

SAFE TASKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS CITY RELATED BIANNUAL UPDATES

BIANNUAL UPDATE SUBMISSION DATES: JANUARY 12, 2017 AND JULY 13, 2017
2017 SAFE Taskforce Meetings: January 25, April 26, July 26, October 25, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Location Varies

STAFF LEAD: David Marquardt, Director – Parks, Recreation and Forestry

RECOMMENDATION #/RECOMMENDATION

A1: Identify, train and place 15-24 year olds in year round employment opportunities

Progress/Update: The department's project manager who manages all of the park millage improvements worked with the West Michigan Hispanic Center this year to hire a local high school student. This student learned valuable office skills and the opportunity is helping to create stronger connections with the Grand Rapids community. The department will continue to build more of these opportunities in this area and other business units as well.

C11: Increase recreational-related activities through city in parks and neighborhoods

Progress/Update: The director has been, and will continue, scheduling park walks across the city with interested individuals and neighborhood groups. These walks are bringing forward valuable insight as to our Grand Rapidsians wish to use their park spaces. This information will be used to develop new programs and park amenities each year.

Value Stream: Increase equitable access to parks through intentional co-creation of park design and function with residents to meet their cultural/neighborhood needs. This includes equitable access to park-related employment working with the City's Human Resources department (building, maintenance, lifeguards, etc.)

Progress/Update: The department is being very intentional about scheduling design and community meetings to be part of existing and recurring neighborhood events. This approach is bringing more citizens out to be a part of co-creating our park designs and amenities that we ultimately implement. The department is also working with HR to prepare for and jointly staff early recruitment opportunities across the city to ensure there is broad awareness of opportunities for jobs in many different divisions within Parks.

Additional Notes/Comments: