

SAFE Parks Program

General Government and
Social Services Committee

April 7th, 2015

General Services

Parks and Recreation

Neighborhood Parks Taskforce

Background

- Vice Mayor Linda Gorton appointed the Neighborhood Parks Task Force May 20, 2013.
- Final Report provided to Council April 22, 2014
- Appointed Members
 - CM Peggy Henson – Taskforce Chair
 - CM Chris Ford
 - CM George Myers
 - Geoff Reed – Commissioner of General Services
 - Laura Hatfield – Partners for Youth
 - Sgt. Andrew Daugherty – Division of Police
 - Capt. Ron Watson – Fayette County Sheriff's Office
 - Chris Cooperrider – Deputy Director of Parks
 - Tyler Scott – Aide to Vice Mayor Gorton



Neighborhood Parks Taskforce

■ Goals

- Develop strategies to make Lexington's neighborhood parks safe
- Improve the quality of life and health for citizens
- Create a plan to address when a park faces a decline and becomes less family friendly



Neighborhood Parks Taskforce

■ Recommendations

- Develop a Parks Barring Policy
- Assess infrastructure and recommend improvements for Opportunity Parks
- Develop a Strategies for Accessible and Family Engaged (SAFE) Parks Program



Parks Barring Policy

- Reviewed & Approved by:
 - Division of Police
 - Law Department
 - Task Force
 - CAO Office
 - Parks Advisory Board
 - Fayette County Attorney



Division of Parks & Recreation

Family friendly parks are vital to the quality of life enjoyed by our residents and visitors. To ensure that our parks remain safe, inviting places, the Urban County Government reserves the right to ban individuals from using Lexington-Fayette County public parks in certain circumstances. Individuals may be banned for engaging in any of the following behaviors on property maintained by the Division of Parks & Recreation:

- **Criminal Behavior**—criminal behavior of any nature, whether or not such behavior results in a criminal conviction.
- **Dangerous Behavior**—behavior that poses a threat to others, including without limitation physical violence, brandishing a weapon, fighting, or attempting to instigate a fight.
- **Destructive Behavior**—behavior that defaces or destroys any vehicle, equipment, structure, facility, sign, or other property maintained by the Division of Parks & Recreation.
- **Disruptive Behavior**—behavior that substantially interferes with the ability of others to use the park, including without limitation extended arguing with sporting officials, verbal harassment, vulgar language, or threats.
- **Violation of Park Rules, Policies, and Procedures.** *For a complete copy of the Urban County Government policies that may lead the Division of Parks & Recreation to ban individuals from Lexington-Fayette County public parks, please visit <http://www.LexingtonKY.gov/ParkPolicies> or visit the Division of Parks & Recreation in person at 469 Parkway Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40504.*



Opportunity Park

- Definition

- A park identified by Council and Parks that is perceived as not being family friendly; opportunity for improvements.

- Identified Opportunity Park - Wolf Run Park

- FY 2016 budget request
 - New ball field fencing
 - Park restroom/building improvements



SAFE Parks Program

- Goal
 - To create family friendly parks by increasing leisure service programming in underutilized parks
- New Service Delivery Model
 - Use 3rd party service provider
 - Partner with community leaders
 - Require scholarship in lieu of rental fees
 - Target neighborhood programming needs



SAFE Parks Program

Lessons Learned – Pilot Program

- Fitness Program for New Mothers
 - Identified differences between rental group and SAFE Parks programming group
- Green Acres Park
 - Identified the time constraints and the necessity of developing working relationships with local leadership groups
- Wolf Run Park
 - Helped organize citizens to form Wolf Run Activities Board to screen proposed programmers to bring new programs into Wolf Run Park



SAFE Parks Program

Next Steps

- The Taskforce recommended a SAFE Parks Program Supervisor to facilitate partnerships with:
 - 3rd Party Service Providers
 - Active Community Leaders
 - Opportunity Parks



Questions?