

Spokane Matters 2018

Youth and Parks Initiative

Who's on the team?

Charles Hansen, Whitman Neighborhood Chair

Officer Scott Hice, SPD

Kathryn Alexander, Bemiss Neighborhood Chair

Donna Fagan, Bemiss Neighborhood Council

Mike Fagan, City Council District 1

Dave Richardson, Northeast Community Center

Gretchen Chomas, Spokane Regional Health District

Who's partnering with us?

Patrick Striker, COPS

Al Vorderbrueggen, Director of Recreation – Parks Dept.

Other District 1 NROs

What

There are a large number of young people hanging out in and around parks participating in legal and illegal activities that are detracting from the safety and enjoyability of the parks for everyone

Bathroom Safety

Neighbors and COPS volunteers locking bathrooms during evening hours when parks are closed

Youth Activities

Survey youth at Hillyard Days and in Parks to determine interests for parks

Identify organizations and partners to host events in parks geared towards youth and families interests

Built Environment

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

Secure funding to make suggested improvements to the parks

Look at possibility of blue lights in parks

Where

The focus is parks within District 1 including:

Rochester Heights Park

Chief Garry Park

Harmon Park

Hays Park

Glass Park

Minnehaha Park

Friendship park

Hill n Dale park

Nevada Park

Stone Park

Courtland Park

Wildhorse Park

Mission Park

Kehoe Park

James Hill Park

Patrick Byrne Park

Loren Kondo Park

Parkwater Park

Fairview Park

Heath Park

Bathroom Safety

July 2018:

hold discussion with Parks Department about locking and unlocking bathrooms

August- September 2018:
identify volunteers to be key holders and begin key distribution from COPS to Neighborhoods and volunteers

August -October 2019:
Monitor changes in calls for service to parks during hours which parks are closed

October 2018:
COPS collect keys for winter

Spring 2019:
redistribute keys

When

Built Environment

August 2018:
4 parks that will have the data tracked across time will be selected

October 2018:
Research into blue lights in parks completed

December 2018:
CPTEDs will be completed

January 2019:
meet with parks to discuss potential grant opportunities for recommended improvements

Youth Activities

August-September 2018:
Youth usage of parks survey completed

September 2018- March 2019:
Identify organizations to provide desired activities to youth during peak usage hours

March- September 2019:
Organizations start hosting and marketing activities in target parks

March- September 2019:
Track the call for service data changes from previous year

Why

Parks should be safe friendly spaces for the entire community to enjoy and youth and families should feel supported and safe within their communities. This Initiative provides steps to increase the safety of the parks as well as increasing the accessibility of positive, intentionally selected activities for youth in District 1.

Challenges

Youth Community Court is on hold until Roger's Peer Court has had time to get off the ground

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.