

From: [Hasle, Rebecca](#)
To: [Shari Winstead](#)
Cc: [Zaugg, Laura](#)
Subject: Parks and Recreation and Police Department Cooperation
Date: Monday, November 17, 2014 1:19:36 PM

Dear Mayor Winstead,

One of the five main goals for the next 18- 24 months in the City of Shoreline is to prevent criminal activity, and increase the security and safety of each resident. A few years ago, residents in Shoreline were surveyed about their overall satisfaction with security in their homes, neighborhoods, and in local community locations. In 2011, 83% of residents felt safe in their homes and neighborhoods, but in 2012, and 2013, 78% of residents felt a sense of security. Though these numbers are still relatively high, the trend decreased throughout these three years. The other issue, is that in parks and on trails, just over half of residents said that they felt safe. Only 58% of residents felt safe in 2011, and in 2012 and 2013, 56% of residents felt safe in parks and on trails. Much like their sense of security in their homes and neighborhoods, the resident's sense of security in parks also slightly decreased. It is essential for the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Police Department in Shoreline to work together to find ways to make local community locations, like parks, safer.

Popular parks in Shoreline that have frequently used soccer fields, for example, Twin Ponds, still have several crime occurrences, like car robberies. One of the possible reasons why robberies are so common is because especially in the fall season, parks tend to become very dark in the early evening even though people still participate in events like soccer games. At Twin Ponds, the only section of that park that is well lit is the soccer field. Immediately next to the sidelines on the soccer field, is pure darkness. Not to mention, the paths from the remote parking areas and the soccer field are only light by the occasional flickering bathroom floodlight, which makes residents feel even more unsafe when they walk to or from their cars. The proposed project (that will cost \$300,000) to upgrade the aging wooden light poles that surround Twin Ponds Field in 2018 will still not completely illuminate the rest of the park. Twin Ponds currently has \$900,000 Park Bond Levy Funds, which is not enough to illuminate the park, *and* maintain its current attractions. Proper lighting during the evening hours in parks is a necessity to make citizens feel safer, and will ensure they will keep visiting the park. The increased budget in 2015 for both the Parks and Recreation, and Police Departments should be utilized to increase the safety in community parks.

The projected budget in 2015 for the Parks and Recreation Department in Shoreline is \$5,141,981. This should be utilized to consistently maintain proper lighting throughout the parks (at least in the evening) to make residents feel safer visiting them.

Though it is important to maintain safe neighborhoods, a portion of the projected \$10.8 million for the Shoreline Police Department should be put towards ways to increase safety in parks. Though it is important to keep residents feeling safe in their homes and neighborhoods, it is also essential to also make efforts to increase their safety on trails and in parks.

In order to successfully achieve the City of Shoreline's fifth goal to 'enhance the City's safe community and neighborhood programs' there should be little to no budget cuts, in the

Parks and Recreation Department, and the Police Department, in order to assure residents that they are safe in parks during the day, and in the evening.

Best Regards,

Rebecca Hasle