

VANDALISM IN OUR PARKS

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Entertainment need your help to prevent vandalism and apprehend individuals who vandalize our parks and recreational facilities.

If you think vandalism isn't your problem, think again. Here are a few reasons why vandalism hurts everyone.

- Vandalism destroys what your tax dollars have created. Each year vandals destroy thousands of dollars' worth of park facilities and equipment funded by tax dollars. A few minutes of destructive "fun" can add up to huge losses for our public parks.

- Vandalism takes dollars away from recreational programs and facilities. It costs money to repair or replace what a vandal's actions have destroyed. For example, the cost of removing writing from a cement or brick wall can easily reach \$1,000. Replacing a damaged bench involves high labor repair costs. Even damaged trees are costly to replace, at a value of \$1,000 or more per tree.

- Damaging public property through vandalism is illegal. Vandalism includes "tagging" or using spray paint for artistic expression on public property.

Here is what you can do to help prevent and address vandalism.

- Call 9-1-1 to report any emergency or serious crime in progress, including vandalism. Call 630-0500 for a non-emergency situation. (Calls to 9-1-1 from a cell phone or pay phone are FREE of charge.)

- To provide information about a crime in a park, when an immediate police response is not needed, call Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-866-845-TIPS. You can remain anonymous and be eligible for a reward if an arrest is made.

JaxParks

Park Safety

Important Numbers:

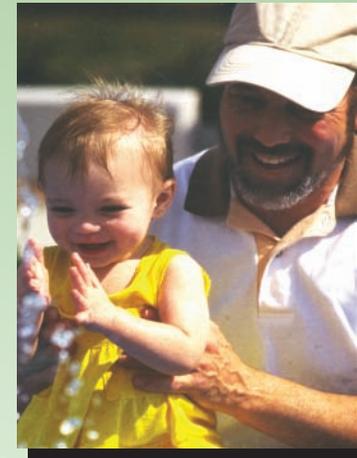
**Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
non-emergency number
630-0500**

**Park Maintenance
630-5401**

**Department of Parks,
Recreation and Entertainment
630-4100**

**For emergencies, please call
9-1-1
immediately**

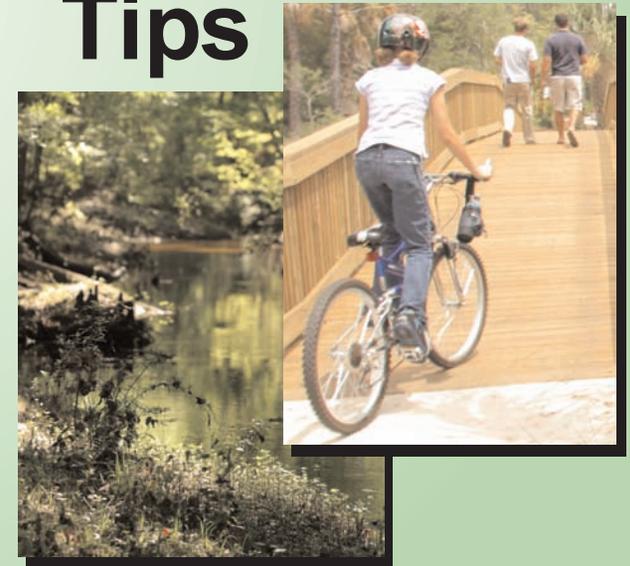
Officer Laurie McEwen
Safe Parks Program Coordinator
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Parks, Recreation &
Entertainment
851 North Market Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 630-4511



JaxParks

Park Safety

Tips



**We care about
your safety!**

SAFETY TIPS FOR PARK VISITORS

For your personal safety, we recommend the following tips to help you enjoy the parks and ensure your utmost protection.

- Please report any vandalism, questionable behavior or other criminal activity to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

*Non-emergency number: 630-0500

*Emergency number: 911

- Carry personal identification and a cell phone with you if possible.

- Be vigilant and aware of where you are and who is around you.

- Be sure to closely supervise your children as they play in the park. Do not allow children to stay at parks unattended. Instruct your children on how to respond to strangers.

- Use park fields and equipment only for their intended purpose.

- Stay well hydrated. Water is your best friend in helping prevent heat-related illnesses.

- In cases of severe weather, leave the park as quickly as possible or proceed with appropriate emergency measures.



WALKING – JOGGING – BIKING

- Pedestrians should walk or jog facing oncoming traffic.

- Do not take shortcuts or dirt paths through wooded areas. Stay on well-lighted, populated pathways.

- Evening and night walkers, joggers, and bikers should wear bright clothing with reflectors; use a flashlight and travel in pairs or groups.

- Be especially alert when running. Avoid using headphones because they mask important danger signs, such as a person approaching from behind.

- Trust your instincts. If you believe you are being followed, don't hesitate to request help from other citizens or police.

- Bikers should pedal with traffic and must obey all traffic control signs (Stop, One Way, Road Closed, etc.) Wearing a bike helmet can decrease the severity of a bike accident head injury and maybe even save your life. Wearing a bicycle helmet is mandatory for children under the age of 16.

PROTECTING YOUR AUTOMOBILE AND BICYCLE

- Lock your automobile with the windows up. Do not take unnecessary valuables with you on your outing, and never leave any valuables unattended in the park or in the car, even in the locked trunk.

- Park only in designated parking areas. Parking on the grassy areas may kill the grass and is a potential fire hazard.
- Be observant of individuals loitering near parked bikes or cars. The loitering persons may be planning to steal a bike or something from an unattended car.

- Lock your unattended bike, even if it will be unattended just for a minute. Use a high quality hardened steel U-shaped lock. Avoid locks that can easily be cut, picked, or broken.

- Never allow a stranger to ride a bike even if the person promises to just go a short distance.

