

VIGILANCE

As the park's users and neighbors, you and the members of your group are the best "eyes and ears" of the public, acting and advocating for safety. It's important to remember, though, that there are safe ways to address crime and dangerous ways. Follow these tips to stay safe:

1. OBSERVE AND REPORT

- ✓ Whenever any of you are in the park, keep your eyes open and record and report what you see.
- ✓ Remember, however, that the people who misuse your park are often dangerous. **Do not put yourself in danger** by confronting the perpetrators of whatever crime you see.

2. BE SPECIFIC AND ACCURATE

- ✓ Provide the police with as much information as possible: clear descriptions of the situation, the people involved, times, dates, car descriptions and license plate numbers. Unless they have this information, the police won't be able to conduct a proper investigation or make arrests.
- ✓ Time is especially important, as the police can't provide 24-hour surveillance. If you can narrow the time frame, and let them know exactly when the illegal activity tends to take place, then the police can make sure to patrol the park at these times.

3. WHEN YOU SEE A PROBLEM, REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY

- ✓ As soon as you see something wrong, report it. Some groups have attached small cards with police and other hotline numbers to pay phones near the park so that any visitor can report a crime.
- ✓ If the police don't come immediately, keep calling. Eventually, they will come, and the more calls you make, the more resources they will send.

4. GIVE INFORMATION TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES

- ✓ Report your observations to the police when you know who, what, why, where and when something illegal is happening, or when you feel threatened, alert the police. Other information is best given to other city agencies.
- ✓ If you notice something that needs to get fixed, call your Community Board (or the Parks Department, if you are on Parks property).
- ✓ If you catch someone in the act of vandalism or painting graffiti, call the police. Broken sidewalks, broken windows, open fire hydrants should be reported to your Community Board.
- ✓ If you notice individuals who have been arrested and are posing a threat to the community by breaking parole, alert the District Attorney.