

Hello All, Thanks for organizing the meeting this evening. As a neighbor living close to and often visiting Smalley Park, I can speak to some safety issues I've witnessed over several years.

The children's play area (just this morning inhabited by a good sized group of active preschoolers and their supervisors) is a popular spot for tenters. Aside from tenters leaving trash, their presence next to slides and the play area means that area is no longer available for the kids.

The park in general: Smalley Park is also home to a baseball field recently renovated and a popular basketball court. Safety concerns relating to these activities include broken glass, needles, and all variety of trash. I've seen evidence of small fires set within the park. This past summer featured an encampment so spread out that it impinged on the basketball court.

It sounds to me as if this meeting is more about safety issues than another citywide concern; that of camping in the parks. But the camping brings its own safety issues as well.

Thanks for your attention to an issue that is facing so many cities.