

HOMELESSNESS AND DISORDER IN STANBERY PARK
-DISTRICT TWO-

The Team:

CPD’s District Two Neighborhood Unit, Violent Crimes Squad, and Crime Analyst, City of Cincinnati Managers Office, Parks Department, and Alternative Response to Crisis (ARC) team, community stakeholders, Pathway, Mt Washington Community Council, Mt Washington Business Association

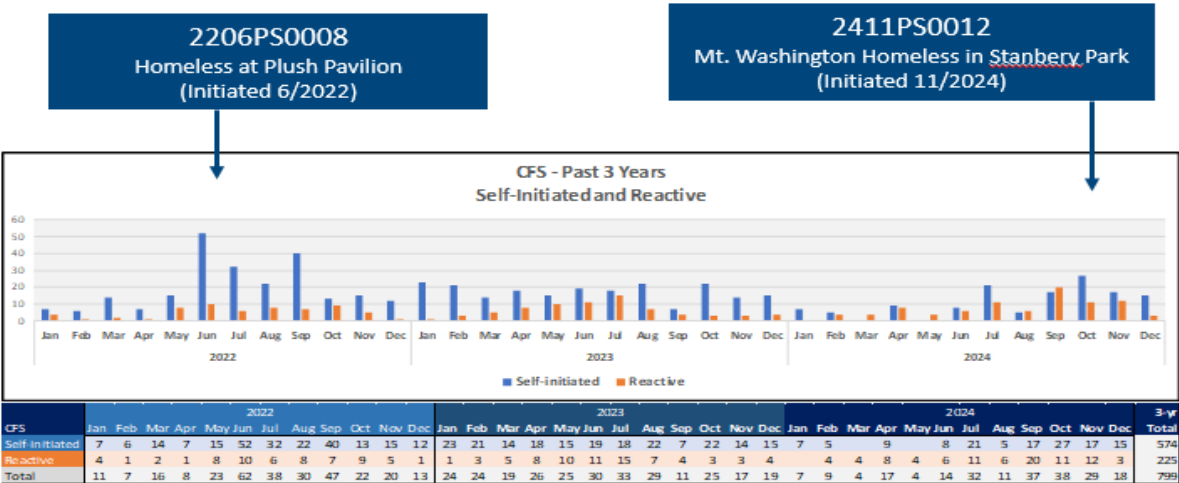
Scan:

In the fall of 2024, the Mt. Washington neighborhood experienced an influx in homeless encampments in Stanbery Park and in the business district. Stakeholders, community residents and Mt. Washington Community Council voiced concerns about individuals camping overnight in Stanbery Park. Concerns included safety, unsanitary conditions and hoarding in the park.

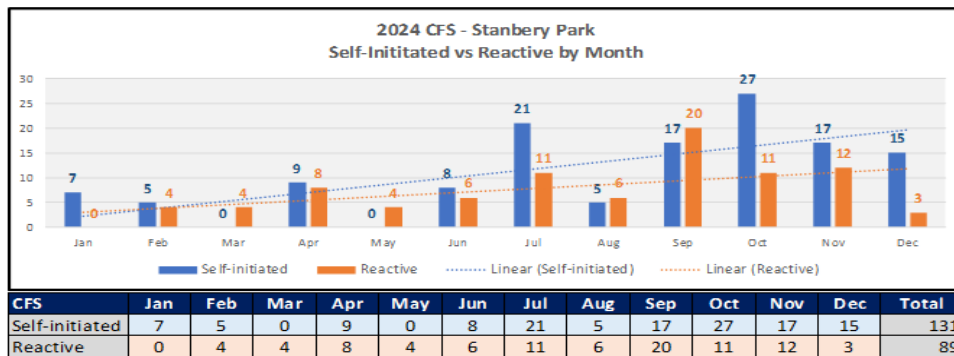
Problem Definition/Contributing changes: Although unhoused people have been known to frequent Stanbery Park in the past (and CPOP projects have focused on the same area), the increase of items collected within the park caused concern for residents utilizing the park and living close to the park. Homelessness issues are cyclical, and increase/decrease based on environmental factors. Changes that may have contributed to this increase include: 1) Kentucky law passed banning unlawful camping, 2) many convenience resources in Mt. Washington (including pantry, Goodwill, and St. Vincent DePaul) and 3) a wooded area in Stanbery Park.

Analysis:

Analysis (below) showed distinct increases in CFS during Oct/Nov of 2024. CPOP projects were initiated in June of 2022 and December of 2024. CFS (both reactive and self-initiated) show an upward trend during 2024.



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Effects of homelessness: The presence of homelessness affects the entire community, leading to increased demand for public services, healthcare resources and law enforcement. It can also lead to social stigma and community tensions, undermining local cohesion.



Response:

There are several types of homelessness, including chronic episodic and transitional homelessness. Each type varies in duration and underlying causes, requiring tailored multi-faceted on-going approaches for effective resolution. Responses in this project included:

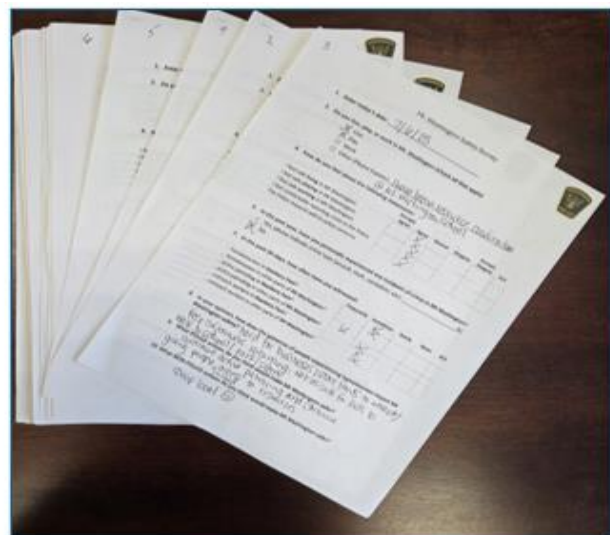
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- **Partnerships/collaborative strategies**
 - Partnership development (Cincinnati Parks/City Manager's Office)
 - Joint efforts between police and community organizations with focused collaborations for outreach programs, crisis intervention and access to shelters/services
- **Police enforcement**
 - Directed patrols, PVO, drone surveillance, enforcement (tickets/arrests), encampment cleanup efforts
- **Support Services (ARC, PATH, HOPE)**
 - Support services include mental health counseling, drug treatment and shelters.
- **Community engagement**
 - Fostering trust and relationships through outreach efforts, such as food distribution

Assessment:

The particular peak in unhoused in December of 2024 decreased due to efforts of City of Cincinnati and Mt. Washington partners, as well as a shift in the weather turning bitterly cold thus prohibiting/detering overnight camping. Following the 2024 cold, reports of homelessness and crime remained relatively low; however, perceptions of safety and City attentiveness improved dramatically.

Below is a screenshot of a media article¹ describing the changes community saw. The article described the continued existence of homeless individuals, but that they were not causing crime issues and praised the City CPD partnership. "... Bailey praised the collaboration... highlighting the importance of open communication. 'We have a great relationship with our liaison with District 2 [Sgt Sellers]. They're out here regularly,' said Bailey..." In addition, public perception using a community survey showed that residents generally felt safe living and working in the community, that they feel comfortable reporting crimes to police and the police respond well to safety concerns. On average in the last 30 days, respondents rarely witnessed homelessness in Stanberry Park.



¹ <https://local12.com/news/local/people-feel-safe-community-sees-major-relief-drug-crime-issues-cincinnati-stanberry-park-mount-washington-drugs-homeless-homelessness-complaints-businesses-kids-families-transformation-needs-outreach-efforts-help-police-city-ohio>

Outcome(s):

Short term: Harm Reduced, Problem Handling Improved

Long term: Long-term efforts include on-going efforts to maintain a safe, enjoyable park environment in Stanbery Park for Mt. Washington businesses and residents. Efforts can also improve quality of life for unhoused in the community.

On-going Efforts:

CPD is gearing up to provide on-going support/maintenance for the upcoming warm months of 2025, including:

- Meeting with City of Cincinnati resources/partners on March 7, 2025, including District 2 NLU, Parks Department and City Manager's Office
- CPD Efforts in 2025 include:
 - Dispatched Directed Patrols
 - Enforcement of Park Rules/or any criminal activities
 - Drone flying over in Stanbery Park periodically
 - Meeting with St. Vincent DePaul and Goodwill with a reminder to lock donated items up
 - Goodwill has agreed to have Rumpke do weekly pick up of any items on their property
 - Beat Officer daily check in with NLU officer with concerns to address
 - NLU daily check in with Park Maintenance Crew of Stanbery Park
 - Weekly check in with City Manager's office, ARC and D2 Community Response Team for individuals needing services
 - Seeking out permanent housing opportunities for homeless individuals via homess outreach team (Department of Veterans Affairs)
 - The team has seen some success setting up housing for homeless veterans