

Spokane Matters District 1 Youth and Parks Initiative

Present: Charles Hansen (Whitman Neighborhood), Kathryn Alexander (Bemiss Neighborhood), Officer Scott Hice (NRO), Gretchen Chomas (SRHD)

Areas of work (can be added to):

1. Built environment of the parks
2. Youth community court/ engagement
3. Bathrooms in Parks

Built environment in parks

Purpose: identify safety issues in park design and incorporate safer designs

Benchmark Indicators: Crime rates in 4 parks (TBD) at specific hours of intervention (TBD)

All the Parks in District 1 have had CPTEDS conducted

- CPTED can be done on all parks.
 - Gretchen will contact Sandy McIntire about setting these up over the next few months
 - Bemiss Elementary recently had one done
- Officer Hice had very good data for 4 parks showing times and days of calls to the parks over the last 6 months. This was a very labor intensive endeavor. The most active times that have shown up in the four parks he pulled were around 9am and 3:30 pm (times kids are going to and from school)
 - Officer Hice will collaborate with other North NROs and look at the crime data for all parks in District 1. The top 4 parks will be selected for this project activity because the data mining was very time consuming
 - The data will be collected from these four parks twice a year- once between Feb and May to gather what the school year data looks like and once at the end of the Summer to see what the Summer crime activity looks like
 - This data collection will continue for several years to track if the programming (TBD) is having any impact in the parks selected
 - Organization will be identified to have a presence in the park during these peak hours of crime (TBD who and what activities)
- Gretchen will look into Blue lights that can be activated when there is criminal activity being seen in parks that will be visible to police and also send a message to their patrol cars to come by the park. Similar to on college campuses
- Bathrooms in parks
 - Gretchen will talk with parks about the possibility of having one neighbor who is living near each park in district 1 obtaining a key to lock the bathrooms at night.

To prevent people from using drugs in the bathrooms overnight. Will also discuss having locks changed on the park bathrooms so that they cannot be locked from the inside.

Potential team members:

- Parks Department
- Other NROs (Officer Berrow, Officer Redmond, Officer Cler)
- Neighborhood representatives from neighborhoods whose parks are selected to be part of the pilot (TBD)

Youth Community Court

Purpose: Connect youth with an easily accessible location for court as well as with appropriate youth resources (TBD)

Benchmark indicator: Youth Community Court is present at the Northeast Community Center

Long term indicator: Youth with juvenile records will not commit crimes and have adult records

- It was noted that this may or may not be a viable option as it is unclear if this model has worked in other communities. **Gretchen will do some research on youth community courts to look into their existence and success elsewhere.** Officer Hice noted that they sent a van out to pick people up for adult community court and no one showed up to get on the van
- **Amber Waldref (The Zone Project) will contact Bonnie Bush (Juvenile Court) to discuss the possibility of youth community court**
- **Gretchen will Contact Frank with the community court to discuss the possibility of youth community court**
- As this project progresses youth opportunities in the community will be an area of focus, as one of the main benefits of community court is connecting people with needed resources.

Potential phase 1 (establishing community court) team members:

- Community Court – Frank
- Northeast Community Center – Dave Richardson
- SPS – Nicole Rosenkrantz
- YOUTH
- Truancy board
- Bonnie Bush
- Probation
- Prosecutor
- CROs

- The Zone Project – Amber

Potential phase 2 (youth opportunities) team members

- NEYC
- Boys and Girls Club
- Schools Out Washington
- Gonzaga
- PAL/YPI
- NAACP
- Library
- Churches/places of worship
- SPS- ASB Senior Leaders, Shaw MS Principal, Rogers HS Principal, Prime Time
- Communities in Schools
- SPEAR
- AICC
- Next Gen Zone

Original Benchmarks

We looked at the benchmark indicators that were created at the first meeting and decided to change some of them. Instead of looking at the number of juvenile records to see if there is a decrease, we would like to look at how do we change the behavior of the youth so that when the reach 18 years old they do not get a criminal record. Gretchen will look to see if it is possible for anyone to access juvenile records and adult records. Gretchen will begin discussions with academic institution's faculty to find out if anyone is interested in a longitudinal study involving youth who have records and following them from their teens into adulthood to study what interventions work. Gretchen will also do some research to find out what has already been done.

Other things to think about:

- Restraining orders for juveniles- currently this is not allowed. However if an adult is being threatened by a teenager or group of teenagers, should the adult be able to get a restraining order against those youth?
- What can be done for parents who are working and unable to supervise teenagers, who are in and around to parks involved in criminal and nuisance activity.

We will meet quarterly to check in on progress before the city's Spokane Performs quarterly meetings. Please share this information and invite anyone who is impacted and / or interested in this set of projects. If there are questions please email Gretchen Chomas at

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