



Park Security Position

Increase Citizen Safety

City of Joplin

April 18,2022



City of Joplin Action Plan: Park Security Position

→ City Manager's Listening Tour

In 2020, during the City Manager's Listening Tour, increasing citizen safety raised.

Listening Tour Respondent:

"Sometimes it doesn't feel safe to use the parks or take a walk in the neighborhood because of random individuals wondering through who are high, or at least acting like it."



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→ Parks and Recreation Master Plan Study

In 2020, the City of Joplin conducted a Parks and Recreation Master Plan Study. There were five goals developed:

- #1 Develop Destinations
- #2 Improve Connectivity
- #3 Prioritize Safety
- #4 Educate the Masses
- #5 Cultivate Health and Wellness

Goal #3 was a result of the community survey which indicated that the number one barrier to Joplinites using their parks is a feeling of insecurity. It was recommended to develop a park ranger division within the department.



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→ Joplin Strategic Priorities

In 2021, Joplin City Council approved and adopted, “Joplin Strategic Priorities”, Action Plans. Within this document six goals were established.

- Improve community appearance
- Address declining neighborhoods
- Increase economic opportunities for all
- Address homelessness
- Reduce crime and increase safety
- Create and grow resilient revenue



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→ Reduce Crime and Increase Safety

Within each goal there are several strategies to help address each goal. Under the goal “Reduce Crime and Increase Safety”, there are fifteen strategies.

Strategy number 14 is Park Security Position.



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→ Park Security Position

Strategy 14: Create Park Security position in Parks Department to provide additional security for park properties.

Action Steps:

- a. Research other communities park security position and job description
- b. Determine if this will be full-time or part-time position
- c. Develop a job description for Joplin

Desired Benefit/Outcome:

- Provide the ability to secure restrooms and other park amenities when parks are closed to the public
- Provide a sense of security for the public through visibility and presence of park security
- Provide the ability for information and education of our parks to residents when visiting, serving as "Park Ambassador"
- Serves as a liaison between the Parks Department and Police Department



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→ Park Security Position Research

Through research, communities use this position differently depending on the size of the community and what they want to accomplish. Some communities use this position like a police officer. They are armed, they can arrest, and they can serve citations. Basically, an extension of the Police Department.

Other communities use them as a park ambassador. They are available to the public for information, they hold educational programs, they are an extension of the parks department where they can address mechanical issues. They would typically hold a professional unarmed certification.



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→ Park Security Position Job Description

A small group, consisting of the City Manager, Police Chief, Human Resource Director, Finance Director, and Parks and Recreation Director, recommends a Park Security Officer serving as a Park Ambassador to meet the needs of our community.

A job description was developed. Some of the key job functions are listed below:

- Patrols municipal park areas and facilities to prevent and discover vandalism, unruly conduct, and other violations of municipal ordinances.
- Observes public gatherings; identifies violators; calls for police backup if involuntary detention or arrest is necessary.
- Responds to guest or staff accidents/injuries/complaints and completes all necessary reports to document the incident.
- Locks gates, park restrooms and check windows/doors after facilities close.
- Contact emergency personnel (Police/Fire/EMS) when needed.
- Develops and maintains good public relations with the public and law enforcement officers.
- Reports park maintenance issues or hazardous conditions to park maintenance staff.
- Provides general assistance to the public (directions, lost children, lost or loose animals, etc.)



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→ Park Security Position Proposed Budget

Once the job description was completed, it was determined the position should be full-time. And to adequately patrol our parks and facilities seven days per week, two positions are required. Here is the proposed budget:



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→ Park Security
Position
Proposed Budget

	PER PERSON	TOTAL
	EST ANNUAL	EST ANNUAL
DESCRIPTION	COST	COST
Full-Time	57,000	114,000
Wearing Apparel	500	1,000
Operational Supplies	500	1,000
Fuel, Oil & Diesel	2,500	5,000
Central Garage Repairs	1,500	3,000
Vehicle Cleaning	150	300
Travel Expense	1,000	2,000
Conferences & Seminars	500	1,000
Dues & Memberships	500	1,000
Liability Insurance	500	1,000
Sub-Total Ongoing Costs	64,650	129,300
Motor Vehicles	30,000	60,000
Operating Equipment-Radios	5,000	10,000
Sub-Total Capital Costs	35,000	70,000
Grand Total Year One	99,650	199,300



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→ Action Plan Committee

During the first week of March 2022, the Park Security Position was presented to the Proposition Action Committee. After discussion, the position was supported by all committee members.



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→ Next Steps

The Park Security Position will be included in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget for your review and approval.

However, these positions will not be filled (hired) until it is determined that there is sufficient use tax revenue.

Any Questions?

