

# Friends of Campus Park (FOCP)

## Campus Park Public Safety Plan



### **Risk Assessment:**

Campus Park has remained unoccupied for several years, leading to neglect in the surrounding area of Oxnard. It has unfortunately become a gathering place for homeless individuals seeking shelter, resulting in issues of sanitation and waste accumulation that is unsafe for the public as well as the homeless population itself.

The street perimeter and interior of the park are consistently plagued by trash, worsening the overall condition.

Moreover, overnight parking of RVs along H Street has become a common occurrence, further contributing to the challenges faced by the area.

In addition, the Campus Park Dog Park has been experiencing significant issues with littering. Pet owners frequently neglect their responsibility to clean up after their pets, resulting in the accumulation of waste, including cigarette butts and other trash in the parking lot.

**Create a STRONG partnership with Public Safety/Businesses/Neighborhoods:** The FOCP will foster a collaborative relationship with local emergency services, law enforcement agencies and other relevant groups in and around the Campus Park neighborhood.

1. Reach out and meet with Vons Shopping Center Management, PAL, local churches and nearby neighborhoods to collaborate, exchange information and plan to clean up the area.
2. Create a liaison/Ex-Officio with the city of Oxnard Police and Fire departments to help and inform the FOCP regarding potential safety issues.

**Security Measures/ “Eyes on the Park” Program:**

Create a program to include neighbors to help keep “eyes on the park” and provide them training and protocols to deal with reporting incidents. Foster a sense of pride and ownership with surrounding community and create a program to walk the park with neighbors to identify problems.

Create educational workshops to gather input from the community to help maintain the park clean and safe.

Discuss the use of appropriate security measures to ensure the safety of visitors and staff. This may involve installing lighting and alarms or installing surveillance cameras systems in later phases in key areas. Consider hiring a Park Ranger or working closely with local law enforcement.

**Visitor Education/Leave No Trace Principles:**

The FOCP should develop educational materials and signage to inform visitors about potential risks, safety guidelines, and emergency procedures.

The FOCP will promote the “Leave No Trace” principles and awareness about respecting and protecting the natural environment, including guidelines for responsible behavior and helping keep the park clean.

**Establish Park Ordinance/Code of Conduct**

Create a code of conduct in the spirit of the FOCP’s core values, including the “Leave No Trace” value, respect of others, education, sustainability and high-quality experience. Doing so will help create a unified goal of keeping the park safe, clean and well programmed.

**Staff Training:** Provide comprehensive training for staff members on safety protocols, emergency response, first aid, and CPR. Regularly review and update training materials to ensure that staff members are well-prepared to handle various situations.

**Maintenance and Inspections:** Establish a regular/daily maintenance schedule for facilities, structures, and pathways to minimize risks. Conduct periodic inspections to identify and address potential hazards such as damaged infrastructure or unstable trees.

**Accessibility:** Ensure that the park is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Install ramps, handrails, and other accessibility features throughout the park. Train staff to assist visitors with special needs during emergencies.

**Communication Systems:** Establish effective communication systems to disseminate safety information and emergency alerts. This can include public address systems, signage, mobile applications, or text message notifications.

**Incident Reporting and Investigation:** Implement a system for reporting and documenting incidents within the park. Conduct thorough investigations when necessary to identify causes, prevent future occurrences, and maintain a safe environment.

1. **Graffiti Prevention and Removal:**
  - a. Implement a proactive approach to graffiti prevention by using anti-graffiti coatings on park structures and surfaces.
  - b. Conduct regular or DAILY inspections to identify and promptly remove any graffiti.
  - c. Establish a graffiti reporting system/template for park visitors and staff to report incidents or suspicious activity.
2. **Homelessness Outreach and Support:**
  - a. Develop partnerships with local homeless service providers to offer outreach and assistance programs.
  - b. Train park staff to engage with homeless individuals in a compassionate and respectful manner.
  - c. Provide information on available community resources, such as shelters, food banks, and healthcare services. Provide volunteer opportunities.
  - d. Work closely with social service agencies to connect homeless individuals with appropriate support networks.
3. **Litter Prevention and Waste Management:**
  - a. Install an adequate number of trash bins throughout the park and clearly label them for proper waste disposal.
  - b. Conduct regular or DAILY park clean-up initiatives and engage community volunteers in litter removal efforts.
  - c. Educate visitors through signage and educational campaigns about the importance of keeping the park clean, reporting graffiti and recycling.
  - d. Establish a waste management plan that includes recycling and composting initiatives.
4. **Drug Use and Substance Abuse:**
  - a. Implement a zero-tolerance policy for drug use and illegal activities within the park.
  - b. Increase the presence of park security personnel or collaborate with local law enforcement to deter illicit activities.
  - c. Install surveillance cameras in strategic locations to monitor and deter drug-related incidents.
  - d. Provide staff with training on recognizing signs of drug use and reporting suspicious behavior to the authorities.
5. **Safety Awareness and Education:**
  - a. Develop educational materials, brochures, and signage that promote park rules, safety guidelines, and community expectations.
  - b. Conduct regular safety workshops, presentation or events to educate visitors and residents about park safety and crime prevention measures.
  - c. Utilize social media platforms, park websites, and community newsletters to disseminate safety information and updates.

6. **Community Engagement and Partnerships:**
  - a. Foster strong partnerships with local community organizations, neighborhood associations, and businesses to collectively address park safety concerns.
  - b. Organize community meetings or forums to discuss safety issues, gather feedback, and develop collaborative solutions.
  - c. Encourage community members to form neighborhood watch programs or volunteer groups to actively participate in maintaining park safety.
7. **Regular Park Maintenance and Surveillance:**
  - a. Implement a maintenance schedule for park facilities, structures, and landscaping to ensure a well-maintained and inviting environment.
  - b. Improve park lighting to deter illegal activities during evening hours.
  - c. Increase the presence of park rangers or security personnel during peak hours and high-risk periods.

### **Emergency Response Procedures:**

When established at Campus Park in agreement with the City of Oxnard the FOCP should establish clear protocols for responding to emergencies such as medical incidents, fires, severe weather events, or natural disasters. Develop evacuation plans, designate assembly points, and train staff on emergency response procedures.

### **2023 Plan**

**July 2023** Meet with Vons, Wilson-Fremont South-Community Park East/West Neighborhood Councils to establish relationship and share ideas, suggestions.

**September 2023** Establish an Ex Officio/Liaison Police office in our group

**Other goals to be determined as we gather more input from the City of Oxnard, stakeholders, community groups and residents.**