DEVIAN'T BEHAVIOR IN PARKS AND RECREATION

Officer Bob Dorinsky has been involved in undercover operations at Dillon State Park since the 1990s and was promoted to Law Enforcement Staff Officer in 2005. His primary duty was to become the coordinator of the Division’s undercover operations related to criminal sexual activity in public areas. Officer Dorinksy’s goal for his presentation was to share information on the issue of illegal sexual activity in public areas so that together we can learn to improve our efforts in confronting this deviant behavior.

Why park areas?

Most park restroom facilities meet the needs of persons engaged in this type of activity because of accessibility and privacy in a public area. There are common physical symptoms present when an area is used for this type of unlawful activity. Graffiti often accompanied by pornographic drawings with meeting dates and times. The area is typically littered with used condoms and evidence of loitering (cigarettes, beverage containers) deposited in the restroom and trail areas. Additional, you can watch for holes in restroom dividers, which are referred to as “glory holes” created for the purpose of allowing anonymous impersonal sex. Vandalism can be seen in the area as well as worn paths into the woods leading to know where.

Training

Officers will need to become familiar with the rules of “entrapment” as it relates to dialog between the operative and suspects. Every officer participating in the operation should be aware of each other’s duties throughout the detail, with a strong emphasis on officer safety. It is also vital for law enforcement to involve those persons who control budget dollars and who prosecute and try our cases to also take ownership of this problem. Invite these same people to the problem areas to witness the physical symptoms and activity of this criminal behavior. Meet with the prosecutor and review ORC Laws specific to this type of criminal activity. Discuss the elements that will be required for successful prosecution. Use the media as a tool sending a clear message to both violators and your community that your agency is committed to aggressively prosecuting persons who engage in unlawful activity in public places.
The Detection and Investigation of Illegal Sexual Behavior in Public Areas

Division Law Enforcement Section
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks & Recreation

Revised 1/2008
We don’t have this problem!

- State Parks
- Metro Parks
- City Parks
- Community Parks

This behavior only happens at parks!
Topics for Today’s Presentation

- Recognizing the Problem
- Investigate
- Selection & Training of Officers
- Equipment
- Operational Plan
- Controlled Visitation to Discourage Illegal Activity
Recognizing the Problem

Detection - Physical Symptoms

- Graphic graffiti containing sexual solicitation
- Worn paths in nearby wooded areas
- The presence of pornographic material, magazines, adult sexual aids
- Acts of vandalism, holes in restroom dividers and exterior walls
Recognizing the Problem

- **Detection - Activity**
  - The presence of single males loitering in and around restroom areas
  - Heavy vehicle traffic in remote areas (especially early morning, noon, and after work)
  - Citizen complaints of public sex
  - The promoting of sexual activity in public areas
    - cruisingforsex.com
    - ohiosexconnection69.com
Investigate

- Identify the agency purpose of the investigation
- Documentation
  - Photograph
    - Restroom vandalism and graffiti
    - Evidence of sexual activity - used condoms
    - Importing of pornography
- Reports
  - Timely reports should be initiated when incidents occur
  - Document citizen complaints (very important)
Investigate cont.

- Intelligence Files
  - Maintain an intelligence file containing incident reports, evidence and photos
  - License plate files
  - Field Identification file containing detailed information on persons questioned for unlawful or suspicious activity in the area of the investigation
Selection

- Evaluation of Personnel
  - Male & Female officers can be used
  - Selection of an officer experienced in report writing and courtroom testimony
  - The officer should be physically fit and able to defend him/herself
  - The officer must be able to play or act in a non-aggressive role
Review of Laws

- Sexual Imposition: 2907.06
- Importuning: Rescinded (State v Thompson, 2002)
- Public Indecency: 2907.09
- Soliciting: 2907.24
- Criminal Mischief: 2909.07
- Disorderly Conduct: 2917.11
- Obstructing Official Business: 2921.31
- Obstructing Justice: 2921.23
Training

- Coordinator’s Responsibility
  - Prepare a briefing document (outlining)
    - Intelligence information
  - Maps
  - Restroom diagrams
  - Trails
  - Roads
  - Participant assignments
  - Identify radio communications
  - Arrest and vehicle search protocols
Training

- Coordinator’s Responsibility Con’t
  - Review officer safety practices
    - Identify boundaries for the operative
    - Clearly establish the role of the back up officers
    - Communication protocol in the event of emergency situations
Training

☀ Coordinator’s Responsibility Con’t
  ☀ Arrest Protocols
    ☀ The emphasis on professional conduct should be encouraged, specifically with the treatment of persons under arrest
    ☀ Post arrest interview
    Charges of minor infractions not related to the operation
Equipment

- **Body Wire**
  - Officer safety or evidence collection

- **Voice Recorders**
  - Evidence Collection

- **Video Recording**
  - Evidence Collection

- **Audio Receiver**
  - Officer safety
    - Plain Clothes back up officer
    - Uniform backup officer
  - Communications
    - Command center

- **Weapons & Methods of Carry**
  - Division Authorized Weapons in approved holsters
  - Specialized Duty Weapon
  - Qualification takes place at in-service

- **K-9 for Vehicle Search**
Operational Plan

- Develop an “Operational Plan” for covert operations with a “Purpose Statement” that outlines the intent of the operation
- Involve administrators, prosecutors, and judges
- Establish investigative protocols specific to the unlawful activity
- Incorporate Community Assistance
- Develop clear channels for Media Contact
Key Elements for Operations

- Recognize and document the illegal activity
- Do your homework – investigate
- Selection and training of personnel
- Proper equipment
- Know the elements of the illegal activity
- Develop operational plan
- Prepare your prosecutor and administrators
Control Visitation to Discourage Illegal Activity

- Scheduled Closing of an Area
- Access by Permit
- Remove resources that support behavior
- Specialize Area Activity
Lewis Center Picnic Area

Scheduled Closing of an Area
50 Springs

Access by Permit
Day Use Areas

Remove resources that support behavior
“The back lot of Big Oaks picnic area was always an area that was high maintenance for our officers and maintenance staff. Our officers had always worked the area and had made several arrests for illegal sexual and drug activity. It was also known well known as a “hook up” area. People would meet there and leave the park to go to the “no tell motels in the area”. Our maintenance staff was always cleaning up beer bottles, adult magazines, condoms, trash and sometimes clothes. A couple of years ago the restrooms that served the area was burned to the ground by vandals. That restroom always had the typical sexual based writing on the walls. It would reappear as fast as we could paint over it. The area had become an eyesore and had a bad reputation.”
I know, as a father, I was always looking for a large, safe parking lot for my kids to learn how to ride their bikes, big wheels, roller blades, and other devices I would buy them, without the fear of a vehicle driving through the lot. I would go to the parking lots of businesses that were closed but there would always be vehicles driving around. I also thought it would be great to combine an area where the kids could ride their bikes, swing, play 4-square, and hopscotch and not worry about dodging cars.
Big Oaks Kids Fun Zone

Specialize Area Activity