

Public Safety Survey: The Plans & Actions

The top five concerns from the CANA Safety Survey are highlighted below:

Survey Result 1: Increase daytime presence and visibility of police in and around parks (bicycle units, etc.). This also includes looking at ordinances.

1. Police have made their presence in the parks with routine sweeps, arrests, ticketing nearby businesses of illegal activity, surveillance of illegal activity in the parks, along with equestrian patrol. MPD is continuing to work with CANA. With the police investigations, there is a clearer picture of “why” the vagrants are in the park and who they are. That allows us to better focus our city’s energy to mitigate the problem. There are some “legitimately poor/homeless” folks that can be helped. The police are helping with differentiating the two.
2. MPD and Parks and Recreation are exploring expansion of police presence with a Police Officer obstacle course and k-9 training at Enslin Park and use of Club House and other trainings.
3. Review park ordinances, e.g., consider No Smoking (cigarettes and marijuana) for the entire park system. Kristi Ah You is in contact with the City Attorney’s office.
4. Relook at the restriction of food distribution in Graceada and Enslin Parks.
5. Need research: Determine what is OK in reference to No Right of Privacy regarding photography. Distance may need to be stated. Need to check with City Attorney.
6. After ordinances are reviewed, put up new Park Ordinance signs.

Survey Result 2: Add cameras and monitoring to parks and high crime areas.

1. Install cameras in Graceada Park. This is in process. Donations from Rank Investigations and CANA residents have been collected and are available to buy the equipment (3 cameras and monitoring equipment). City is installing a light post that is needed in Graceada followed by electrical installation. The concrete base for it has been poured.
2. MPD placed a temporary camera in Enslin Park.

Survey Result 3: Add neighborhood preservation officers to better enforce city codes, such as zoning and nuisance issues.

1. The actual pursuing of additional staff has not been researched (there are currently three), but specific nuisances, such as the burned out house on Columbia Way, have been followed up by Kristi Ah You with the assistance of neighbor Jed Byerly and other neighbors.
2. Look into the restricting of food distribution in Graceada and Enslin Parks.

Survey Result 4: Increase lighting in parks and neighborhoods.

1. All the globe lights in the parks have been replaced with LED lights.
2. For replacement of light bulbs on the city streets, neighbors are directed to use GoModesto to report it.
3. New lighting would need to go through committee work.

Survey Result 5: Contract private security for daytime patrols of parks and neighborhoods to augment police efforts.

1. Ideas of more private security patrol coverage during the day has been suggested. More details to come.
2. Possibly hire park rangers to assist PD in monitoring park activities.

Other concerns and improvement ideas that were a part of the survey:

1. Develop the playground area In Graceada Park into a Kid Safe Zone - CANA Team has been formed. Discussions have explored assessing other improvements for the park related to the pool, play equipment, Mancini Bowl, horseshoe pits. Look at creating an overall plan for both Graceada and Enslin parks improvements.
2. Continue to look at restricting nearby liquor stores from selling single serve liquor products.