REPORT TO COUNCIL
City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

STAFF REPORT
January 8, 2008

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Parks and Recreation Facility Safety Implementation Plan

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution**: 1) adopting the *Parks and Recreation Facility Safety Implementation Plan* (Exhibit A); 2) approving the following recommendations contained in the *Parks and Recreation Facility Safety Implementation Plan*: a) approve safety assessment criteria for parks and recreation facilities; b) approve a public outreach/assessment strategy; c) establish a capital improvement project (CIP) for Park Safety Assessments (including lighting), LZ07; d) appropriate $50,000 in Park Development Impact Fees (Fund 791) to the Park Safety Assessments Project, LZ07; and, e) direct staff to report back with the list of parks selected for a Safety Audit, and with final recommendations.

Contact: Jonathan Rewers, Parks and Recreation Analyst, 808-7590

Presenters: Janet Baker, Operations Manager, 808-8234; Jonathan Rewers, Parks and Recreation Analyst, 808-7590; Alan Tomiyama, Recreation Manager, 808-8958.

Department: Parks and Recreation

Division: Recreation Administration and Park Planning & Development

Organization No: 4715

Description/Analysis

Issue: In August/September 2006, the Department of Parks and Recreation completed a public survey which indicated between 2003 and 2006 that there was a decline in resident's perception of safety in City parks. The City Council was briefed on this issue at the Parks and Recreation Services workshop held on January 4, 2007. As part of the FY 2007/08 Budget Hearings, staff was directed to report back on increasing Park Safety Services staffing within existing budgetary resources.

After reviewing of the issue of "safety" within the City's parks and recreation system, staff is returning to City Council with a comprehensive plan and strategy, the *Parks and Recreation Facility Safety Implementation Plan.* As part of the plan, staff will evaluate park facilities and work with the community to determine the appropriate increase in safety services, possible capital improvements (lighting, security equipment, walkways, new amenities, etc.) and/or complete facility redesign. The goal of the plan is to create positive, clean, vibrant and safe parks and recreation facilities. Staff is recommending that the City Council adopt the proposed plan.

Policy Considerations: Staff's recommendation is consistent with policies in the City Council adopted *2005-2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan* including:

Policy 1.6: Ensure both physical and psychological safety in design, management and use of all Department facilities and programs, considering the safety of users, employees and volunteers the highest of priorities.

Policy 2.3: Make regular outreach visits to community gathering places to gauge satisfaction with services and to identify recreation trends and issues relevant to planning and management of services.

Policy 3.3: Adjust operations, goals and policies in response to ongoing customer and nonuser feedback.

Policy 13.22: Design and develop safe, sustainable and useable parks and facilities in accordance with the City Park and Recreation Facility Design and Development Standards.

Policy 13.26: Design night lighting to consider anticipated park use, safety and adjacent uses.

Policy 13.32: Design parks and recreation facilities to reduce vandalism, crime and graffiti, and for ease of repair and removal.

Policy 13.37: Ensure community review and participation in developing site master plans in accordance with the City Site Specific Park Master Plan/Development Process.

In addition, staff's recommendation is an element of the Implementation Strategies section of the City Council adopted the *2005-2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan* which states:

Implementation 1.1: *Safety Services:* Work with City Police Department and other local law enforcement organizations to identify target areas and implement improvement measures. Pursue funding for additional Park Safety Services staffing.

Implementation 1.3: *Security Lighting:* Increase in target areas identified through additional September 2003 Telephone Survey results analysis and by Park Safety Services staff.

Providing Parks and Recreation facilities is consistent with the City's strategic plan to achieve sustainability and livability throughout the City.

Committee/Commission Action: Staff's recommendation was supported by the Parks and Recreation Commission at its December 7, 2007 meeting.

Environmental Considerations: Staff's recommendation concerns administrative activities that will not have any significant effect on the environment and that do not

constitute a "project," as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3); 15378(b)(2)].

Rationale for Recommendation: Ensuring that the City's park and recreation system creates a positive, clean, vibrant and safe environment requires a comprehensive strategy that needs to be targeted at the facility/neighborhood level. No one solution will resolve the issue citywide. Staff is therefore recommending the City Council adopt a specific implementation plan including:

1) Safety Assessment Criteria: In order to adequately identify the various issues and target specific facilities that require additional safety patrols, park redesign, additional lighting or other improvements, staff is recommending safety assessment criteria to assess and pinpoint the specific issues at various parks and recreation facilities throughout the City. This will allow staff to identify, prioritize and program capital and/or operational resources to improve safety for the public. Staff will report back with the list of 6 to 10 parks identified for a full Safety Audit.

2) Public Outreach/Assessment Strategy: To better determine and identify and prioritize needs throughout the City, staff will conduct a number of public meetings to discuss any recommended redesigns or use/safety issues in parks. These Safety Audit meetings will allow staff to develop specific action plans for the City Council to consider including operational enhancements and/or specific capital improvements.

3) Park Safety Services Best Management Practices (BMP) Development: With current General Fund resources limited, staff will prepare a Best Management Practices (BMP) study for Park Safety Services. Staff will perform an overall review of the Park Safety Services Program in order to prepare a recommendation to the City Council for possible staffing augmentations. The review will include a comprehensive analysis of operations, staffing levels and comparisons to other jurisdictions.

4) Establishment of a Park Safety Assessment CIP: Staff is recommending that a CIP be created and funded through Park Development Impact Fees to cover the cost of project management, design and planning for capital improvements to various park and recreation facilities. Establishment of a CIP requires City Council approval.

Implementation of the plan will have some immediate impact as well as result in future specific recommendations and actions for the City Council to consider.

Financial Considerations: Staff is recommending that a CIP be established for the Park Safety Assessment Project, LZ07 and that $50,000 be appropriated in Park Development Impact Fees (Fund 791) to the project.

Staff's recommendation will have no impact on the City's General Fund. Future implementation of the recommendations that result from this plan could require support from the General Fund. Capital improvement recommendations could be funded through such sources as: Park Development Impact Fees, Quimby In-Lieu Fees and Landscape and Lighting Assessment Fees.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable. There are no ESBD considerations with this report.

Respectfully Submitted by: Lori Harden
for JAMES L. COMBS
Director of Parks and Recreation

Recommendation Approved:

Cassandra H. B. Jenny
for RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

Table of Contents:

	Report	Pg	1

Attachments:

1	Background	Pg	5
2	Powerpoint Presentation	Pg	6
3	Resolution	Pg	11

Exhibits:

A. *Park Safety Implementation Plan* Pg 12

ATTACHMENT 1

Background:

In August/September 2006, the Department of Parks and Recreation completed a public survey which indicated between 2003 and 2006 that there was a decline in residents perception of safety in City parks. In 2003, less than half (48%) of the respondents assigned a letter grade of 'A' or 'B' when evaluating overall security and public safety in City parks. In 2006, the public's perception of park safety with only 41% of respondents assigning a grade of 'A' or 'B.' In fact, nearly twenty percent (18%) of the respondents assigned a grade of 'D' or 'F'.

The City Council was briefed on the issue of safety in the park system at the Parks and Recreation Services workshop held on January 4, 2007. Since that time, the City Council has requested that staff explore the following:

- Increasing staff in the Park Safety Services Section,
- Adding additional lighting to parks and facilities,
- Adding cameras or other security equipment,
- Maintenance, facility condition and restrooms at parks, and
- Possible redesign of facilities for safety.

After a review of the issue of "safety" within the City's parks and recreation system, staff is recommending a comprehensive plan and strategy, the *Parks and Recreation Facility Safety Implementation Plan.* To ensure that the City's park and recreation system creates a positive, clean, vibrant and safe environment is required a comprehensive strategy targeted at the facility/neighborhood level is required. No one solution will resolve the issue and perception by the public that the City's parks and facilities are not safe. Based on direction from the City Council, the Department of Parks and Recreation is proposing a consolidated approach to implement safety improvements in City parks and recreation facilities. The proposed plan and strategy will result in specific recommendations for the City Council to consider.

As part of the FY 2007/08 Budget Hearings, staff was directed to report back on increasing Park Safety Services staffing with existing budgetary resources. Originally the Park Safety Services Section was established on scant resources to address park customers' concerns that permitted areas were used correctly and reserved for the party that secured the permit. Since its creation the demand for Park Safety Services has increased, concurrently, with the overall growth of the City's parks and recreation system. Expanded duties now include enforcement of a variety of City rules and regulations including responding to complaints and ensuring proper use of the park and recreation facilities.

With current General Fund resources limited, staff is recommending the development of a Best Management Practices (BMP) study for Park Safety Services. Staff will perform an overall review of the Park Safety Services Program in order to prepare a recommendation to the City Council for possible staffing augmentations. The review will include a comprehensive analysis of operations, staffing levels, comparisons to other jurisdictions.

PARKS AND RECREATION
SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION
SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

GOALS & PURPOSE

→ **Identify and evaluate the "problem"**

→ **Evaluate the safety of the park system**

→ **Evaluate Park Safety Services Operations**

→ **Develop Action Plans/Recommendations***

*** Action Plans/Recommendations need to be targeted at the facility/neighborhood level**

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION
SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

BACKGROUND – THE ISSUE

→ **Growing perception that parks and recreation facilities are unsafe.**

GRADE	9/2003	8/2006
A or B	**48%**	**41%**
C	34%	32%
D or F	**12%**	**18%**
Don't Know	6%	9%

CITY OF SACRAMENTO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION
SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

FACILITY SAFETY CRITERIA

→ **"Worst First" strategy**

→ **Report Back to City Council with recommended list of 6 to10 parks**

→ **Perform a Safety Audit**

CITY OF SACRAMENTO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PUBLIC OUTREACH & ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

→ Reality Check

→ Community Meetings

→ Questionnaire

→ "Visioning"

→ Solutions and Improvements

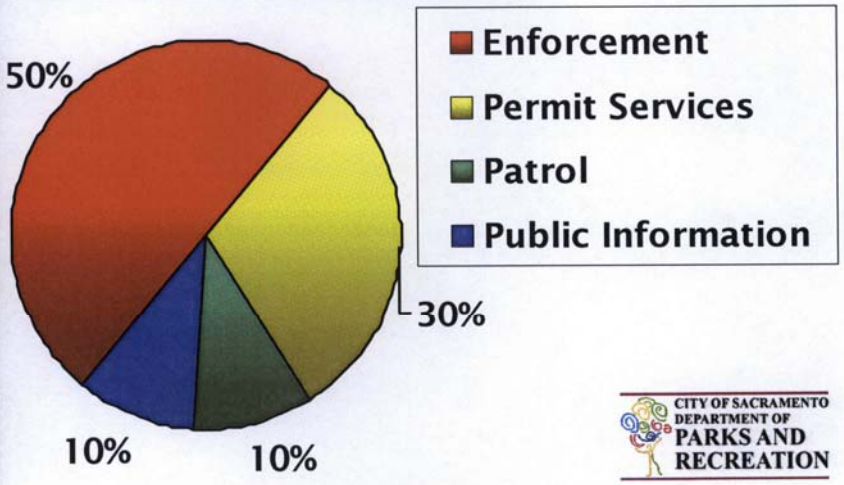
→ Action Plans

CITY OF SACRAMENTO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PARK SAFETY SERVICES:



CITY OF SACRAMENTO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PARK SAFETY SERVICES: ASSESSMENT AND BMP

→ Operational Analysis

→ Staffing Levels

→ Comparative studies

→ Community Impact/Demand

→ Best Management Practices

CITY OF SACRAMENTO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TIMELINE:

→ January '08 – FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

→ February '08 – SAFETY AUDIT LIST

→ March '08 – SAFETY AUDITS/BMPs

→ May '08 – ISSUES & THEMES REPORT

→ July '08 – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

CITY OF SACRAMENTO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the *Park and Recreation Facility Implementation Plan* including:

→ Approve **Park Safety Assessment Criteria**

→ Approve **Public Outreach Strategy**

→ Approve **Park Safety BMP Development**

→ **Establish a CIP** for Plan Implementation

→ **Appropriate $50,000** in Park Impact Fees

→ Direct recommended **report backs**

CITY OF SACRAMENTO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

January 8, 2008

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

BACKGROUND

A. In August/September 2006, the Department of Parks and Recreation completed a public survey, which indicated between 2003 and 2006 that there was a decline in residents perception of safety in City parks.

B. The City Council was briefed on this issue at the Parks and Recreation Services workshop held on January 4, 2007.

C. As part of the FY 2007/08 Budget Hearings, staff was directed to report back on increasing Park Safety Services staffing with existing budgetary resources.

D. Ensuring that the City's park and recreation system creates a positive, clean, vibrant and safe environment requires a comprehensive strategy that needs to be targeted at the facility/neighborhood level. No one solution will resolve the issue citywide. Staff is therefore recommending the City Council adopt a specific implementation plan

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The *Parks and Recreation Facility Safety Implementation Plan* (Exhibit A) is adopted.

Section 2. The following recommendations contained in the *Parks and Recreation Facility Safety Implementation Plan* are approved: a) the safety assessment criteria for parks and recreation facilities are approved; b) the public outreach/assessment strategy is approved; c) a capital improvement project (CIP) for Park Safety Assessments (including lighting), LZ07, is established; d) $50,000 in Park Development Impact Fees (Fund 791) is appropriated to the Park Safety Assessments Project, LZ07; and, e) staff is directed to report back with the list of parks selected for a Safety Audit, and with final recommendations.

Table of Contents:

Exhibit A: Parks and Recreation Facility Implementation Plan

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Prepared By:

City of Sacramento
Department of Parks and Recreation
Recreation Administration
3801 Power Inn Road
Sacramento, CA 95826-4332
PH: (916) 808-7590
FAX: (916) 808-6180

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

CITY COUNCIL

Heather Fargo, Mayor
Raymond L. Tretheway III, District 1
Sandy Sheedy, District 2
Steve Cohn, District 3
Robert King Fong, District 4
Lauren Hammond, District 5
Kevin McCarty, Vice-Mayor, District 6
Robbie Waters, District 7
Bonnie Pannell, District 8

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Cindy Cooke, Chair, Planning Area 2
Brett Williams, Vice Chair, Planning Area 5
George Raya, Planning Area 1
Patrick Lynn, Planning Area 3
Dave Tamayo, Planning Area 4
John Deglow, Planning Area 6
Bruce Pomer, Planning Area 7
Leo Lujan, Planning Area 8
Deidre Price, Planning Area 9
Sheila DeBlonk, Planning Area 10
Virginia Guadiana, Planning Area 11

Ray Kerridge, City Manager

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

James L. Combs, Director
Janet Baker, Operations Manager
J.P. Tindell, Planning & Development Manager
Lori Harder, Support Services Manager
Robert Fleming, Park Operations Manager
David Mitchell, Recreation Manager
Alan Tomiyama, Recreation Manager
Sylvia Fort, Recreation Manager

Jonathan Rewers, Project Manager

Project Team:
Greg Narramore, Recreation Superintendent
Gary Hyden, Supervising Landscape Architect
Betty Renz, Administrative Officer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1:
Summary of Recommendations

SECTION 2:
Background - *The Issue*

SECTION 3:
Goals and Purpose

SECTION 4:
Parks & Recreation Facility Safety Evaluation Criteria

SECTION 5:
Public Outreach & Evaluation Strategy

SECTION 6:
Park Safety Services Analysis & Best Management Practices

SECTION 7:
Financing: Establish a Park Safety Planning CIP

SECTION 8:
Implementation Timeline

Chavez Plaza during the farmer's market.

SECTION 1: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Ensuring both the physical and psychological safety of the City's Parks and Recreation facility system, is a top priority for the City Council. The proposed *Parks and Recreation Safety Implementation Plan* is a comprehensive plan and strategy that will result in specific recommendations and actions for City Council to consider.

Staff is recommending the following actions:

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Staff is recommending that the City Council adopt the *Parks and Recreation Facility Safety Implementation* Plan including the *Park Safety Evaluation Criteria and a Public Outreach/Evaluation Strategy.*

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Establish a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for implementation of the recommended Park and Recreation Facility Safety Evaluation, LZ07.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Appropriate $50,000 in Park Development Impact Fees to the Park and Recreation Facility Safety Evaluation CIP.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

Approve and support the methodology for Evaluation of the Park Safety Services Program to include a comprehensive analysis of operations, staffing levels, comparisons to other jurisdictions and development of Best Management Practices (BMP's).

RECOMMENDATION 5:

Direct Department of Parks and Recreation staff to report back with:

→ A recommended *list of park facilities for a safety audit* for City Council approval following the evaluation of parks and recreation facilities.

→ Specific *action plans* for each facility with identified scopes, schedules and budgets, and

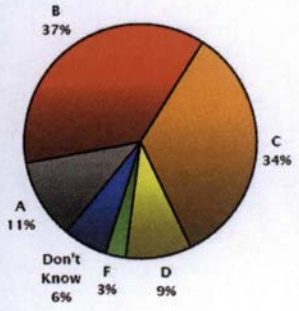
→ *BMPs and Staffing Recommendations* for Park Safety Services and recommended revenue sources.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND - *THE ISSUE*

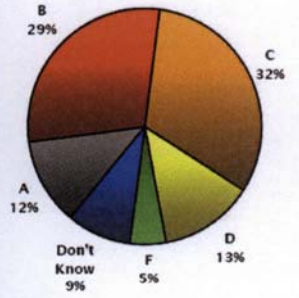
PARK SAFETY PUBLIC SURVEY DATA

Question: Using a traditional grading scale with "A" for excellent, "B" for good, "C" for average or adequate, "D" for below average or poor and "F" for very poor or failure, how would you rate the current level of overall security and public safety while using public parks in Sacramento?

SEPTEMBER 2003



AUGUST 2006



In September/October 2003, the Department of Parks and Recreation with the assistance of Strategy Research Institute completed a scientific public survey which asked the community-at-large to rate the current overall security and public safety of parks and recreation facilities and/or programs. At that time, 48% rated the safety of facilities as an "A" or "B" and 12% rated facilities as a "D" or "F" using a traditional grading scale

In August/September 2006, the Department of Parks and Recreation completed a second survey which asked the community-at-large to again grade the current overall security and public safety of parks and recreation facilities. By 2006, only 41% rated the safety of parks and recreation facilities as an "A" or "B" and 18% or nearly 1 in 5 residents rated facilities as a "D" or "F"

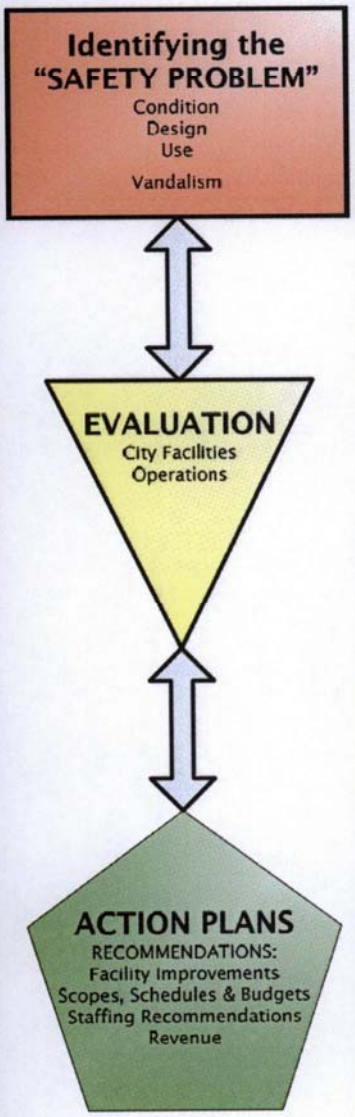
Unfortunately, there is a growing perception within the community that City parks and recreation facilities are increasingly unsafe.

Parks and Recreation staff briefed the City Council on the issue of safety in the park system at the Parks and Recreation Services workshop held on January 4, 2007. Since that time, the City Council has requested that staff explore:

1. Increasing staff in the Park Safety Services Section;
2. Adding additional lighting to parks and facilities;
3. Adding cameras or other security equipment;
4. Maintenance, facility condition and restrooms at parks, and
5. Possible redesign of facilities for safety.

Ensuring that the City's park and recreation system creates a positive, clean, vibrant and safe environment requires a comprehensive strategy that needs to be targeted at the facility/neighborhood level. No one solution will resolve the issue and perception by the public that the City's parks and facilities are not safe. Based on direction from the City Council, the Department of Parks and Recreation is proposing a consolidated approach to implement safety improvements in City parks and recreation facilities.

The proposed *Parks and Recreation Safety Implementation Plan* is a comprehensive plan and strategy that will result in specific recommendations for the City Council to consider.



SECTION 3: GOALS & PURPOSE

With public confidence in the safety of parks and recreation facilities falling within the City of Sacramento, based on current and past survey data, a comprehensive approach and strategy will be required to improve "safety" overall with the City's parks and recreation system.

The notion that parks and recreation facilities are not safe is generally based on the perception of an individual facility and cannot be generalized to the entire system. Thus, the plan developed for implementation needs to be targeted at the specific facility/neighborhood level.

The goals of the plan are as follows:

1. **Identify and evaluate the problem of "safety"**
→ *Is the issue the "condition" of the facility - does not look safe?*
→ *Is the issue the "design" of the facility - walkways, lighting, etc.?*
→ *Is the issue inappropriate use/conduct within the facility?*
→ *Is the issue that no one uses the facility, deserted?*
→ *Is the issue created by vandalism problem at the facility?*

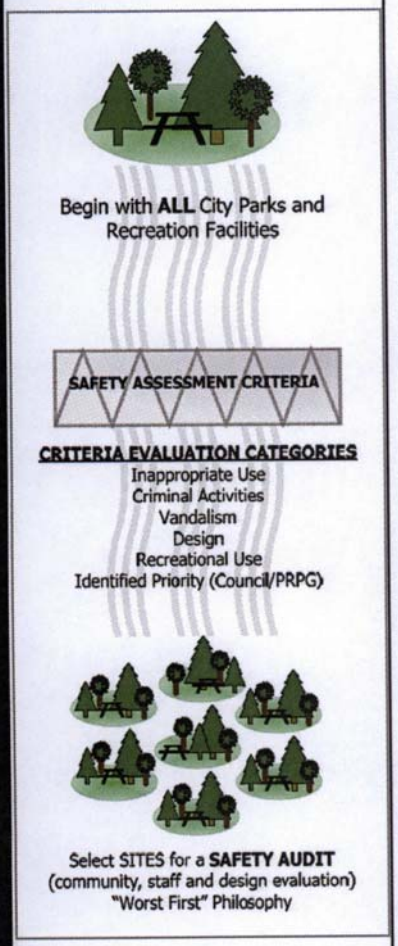
2. **Evaluate park and recreation facilities - identify sites**
→ *City Council requests for additional lighting or redesign.*
→ *City Council/community Park Safety Services calls for service.*
→ *Vandalism Issues, Low Park Use and/or Criminal Activities.*

3. **Evaluate Park Safety Services Operations & Staffing**
→ *Adjust based on current environment/service needs.*
→ *Review other jurisdictions staffing - staff per acre, etc..*
→ *Develop Best Management Practices.*
→ *Develop staffing scenarios for consideration with revenue.*

4. **Develop Action Plans with the Community by Facility**
→ *Additional facility lighting, cameras.*
→ *Facility redesign, rehabilitation or enhancements.*
→ *Additional Park Safety Services or Police Patrols.*

The purpose of the plan is to develop specific cost proposals or scopes and budgets for facility enhancements/redesigns (master plans, additional lighting, cameras, rehabilitation, etc.) and prepare an operational study and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Park Safety Services looking at operational service levels, costs and staff augmentations with recommended revenue sources. This will allow the City Council to choose from a myriad of options based on an evaluation of community needs and desires to make the overall park and recreation system safer.

SECTION 4: PARKS & RECREATION FACILITY SAFETY EVALUATION CRITERIA



Introduction

In order to adequately identify the various issues and target specific facilities that require additional safety patrols, redesign, lighting or other improvements, safety evaluation criteria is necessary to evaluation and pinpoint the specific issues at various parks and recreation facilities throughout the City.

The criteria will be used to assess each of the City's Parks and Recreation facilities to target those facilities that may require a specific **safety audit** which would include interviews with the Police Department, park operations and safety staff, community meetings with neighborhood residents and development of a specific **action plan** to address issues identified through the safety audit process.

Criteria Methodology

The Parks & Recreation Facility Safety Evaluation Criteria is meant to specifically identify facilities that will require a safety audit. Many of the City's parks and recreation facilities are safe, fun and enjoyable and are a positive amenity in the neighborhoods and communities in which they are located. However, there are some facilities within the City's parks and recreation system that are underutilized, perceived as unsafe, under lit, are a source of vandalism, inappropriate or even criminal activities. Those facilities should be targeted as part of a **worst first** strategy.

The criteria is therefore general in nature and is designed to eliminate many facilities that will not require a specific and or/immediate action. Available resources must be targeted to ensure the maximum benefit.

Thus, the criteria is meant to highlight, identify and target those facilities with the most critical issues. Specific solutions to the identified issues can then be developed once they are verified through a safety audit, community meetings and discussions and interviews with staff.

Parks and Recreation Facility Safety Criteria

When looking at the issue of "safety" within parks and recreation facilities, in most cases the public at large feels and/or perceives that a park or recreational facility is unsafe based on a number of factors:

→ Inappropriate use of the facility.
→ Criminal activities within the facility.
→ Vandalism of the facility.

Mangan Park

The Safety Criteria will be used to evaluate individual parks and facilities, to see if they require a more detailed Safety Audit.

→ The overall condition of the facility (i.e. - dirty restroom, trash, not well maintained, etc.)
→ Design of the facility -designed for legitimate use, minimized opportunities for surveillance, lighting and landscaping increase opportunities for crime.
→ Use of the facility (low or no use of the park - the notion that the facility is "deserted")

The criteria is therefore designed to look at these individual factors, which were highlighted as part of both public surveys as well as requests from the City Council, community and other groups for specific actions to be taken at specific facilities (in many cases through the Parks and Recreation Programming Guide Process).

INAPPROPRIATE USE

Requests/calls-for-service from City Council, City Operator and/or community for *Park Safety Services.*

- ☐ **High**
- ☐ **Medium**
- ☐ **Low**

CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

Criminal activity within the parks and recreation facility or within the general *service area* of the park based on Police Department statistics.

- ☐ **High (based on type and number)**
- ☐ **Medium**
- ☐ **Low**

VANDALISM

Vandalism within the parks and recreation facility based on Facilities Maintenance *workorder requests.*

- ☐ **High**
- ☐ **Medium**
- ☐ **Low**

Triangle Park Master Plan

Park and facility designs will be reviewed to see if design issues cause safety concerns.

DESIGN

Observation

- ☐ The facility **is not** designed to maximize opportunities for *surveillance.*
- ☐ The facility **is** designed to maximize opportunities for *surveillance.*

Utilization

- ☐ The facility **is not** designed to maximize and encourage legitimate use by a *wide range of users.*
- ☐ The facility **is** designed to maximize and encourage legitimate use by a *wide range of users.*

Landscaping & Lighting

- ☐ *Lighting* and *landscape design* **do not** reduce opportunities for crime and/or inappropriate activity.
- ☐ *Suitable lighting* and *landscape design* **do** reduce opportunities for crime and/or inappropriate activity.

RECREATIONAL USE

- ☐ *High Use* based on facility reservations and/or daily neighborhood use.
- ☐ *Medium use* based on facility reservations and/or daily neighborhood use.
- ☐ *Low use* based on facility reservations and/or daily neighborhood use.

IDENTIFIED PRIORITY

- ☐ The facility **is** a priority facility based on *number of service calls* or *City Council capital priority* (2006 Parks and Recreation Programming Guide and/or Capital Improvement Program).
- ☐ The facility **is not** a priority facility based on *number of service calls* or *City Council capital priority* (2006 Parks and Recreation Programming Guide and/or Capital Improvement Program).

SECTION 5: PUBLIC OUTREACH & EVALUATION STRATEGY

Introduction

Solutions need to be specific in addressing the issues identified at a facility/neighborhood level. Once the system-wide evaluation of facilities is complete specific facilities will be identified for a **safety audit**.

The safety audits will allow staff to gather important data to gauge the "perception" of the safety issues related to the specific facility. Facilitated meetings with neighborhoods, organizations and community residents will help to identify solutions and develop specific **action plans** to make the facility more safe, usable and enjoyable. Public comments will be reported back to the City Council and will be critical in developing the most comprehensive and feasible recommendation on resource allocation.

Safety Audit - Visioning: Impressions from the Community

The safety audit is meant to be an overall evaluation of the impressions, use, and design of the specific facility with the community to determine what exactly needs to be accomplished to improve the impression of the facility as a safe and enjoyable park and recreation amenity.

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

1. What do you like most about the park/facility?
2. What do you like least about the park/facility?
3. How safe do you feel in this park/facility?
4. Is the park easily accessible?

PARK/FACILITY USES AND ACTIVITIES

1. When do you come to the park/facility? (day, time)
2. Are there certain times you feel unsafe, why?
3. Why do you come to this park/facility?
4. What activities do you participate in?
5. What activities might you want to see added?
6. What activities might you want to see removed?
7. What types of programmed activities occur?
8. What type of programmed activities do you want?
9. Are there problem activities in this park/facility?
10. When are people usually around?
11. Do you feel alone or isolated when using the park/facility?

Granite Regional Park Safety Meeting.

A critical component of the Safety Audits will be meetings with the community and users to accurately identify safety concerns.

FINDING HELP

1. Are there maps/directional signs? Necessary?
2. Are there signs to show how to get emergency help?
3. Is the phone number of the Department of Parks and Recreation clearly visible?
4. Is the signage easy to read from a distance?
5. Is the signage easy to read within the park?
6. Is the park regularly patrolled, used, etc.?

VISIBILITY

1. Can you easily see what's surrounding you in the park?
2. Are there sightline limits within the park/facility?
3. Can you see clearly into the park from the street?
4. Are there places where people could hide? where?

LIGHTING

1. What is your impression of the lighting? (very poor, poor, satisfactory, good, very good)
2. Is the lighting even within the park/facility?
3. Are the lights often out or broken?
4. Do you know where to call if a light is broken?
5. Is additional lighting necessary? Improved lighting?

MAINTENANCE

1. What is your impression of the maintenance? (very poor, poor, satisfactory, good, very good)
2. Do you feel the park is uncared for or abandoned?
3. Do you know how to contact maintenance staff?

DESIGN

1. Is the park easy for you to find your way around?
2. Is the layout of the park clear? or confusing?
3. Are the edges or limits of the park clear?
4. Is the park too spread out?

Action Planning

Once the issues at each park/facility are identified staff can prepare specific scopes, schedules and budgets for improvements to each facility. In some cases, specific capital improvements may not be required, rather more frequency in patrol by either Park Safety Services or Police Department.

The action plans are meant to give the City Council a true picture of what the cost to make improvements to these facilities will be or the increased cost of operations. They will identify specific actions that will result in real improvements to the park/facility meant to

'06 Parks and Recreation Programming Guide

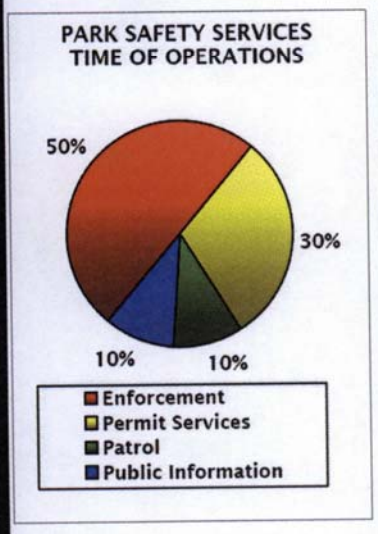
Resources are not currently available to implement all the capital project recommendations that will result from the Parks and Facility Safety Implementation Plan. Projects that are identified and unfunded, will be added to the next round of the Parks and Recreation Programming Guide, making them eligible for future CIP funding, competitive grants and other opportunity funds.

improve overall safety. These improvements could include, but are not limited to:

- → Additional Lighting,
- → Addition of Cameras,
- → Rehabilitation and/or removal of a Park Restroom,
- → Rehabilitation of a park to increase use,
- → Removal of problematic or low use amenities,
- → Addition of new parks and recreation amenities to increase use,
- → A new park master plan for major renovations and/or improvements.
- → Increased patrols by Park Safety Services or Police Department.

Specific capital project recommendations that cannot be funded immediately for development will be added in the next round of the Parks and Recreation Programming Guide.

SECTION 6: PARK SAFETY SERVICES EVALUATION & BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



Introduction

The Park Safety Services program began in 1994 as a demonstration program at six selected city parks to address serious concerns about how parks are used and the impact on neighborhoods. In 1995 the program was expanded citywide. Originally the Park Safety Services Section was established on limited resources to address park customers' concerns and to ensure that permitted areas were used correctly and reserved for the party that secured the permit.

Since its creation, the demand for services has increased with the overall growth of the City's parks and recreation system. Park Safety Services now include enforcement of a variety of City rules and regulations including responding to complaints and ensuring proper use of the park and recreation facilities. Park Safety Services coordinates very closely with the Police Department on the most chronic challenges in City parks.

Currently, there are a total of 3.5 FTE devoted to the Park Safety Program. On average, Park Safety Services Officers spend their time as follows:

50% - Enforcement of City Code, Federal, State Laws
30% - Permit Services: Customer Service, "Meet & Greet"
10% - Parks and Recreation Facility Patrol/Check
10% - Public Information – Customer Questions, Park Use, etc.
100%

During the Fiscal Year 2007/08 Budget Hearings in June 2007, the City Council directed the Department of Parks and Recreation to report back on increasing Park Safety Services staffing with existing budgetary resources.

Program Evaluation

As part of the *Park and Recreation Safety Implementation Plan*, Parks and Recreation staff will perform an overall review of the Park Safety Services Program in order to prepare a recommendation to the City Council for possible staffing augmentations. The review will include a comprehensive analysis of operations, staffing levels, comparisons to other jurisdictions and development of Best Management Practices (BMP's).

OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS

The operational analysis of Park Safety Services will include the following:

McKinley Park

An analysis of Park Safety Services will result in development of Best Management Practices, recommended revenue sources and possible staffing augmentations.

→ *Service Delivery Analysis*:
- What services are being provided now?
- In the current environment, can some of these services be shifted to other units or staff?
- Where should the current focus of Park Safety Services staff be? (patrol, interpretation, enforcement, etc..)
- Can efficiencies be realized?

→ *Comparative Analysis:*
- What services do other agencies provide?
- What are their staffing level baselines? (number of staff per number of acres, residents, parks, etc.)
- How do other agencies finance park safety services?

→ *Community Evaluation/Demand Analysis*
- What impact will increased staffing have vs. capital improvements?
- What situations demand an increase in Park Safety Services?
- What is the demand from the City's customers?

→ *Staffing Analysis & Recommended Levels*
- What are minimum staffing levels?
- What are the budget requirements: one-time, ongoing?
- What levels of service coverage is possible for the Park System?

BUDGET

SECTION 7: FINANCING: ESTABLISH A PARK SAFETY EVALUATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP)

At present the only data at hand is the public survey data which shows that there is a drop in public confidence that the City's parks and recreation facilities are safe.

In order to best maximize resources and provide the City Council with the most accurate and developed decision making tool, the proposed *Park and Recreation Safety Implementation Plan* upon completion is meant to be a planning tool to: identify the problems and possible solutions regarding park safety, develop specific scopes, schedules and budgets with the community, prepare staffing and revenue source recommendations.

With limited General Fund resources currently available, all work will be done internally with existing staff resources. The proposed budget to implement this plan is $50,000 and will be funded through Park Development Impact (PIF) fees.

It is therefore recommended that the City Council establish a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) to complete the necessary evaluations and community meetings necessary for the development of this plan. However, implementation of the proposed recommendations resulting from this plan will require additional financial and staff resources.

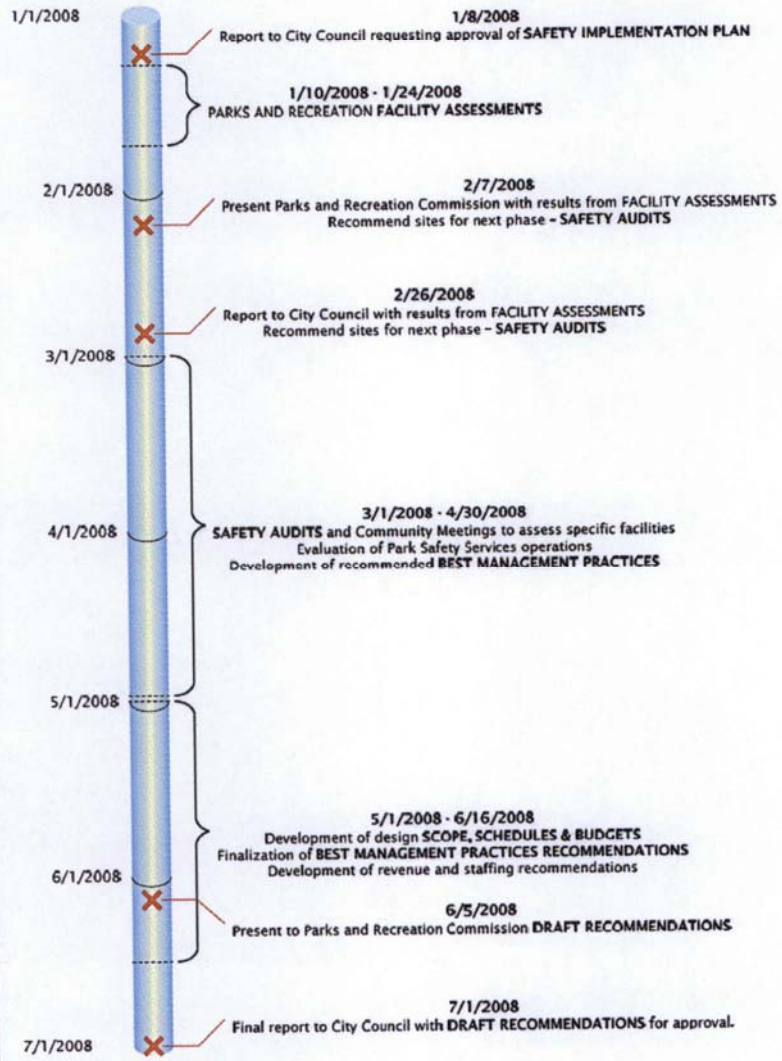
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION - COST ESTIMATE

ITEMS & DELIVERABLES	COST
City Park System Evaluation - Staff time for facility evaluations	$3,286
Community Meetings - Facilitation	$12,167
Community Meeting Materials - Mailings & Outreach, - Boards and Presentation Materials	$1,250
Best Management Practices Development - Program Evaluation - Research - Policy Development	$4,264
Design - Site Analysis - Scope, Schedule & Budget Development	$13,984
Plan Development & Printing/Materials	$5,206
Project Management	$4,264
Contingency	$4,496
TOTAL:	**$49,456**

SCHEDULE

SECTION 8: IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Below is the recommended timeline for implementation of the recommendations in this plan as proposed.



Full implementation and development of recommendations is anticipated to take 6-months.