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[portlandoregon.gov/
civic](http://portlandoregon.gov/civic)

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City of Portland

Establishing Park Watch

Park Watch is a program designed to increase the sense of safety and community in community parks by organizing and involving individuals and their families in united crime prevention efforts. When communities take the responsibility to build and maintain livable and cohesive social space and neighborhoods, those areas can become less vulnerable to crime. Park Watch is often formed when residents and park patrons notice chronic problems and/or increase in crime and suspicious activities in their park and/or neighborhood. However, it is beneficial to organize as a proactive measure.

The primary purposes of Park Watches are:

- To reduce crime and the fear of crime.
- To prompt and effective reporting of crime and livability issues.
- To promote positive communication and relationships between community members and other public safety agencies.
- To increase positive and safe community activities and connections in Portland Parks.

Who can participate in Park Watch?

This watch group refers to organizing households, multi-family and single family, that have direct view of any city park. Park Watch also may include frequent park users who live outside of the park and or businesses who are affected by activities at a nearby park. They work as a Neighborhood Watch in coordination with Portland Parks & Recreation and Park Rangers.

Park Watch can be beneficial for parent's, children, business owners, park staff, and surrounding community groups who may be affected by frequent and ongoing activities at Portland Parks.

NOTE: If you are unsure if Park Watch fits your community needs or for general information about Neighborhood, Business, and/or Park Watch, contact your Crime Prevention Team online at portlandoregon.gov/civic/cp or call the main line at 503.823.4064. Business Watch does not fall under the category of standard Neighborhood Watch. Please read "Establishing Your Business Watch" available on Civic Life's handouts page: portlandoregon.gov/civic/76205.

Organizing your Park Watch

STEP 1: Connect with neighbors, park patrons, and frequenters of the park to determine if there is a community want/need to organize and connect (minimum 5 participants required to establish a watch.)

STEP 2: Connect with your assigned Crime Prevention team at portlandoregon.gov/civic/cp or call 503.823.4064.

STEP 3: Communicate with potential watch group members to determine date and time options to attend/host a Park Watch training.

STEP 4: Provide potential watch group training dates and times to your Crime Prevention Coordinator and schedule a Park Watch training.

STEP 5: Determine watch training location:

- Outdoors at the Park (crime prevention coordinators can assist in reserving the location to waive the fee.)
- Community member residence or community center.

STEP 6: Send out neighborhood invitations (online, mail, park outreach etc.)

STEP 7: Confirm attendance/RSVP's with Crime Prevention Coordinator 48 hours before the training date. (Cancellations and rescheduling can be arranged if needed.)

STEP 8: Attend the training provided by you Crime Prevention Coordinator.

STEP 9: Distribute "Block Map" to your watch group.

STEP 10: Stay active by meeting and updating your watch group information, minimum once a year.

START A PARK WATCH:

Interest Form: www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/70451

Contact a Crime Prevention Coordinator: 503.823.4064

Park Watch Trainings

Park Watches begin with an initial meeting at which your Park Watch trainer from the Crime Prevention Program provides the needed materials to get started. Watch members are provided a training agenda and supplemental materials. Once the training is complete the Watch Organizers are responsible for continuing the active involvement of the group. If at any time post-training you are in need of additional help or training you can contact your Crime Prevention team for further assistance.

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Park Watch Training Agenda

Park Watch Training Goal

Our goal today is to equip and train the Park Watch Group with skills to organize and support community partnerships with Portland Parks and Recreation, Park Rangers, Portland Police, Crime Prevention Coordinators, and other City partners to prevent crime, the fear of crime, and increase community resiliency in emergency situations.

Welcome/Intros: Why are you here? What do you hope to learn?

Park Watch: Mission & goals

Office of Community & Civic Life: Crime Prevention & what we do

Crime Prevention Coordinators: Who they are & what they do

Fill out & collect Questionnaires

Park Rangers: Who they are & what they do

- What to do if you see a crime in a park
- Park Ranger partners & resources
- When to call Park Rangers, Police, or report online

Calling and reporting: Criminal & non-criminal

- Quick Resources Guide (Magnet)
- Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC)
 - Identify & report suspicious activity
 - Call-takers, call priority & dispatching
 - 7 Ws & CYMBOLS of reporting
- 9-1-1: When to call/text & how
- Non-Emergency: When to call & how
- Online Reporting: Crimes, livability & PDX Reporter
- Commendations & complaints

Questions/Break

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Vehicle Prowl/Theft Prevention: Do's & don't parking at the park

Bike Theft Prevention: Bike index & Project 529

Emergency Preparedness: Resources (Fire & BEECN)

Closing: Follow-ups & staying connected (call-tree)



OFFICE OF
Community
& Civic Life

Crime Prevention
Program

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Training will help build understanding and goals of your community watch group. As well as what Crime Prevention does and their role in assisting Park Watch and the community.

Get a chance to meet and learn about your Park Rangers. Park Rangers serve as a key partnership in a successful Park Watch.

Subjects covered in trainings may go outside of the listed agenda items depending on the needs of every individual Watch group. During your training you will be provided with a supplemental training packet of resources.

Watch Organizer duties include: Inviting and organizing block training/meetings, creating and distributing block maps, updating block maps (annually or quarterly recommended), and maintaining communications with the Crime Prevention Program.

Reporting Toolkit

Is it an immediate or life-threatening emergency?

YES

Dial 911 - Be prepared to provide information (i.e. location, suspect details, involved persons). Do not hang up until instructed to do so.

NO

Are you calling to report a crime or suspicious activity?

YES

Does the incident involve any of the following:

- Known suspect(s)
- Stolen vehicles
- Domestic violence
- Vehicular accidents
- Firearms
- Hit and runs
- RX Medication
- Require police presence

NO

NO

YES

Report online:
portlandoregon.gov/police/cor/

Call Portland Non-Emergency
at (503) 823-3333.

Are you reporting livability issues and violations (i.e. campsites, needles, potholes, illegal/abandoned vehicles)?

YES

NO

Go to pdxreporter.org and file a report (you will need a portlandoregon.gov account to login).

Do you need help and/or training for your business, neighborhood or residence, but don't know where to start?

YES

To get more training and connect with your Crime Prevention Coordinator go online to:
portlandoregon.gov/civic/76091

Your Crime Prevention Coordinator's mission is to organize and support community partnerships to prevent crime and the fear of crime. You can also find online resources and training tools on the Office of Community & Civic Life, Crime Prevention Program website portlandoregon.gov/civic/76205.



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