Olin Park Project
Local Park Taken Over by Anonymous Public Sex
Police Response Before 2009

Stings

Arrests for ordinance violations

Arrests for sex related offenses
Defining the Problem

1. Public Sex

2. The Takeover of the Park

3. The Absence of Legitimate Users

4. The Reputation of the Park

5. Behaviors That Cause Fear
Myths and Assumptions:

- Almost everyone in the city is aware of the park's reputation.
- Citizens avoid the park because of its reputation.
- Those engaged in the behavior are primarily gay men.
- The problem’s existed forever and there’s nothing we can do.
- The park is listed on the internet and that drives the problem.
- Most of the sex in the woods happens at night.
- Most of the visitors are from out of state.
- Enforcement suppresses the problem for a while.
- If we solve the problem in Olin it will just move somewhere else.
Orientation to Olin Park
Officer Mike Evans 2006 Observations:

• Almost all vehicles involved in cruising are from in state
• There are some regular users who come to the park every day
• There is a lot of activity during daylight hours
• Because of commuter parkers it is difficult to observe before 4 pm
• When two guys connect, there are 3 equally possible outcomes
Data Collection, Observation and Survey
Environmental Design Analysis

1. Lack of observers
2. Lack of access control
3. Poor maintenance
4. Little resolve in restoration
5. Cover and concealment
6. Parking by non park users
7. Longstanding reputation
8. Isolation from a supporting neighborhood
9. Under-used 65-acre natural area
10. Excess parking for park functions
11. Several looping drives
12. Easy visibility of vehicles throughout the park
The Size and Complexity of the Problem
Identifying Behaviors And Individuals
Defining The Problem In Terms Of Fear
User Group Sensitivity To Pressure

The Garlic Mustard Story

Michele’s observation of the garlic mustard lady

Plus our knowledge of the character of the cruisers

Lead to borrowing a small idea
COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM
OLIN PARK PROJECT
WORK PARTY
Not A Gay Issue

• The gay community did not consider this a gay issue
• Though exclusively males, many did not identify as gay
• Vehicle data confirmed this
• Police reports confirmed this
• The sexual behavior is more complex
• It includes voyeurs, exhibitionists and solo activity
Activity in the park was being driven by the presence of a core group of local users who visited the park frequently.

By March of 2010 we had identified several hundred individuals who were counted repeatedly during our data collection.

An average of more than 200 persons a day cruised the park just during daylight hours.
Presentation

The dog and pony show
The Dog Park Experiment
83% of citizens living closest to the park avoided it because of its reputation.

Based on a March 2009 survey of the Bay Creek Neighborhood by the Community Policing Team.
CPTED Strategy

Bring In Legitimate Users

During the spring of 2009, illegitimate users of the Conservancy outnumbered legitimate users by a ratio of 9 to 1.
Environmental Design

Invasive Shrubs

• Honeysuckle and Buckthorn are both invasive shrub species in Wisconsin.

• In 2009, thickets covered approximately 85% of the oak woods.

• The Parks Department was only able to clear about a tenth of an acre in 2009, and none in the previous two years.

• Restoration of the woods was a goal of the Parks Department by 2030.
Environmental Design

Traffic and Parking

• More than 200 distinct vehicles are cruising the roads of the parks daily.

• Sixty to eighty non-users of the park, use the parking there for 40 to 50 hours a weeks.
Bio-Litter
Sex Nests

24

distinct sites with evidence of repeat public sexual activity

• Some are single sites
• Some are complex site
• Most are in dense thickets
• Sites are located throughout the natural area
• GPS mapping enhances understanding of the scope of the problem
Motivating The Shrub Clearing Effort
The Road Closure Experiment
Parking Restriction Double Benefit

Our primary goal in ending the practice of commuter parking in Olin was to remove the cover and concealment from the parking lot nearest the Conservancy.

Thanks to Alder Bruer, three hour parking went into effect on June 1st.

In addition to removing the cover, it also sent a strong message that the Parks Department cares about how its parking lots are used.
April and May 2010

Sponsored Family Events

• Sixteen volunteer work parties
• Warbler walks
• Guided wildflower walks
• Star party
• Folk music concert
• Frogs in the park
Berrymans in the Park
Olin Park Pavillion
Friday, May 21
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Peter and Lou Berryman, Madison's favorite folk duo, will perform Friday evening in a free folk music concert to celebrate the restoration of Olin Park and Turville Woods Conservancy to the citizens of Madison.

This concert is part of the Olin Park Project of the Community Policing Team. The event is co-sponsored by the South District CPT of the Madison Police Department, the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association, and the Madison Parks Department.
Live frog presentation in Olin Park
Saturday May 15th    11:00 a.m.

Turville Conservancy Parking Lot

Randy Korb will bring his frogs to Olin Park for a "hands-on" frog and toad presentation. This presentation is free and open to kids of all ages.

This event is co-sponsored by the South District Community Policing Team, The Bay Creek Neighborhood Association and the Madison Parks Dept.
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Media Campaign To Reverse Reputation
Three-Pronged Bio-Litter Solution
Working with Partners to Sustain Change

Olin is a work in progress:

1. On the agenda for October meeting of the Parks Commission for more design changes
2. Friends of Olin – Turville met for the first time in August
3. More family events are scheduled for September and October
Proposed Bike Path
The Olin Park Project

The South District Community Policing Team

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With the support of:

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Captain Joe Balles
Lt Stephanie Bradley Wilson
Parks Superintendent Kevin Briski
The Bay Creek Neighborhood Association