Stephen Wagner, project manager at Tetra Tech/KCM, said one cell can be used if the other is emptied for routine cleaning or fails in the event of an earthquake.

The Berger Partnership's Jonathan Morley said people who live in the neighborhood wanted to see water at the new park. So the team worked with San Francisco artist Douglas Hollis to create an interactive water feature and a reflecting pool. Hollis also worked on the Sound Garden near Warren G. Magnuson Park.

Morley worked with another Berger principal, Jeff Girvin, who passed away last week.

Cal Anderson Park is more of an adaptive reuse than an historic preservation, Morley said, even though parts of an old parapet wall have been reused and the landscape architecture reflects some of the original Olmsted design.



Photo courtesy of Berger Partnership  
**San Francisco artist Douglas Hollis created an interactive water feature and a reflecting pool.**

"We're creating a place that never existed before," he said.

One design challenge came after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11. SPU had already planned to cover the reservoir, but new security concerns meant more protection and monitoring equipment had to be installed.

SPU's Reservoir Program Manager Brent Middleswart said Sept. 11 was a "trigger point" for SPU to rethink how to cover several of the city's reservoirs.

SPU expects to spend about \$123 million to cover the reservoirs. Work on the Beacon Hill and Myrtle Street reservoirs will start in 2006, West Seattle in 2008 and Maple Leaf in 2011.

The reservoir in Volunteer Park may be covered starting in 2013 or may be decommissioned. The plan is for Roosevelt Reservoir to be decommissioned after Maple Leaf is finished.