Willie Wilkins Park

- Friday Summer Nights Events took place at Willie Wilkins Park for six weeks during the summers of 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Comparing Previous Years to Years with the Parks Program

Results:
The average number of police incidents in the Willie Wilkins Park area decreased by 48% during the three six week periods that the event was held compared to the average for the previous two years during the same time period.

Comparing Weeks before the Program to Weeks with the Program

Results:
Crimes during the six week period directly prior to the Friday Summer Nights were decreased by a third or more during the weeks of the events.
Carter Gilmore Park

- Friday Summer Nights Events took place at Carter Gilmore Park for six weeks during the summers of 2012 and 2013.

Comparing Previous Years to Years with the Parks Program

Results:
The average number of police incidents in the Carter Gilmore Park area decreased by 9% during the two six week periods that the event was held compared to the two previous years during the same time period. However, as the graph clearly demonstrates, the decrease all occurred in 2012 and reversed in 2013, when incidents returned to pre-program levels.

Comparing Weeks before the Program to Weeks with the Program

Results:
Similar to the trend shown above, crimes during the six week period directly prior to the Friday Summer Nights decreased by a fourth in Summer 2012 but increased slightly (by 5%) in Summer 2013.
Analysis

- Willie Wilkins Park data analysis suggests the Parks Program can have the neighborhood-level impact on police incidents we would hope to see – police incidents are lower during the program when compared to years past for the three years of the program. The decrease in summer 2012 for both Willie Wilkins and Carter Gilmore is particularly striking given that crime was up citywide during this period.

- This year we also analyzed the number of incidents in the previous six weeks in the same year without the program, compared to the six weeks of the program, for the past two summers. At Willie Wilkins Park, there is a decrease of at least one third in incidents during the program compared to the weeks prior.

- The results for Carter Gilmore add complexity to the analysis of the program’s impact – though incidents did decrease from 2011 to 2012, they returned to (and slightly passed) 2010 and 2011 levels in 2013. Similarly, incidents in the weeks prior to the program declined during the program in summer 2012, but not in summer 2013.

- The Carter Gilmore program is newer (running for two summers instead of three), and more analysis is likely needed. A closer breakdown of the Carter Gilmore Park incident data suggests that robberies and thefts were the primary driver of the increase in 2013. One possible explanation is the lack of program visibility to the neighborhood at large – the program is more hidden from the broader neighborhood due to its location next to a school and two housing complexes. Unlike in the Willie Wilkins surrounding neighborhood, parks program staff have found during outreach that people in the Carter Gilmore neighborhood are less familiar with the program, despite large turnout for the event.

- Program staff will consider whether results suggest that moving to a different park in the area would be beneficial, or whether staying in Carter Gilmore would enhance the likelihood of builder a broader community awareness of the program.

Methods

- For Both Parks: All Part 1 crimes, and public nuisance Part 2 crimes (vandalism and drunkenness) that occurred within the surrounding neighborhood were included.

- Multiple charges occurring within the same incident (at the same time and place) are counted as a single incident.

- For Willie Wilkins Park: The area included in the analysis went from International Blvd to E Street and 92nd Avenue to 98th Avenue.

- For Carter Gilmore Park: The area included in the analysis went between 62nd Ave to 69th Ave, from 1100, below International, to 1600 above International Blvd, including Havenscourt, E16th St, E17th St, Fenham, Eastlawn, Lucille, and Hamilton.
Summer 2011: Willie Wilkins Park events occurred for six Friday night events in the Summer of 2011: July 15th, July 22nd, July 29th, August 5th, August 12th, and August 19th;

Summer 2012: Willie Wilkins Park and Carter Gilmore Park events occurred for six Friday night events in the Summer of 2012: July 6th, July 13th, July 20th, July 27th, August 3rd, and August 10th;

Summer 2013: Willie Wilkins Park and Carter Gilmore Park events occurred for six Friday night events in the Summer of 2013: July 12th, July 19th, July 26th, Aug 2nd, Aug 9th and Aug 16th.

Crime data for comparable 6 weeks periods in the summer of 2009 and 2010 were used for the crime analysis (July 15th – August 20th); 2010 and 2011 were used for Carter Gilmore.

Crime data for comparable 6 week periods PRIOR to the summer events of 2012 and 2013 were used for the crime analysis: May 27th – July 5th, 2012 and June 2nd – July 11th, 2013.