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A More Peaceful Holladay Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

fort indoors as well.

“It’s community involvement to occupy spaces with positive activities,” he said.

As he munched on chips and talked with volunteer Lisa Klein, who was handing out chips and other snacks, Ray Turner Jr. of Portland 5 Center for the Arts agreed that utilizing city parks is important.

“If we don’t, someone else will,” he said.

Serving snow cones for the celebration was Steve Dilworth of Because People Matter, leading a group of young people who have taken a snow cone machine and performed music at parks in Portland and Gresham that have been impacted by violence or higher crime rates.

Portland police and the mayor

asked us to show up with our snow cones and music,” he said. “Our people bring joy to the park and that lessens negative behavior.”

Some groups, like Connect, simply walk the parks on a regular basis and others, like SOLVE, work to keep the parks clean. Park rangers have also ridden along with police officers on patrol.

Despite improvements, the news isn’t all good. Although reports of assaults and disturbances have fallen since May, calls about stolen vehicles and collisions have increased.

Passadore said police are keeping a close eye on crime statistics as a team of one sergeant and four officers shift their focus not only to Holladay but to other hotspot parks in northeast Portland.

“Our goals is to measure our success, learn from it and create a long-term strategy,” he said.



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