

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FAQs

New Members and Prospective members may sign up to volunteer for patrols by visiting our website at www.riverparknw.com or by emailing the Watch Coordinator at riverparknw@gmail.com.

In general, a Neighborhood Watch patrol is a non-confrontational, observation and reporting service provided to the neighborhood. Leave policing and law enforcement to the trained professionals at the Oxnard Police Department (www.oxnardpd.org). The group never serves as an extension of City Code Enforcement. If suspected criminal activity is observed while on patrol, report it **immediately** using a cellular telephone (805-385-8307). Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the RiverPark Neighborhood Watch. Withdraw to a location where you can continue to observe the suspected crime location and record notes until the police arrive. There are more specific suggestions provided in the Patrols section of this website.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do patrols take up a lot of time?

Patrols are easy and don't take up a lot of time. Patrols last 30 - 45 minutes depending on the area being covered. You do the patrols when you have time since the NWP no longer assigns a schedule to volunteers.

2. When can I do my patrols?

You may already be out walking your dog and/or going for a jog. All you would have to do is make note of anything suspicious, any graffiti around the neighborhood, and/or park trash cans being filled to its capacity and then report it to the appropriate authorities. You can find a list of who to contact by visiting our website and clicking on "Report an Issue/Concern".

3. How often am I assigned patrols?

The NWP no longer assigns a schedule for volunteers. Volunteers usually report any issues they come across.

4. Do I do patrols alone?

We do not recommend you conduct patrols alone. Most patrols are conducted in pairs and can be made up of existing members of the organization or with spouses.

5. Are patrols dangerous?

No, patrols are not dangerous. However, there is always the potential that it may be if you witness a crime in progress. Please remember to do your patrols in pairs and take a cell phone with you at all times in case of an emergency.

6. Does it cost money to be a part of the NWP?

No, there is no charge for being a part of the organization nor do we anticipate charges in the future.

7. I don't have time to do patrols, is there another way I can help with the NWP?

Yes! You can always keep an eye out for suspicious activities, graffiti, trash, etc. and report it to the NWP by visiting our website (www.riverparknw.com) and clicking on "Report an Issue/Concern". You can also donate flashlights, paper, old digital cameras, clip boards, black electric tape, etc. These are items frequently used during our patrols. Finally, the most important thing you can do to help is to tell all of your friends and neighbors about our program to see if they want to get involved.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FAQs

8. Has the NWP been effective in our community?

Yes! Graffiti is usually reported to the Community Coordinator and Watch Coordinator within 24-48 hours. After the report is made, clean up occurs within 48 hours. We have been able to keep graffiti to a minimum. We have also helped the Oxnard Police Department identify some of the individuals responsible for the graffiti. Trash at parks has also been dealt with in a timely manner which has kept our parks clean. For more information, attend the monthly Neighborhood Council meetings where the Watch Coordinator will provide an update on the issues in our community.

9. Does our NWP collaborate with other NWP in Oxnard?

We have attempted to collaborate with the El Rio Neighborhood Watch Program and have shared ideas of best practices with other NWP.

10. How do I join?

Contact the Watch Coordinator by emailing riverparknw@gmail.com. Formal training is scheduled on an as needed basis and is usually led by the Oxnard Police Department. If an Oxnard Police Officer is available, we can schedule a ride-along which will offer you a different perspective on patrols.

Something to Think About

A Word from our former Oxnard Police Department Beat Coordinator, Officer Rangel: "When somebody asks why we should have a NW, it's because you're cultivating a partnership between community, police, schools, and in this case, the builders to maintain a high level quality of life. Remember, with time the population is going to grow. With growth come crime, traffic, and other issues related to quality of life."