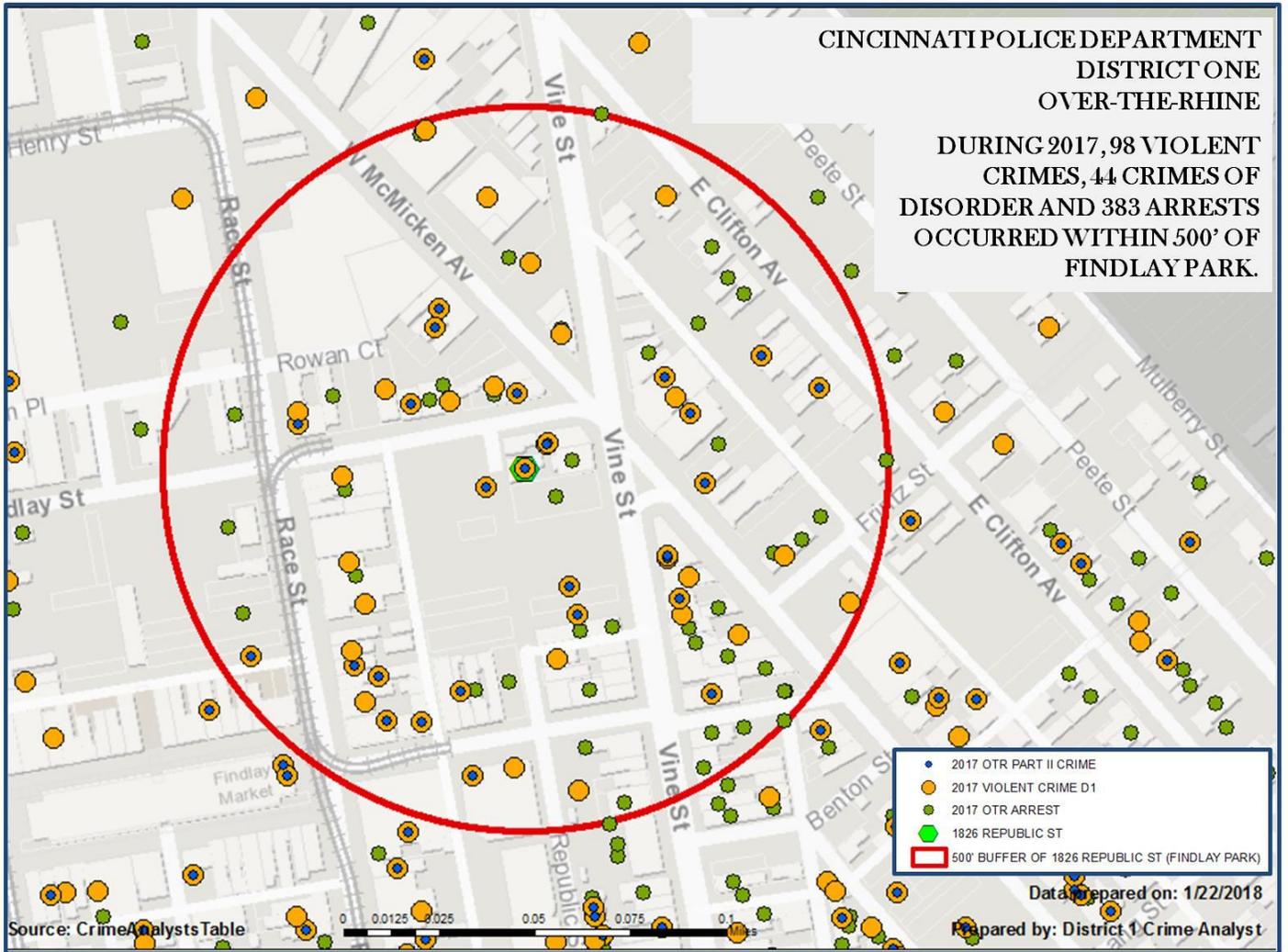


Statistics from the Park



The above map illustrates the locations of Part I Violent Crimes, Crimes of Disorder, and Arrests that have occurred during the calendar year 2017 within 500 feet of a rough approximation of the center of the park. These issues have plagued the area for years and have been exacerbated recently as crime has been displaced from other areas of Over-the-Rhine.

The Park is in General Disrepair

Part of the reason the park has become a haven for illicit activity is the generally poor state of most of the equipment in the park. When this is allowed to happen, the criminal element feels emboldened to push the limits of what illegal activities in which they are willing to engage. Grills are broken and covered with graffiti. Picnic tables are also damaged and usually littered with empty cans of beer or other garbage.



Lights are damaged or simply insufficient. The lone basketball hoop is essentially unusable for days after any rain due to poor drainage. There are several spots in the park that suffer from severe drainage issues.



Also, the majority of the space in the park is occupied by a completely under-utilized green space that adds little value to the park, while increasing some of the negative factors mentioned before by putting distance between law enforcement officers and potential wrong-doers. Lastly, there is no dedicated parking for the park and street parking is very limited. This discourages legitimate usage of the park.

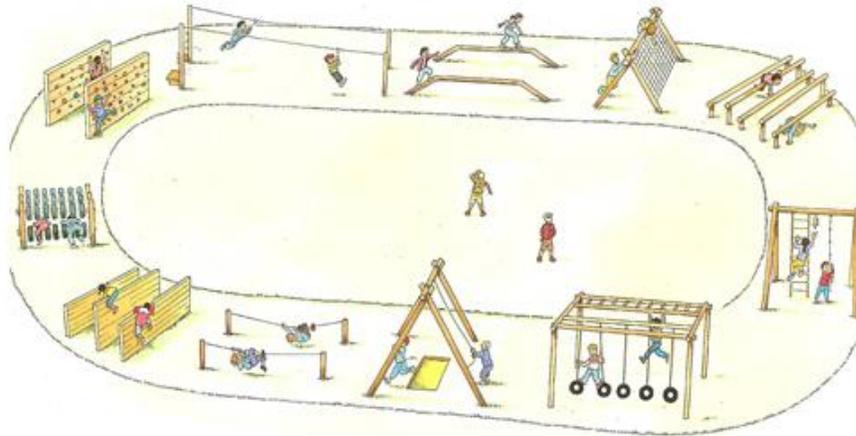


Possible Alterations and Solutions

There are relatively low-cost changes that can be made to permanently make the park more user-friendly and less attractive for the criminal element. I would recommend all of the picnic tables and grills be removed. They are rarely, if ever, used for their intended purpose and mainly serve as magnets for people looking to engage in illegal behavior. Also, none of the interior fence is needed and the exterior fence should be modified in manners mentioned above to allow greater access by police, less impromptu seating, and less concealment. Lighting needs to be upgraded on the perimeter of the park and maintained. Graffiti and litter need to be removed promptly and consistently. These are just the small changes. The concrete area along the northern edge of the park, currently filled with picnic tables, could be converted into a parking lot. This would allow more people to come to the park as street parking is currently limited and eliminate a space that currently only acts as a safe space for the criminal element.

Running/Obstacle Track Around the Perimeter – Just Some of the Possibilities

A multi-lane running track around the perimeter of the park would serve multiple purposes. First, it would clearly define the space. This reduces loitering and increases the recognition of this area as a defined space with a particular purpose. Secondly, obstacles and workout stations can be added at intervals or in any extra space to increase the versatility of the park. However, all of these items should be reviewed to ensure that they won't become "seats" and simply replace the picnic tables and the adverse effect they have on the current park. These areas could be mulch, foam, or cement. The main thing is that they occupy a defined space.



Playground and Dog Park

The bulk of the park should be occupied by a fenced dog park and a playground. Again, these will both be easily recognized as areas that have a specific purpose. Neither should offer “seating” and any fencing should be short and of a design that offers little to no concealment. When you combine the factors of excellent visibility to the general public and/or police with the unmistakable intended use of a space, the desire to loiter in that space and engage in other activities is greatly reduced.



Conclusion

In conclusion, District One makes the following recommendations:

1. Remove all of the interior fencing
2. Alter the exterior fencing to increase visibility and access and eliminate unintended impromptu seating
3. Remove all of the picnic tables
4. Remove all of the grills
5. Increase and maintain lighting (especially around the exterior of the park)
6. Create a running track or course around the perimeter of the park (obstacles or workout stations can be placed along this course)
7. Fence off a portion of the green space for a dog park
8. Build an expanded playground area
9. Use any additional space for more obstacles or workout stations

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