

GENERAL APPROACHES TO PUBLIC SAFETY

PMAC Memo- Summer 2016

The most important step is to fill the park with positive activity -- which happens very naturally in the Southwest Corridor Park and which is part of the work of PMAC, the SWCPC and others. The more people use a park, the safer it is. The Southwest Corridor Park is a great park because there are people gardening, bicycling, walking, jogging, walking dogs, playing sports, commuting by T and enjoying the park in all kinds of weather, year round.

Communication is important to public safety. We regularly share general information about public safety through our emails, website, Facebook page and PMAC meetings.

Here are some specific roles we play:

[1.] ENCOURAGING PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTING.

The first part of each monthly PMAC meeting is a public safety report, with information from the various jurisdictions that support the park – city, state, MBTA and university.

PMAC helps to identify and communicate about the best ways to report public safety issues along the Southwest Corridor. (When do you call 911 or state police? What types of issues can you report to DCR or to the citywide 311?) **See the public safety page - <http://swcpc.org/publicsafety.asp> for tips on reporting.**

[2.] PARK MAINTENANCE REPORTING.

PMAC regularly works with DCR to follow up on park maintenance issues, including public safety and quality-of-life issues such as non-working lights, graffiti, etc. We maintain an ongoing project log of park maintenance issues that are raised by park users, highlighting those that may be safety-related. Park users and neighborhood residents are encouraged to report maintenance issues through PMAC as well as directly to DCR or to use the citywide 311 system. **See the public safety page - <http://swcpc.org/publicsafety.asp> for tips on reporting.**

[3.] EDUCATION AND OUTREACH / PARTNERSHIPS.

Through our network of members and interested neighbors, PMAC members try to stay informed and connected about public safety issues affecting the park and surrounding neighborhoods, and are always open to participating in partnerships and activities about public safety and related issues.

[4.] INFRASTRUCTURE and LANDSCAPING.

Park users and neighbors sometimes make suggestions about infrastructure and landscaping changes based on public safety or quality-of-life concerns. With DCR staff, PMAC reviews and advises on any requests for major changes in infrastructure, landscaping or other park features, including any changes proposed for purpose of public safety. DCR has final authority over any changes. The PMAC by-laws outline this responsibility, which is given to PMAC by the Care and Control Agreement between the MBTA and DCR.

Some notes on this responsibility --> With the long tradition of neighborhood volunteers working on gardening in the Southwest Corridor Park, it is important for volunteers/neighbors to remember to follow official channels of communication through DCR and PMAC with respect to landscaping and infrastructure changes (and not to take on any changes independently). While volunteers have considerable freedom in choosing plants for garden beds and other garden-design decisions, any changes that would be considered infrastructure changes or permanent landscaping changes should be reviewed.

The PMAC leadership team will strive to keep the wide variety of neighbors and park users in mind, considering any potential impact on sight lines, foot traffic, seating or other features, considering how changes may affect abutting neighbors, regular park users, or others.

The PMAC leadership team will prioritize positive uses of the park before recommending any changes to park features, building on the concept that the best first approach to public safety is to fill the park with positive activity.

[5.] NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE.

Neighborhood voice at PMAC meetings can be both formal and informal -- PMAC meetings are open to all park users and park neighbors. Neighborhood and tenant associations from all along the length of the park are encouraged to send one or more representatives who will bring concerns to PMAC and report back to the neighborhood or tenant group. Like all PMAC members, a representative may attend monthly or once every three months when the meeting is held in their section of the park, and is also welcome to participate in any PMAC subcommittees and projects of interest.

As a first step -- neighborhood residents and park users are encouraged to join PMAC and receive updates and emails.

JOIN PMAC - membership form -- <http://swcpc.org/pmac>

See the SWCPC website public safety page for details about public safety issues:
<http://swcpc.org/publicsafety.asp>