

Technology+

CASE STUDY

THE USE OF CCTV SECURITY CAMERAS IN JEFFERSONTOWN VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FOR CITIZENS SAFETY

JEFFERSONTOWN
VETERANS
MEMORIAL PARK

10707 TAYLORSVILLE ROAD



Public parks serve as essential communal spaces for recreation, exercise, and socialization. Ensuring the safety of visitors in these areas is paramount. One approach that has gained traction is the installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) security cameras. This case study explores the implementation, benefits, challenges, and outcomes of using CCTV cameras in Jeffersonsontown Veterans Memorial Park for enhancing citizen safety.

Location

Jeffersontown Veterans Memorial Park, a suburban park located in the heart of Jeffersontown, KY.

Objective

To enhance safety and security for park visitors through the use of CCTV surveillance. To protect the veterans memorials from vandalism.

Stakeholders

Jeffersontown Mayor & City Council
Local law enforcement
Park visitors
Community advocacy groups

IMPLEMENTATION

Planning and Installation:

- Assessment:** A comprehensive safety assessment was conducted to identify high-risk areas within the park, such as secluded pathways, playgrounds, and parking lots. Identifying locations of existing and proposed memorials to be monitored for acts of vandalism.
- Technology Selection:** Avigilon, High-definition CCTV cameras with night vision capabilities and motion detection sensors were chosen to ensure clear footage in various lighting conditions.
- Placement:** Cameras were strategically placed at key locations, including park entrances, major pathways, playgrounds, restrooms, and parking areas.
- Integration:** The CCTV system was integrated with the local police department's monitoring center to ensure real-time surveillance and quick response to incidents.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Meetings were held to inform officials about the benefits and address concerns regarding privacy.
- Feedback from local law enforcement and public works departments was considered to ensure the system addressed public safety without compromising civil liberties.

Benefits

Enhanced Safety:

- **Incident Response:** Real-time monitoring enabled quick dispatch of law enforcement officers to the scene of incidents, reducing response times.
- **Criminal Investigation:** Capturing / storing video footage of crimes committed has led to prosecution of criminals and restitution of damages.

Property Protection:

- **Deterrence:** City of Jeffersontown has made significant financial investments in the construction of several memorial exhibits for the veterans. The fear of vandalism was of great concern by the stakeholders. The presence of visible cameras acted as a deterrent to criminal activities such as vandalism and theft.

Crime Reduction:

- A noticeable decrease in petty crimes and anti-social behavior was reported within months of the CCTV installation.
- Specific areas previously identified as crime hotspots saw significant improvements in safety.

Public Perception:

- Park visitors indicated an increase in the perceived safety of the park.
- Regular park users, including joggers, families, and elderly visitors, expressed greater confidence in using the park, even during early morning or late evening hours.

Challenges

Privacy Concerns:

- Measures were taken to address privacy concerns, such as limiting camera angles to public areas and ensuring footage was stored securely and accessed only by authorized personnel.

Technical Issues:

- Connectivity to local government data network & Internet. The park covers a lot of ground and different areas that did not have electricity and network/Internet connections. To overcome this challenge, we deployed a secure, wireless & wired network throughout the park to allow cameras in all areas to communicate back to the secure network where cameras could be monitored real time and recorded footage could be stored.
- Technology Plus provides ongoing monitoring for proper performance and vandalism of system.
- Maintenance plan in place ensures that system remains updated for security updates and proper remote monitoring.

Outcomes

Crime Statistics:

- Since the implementation, crime statistics indicate a reduction in reported incidents within the park.
- Specific crimes, such as vandalism have also been reduced.

Sustainability:

- The success of the CCTV system in Jeffersontown Veterans Memorial Park led to plans for expanding similar security measures to other parks and public spaces within the city.
- Parks & Recreation department oversees the ongoing management and evaluation of the CCTV system to ensure it continues to meet safety objectives.

Conclusion

The use of CCTV security cameras in Jeffersontown Veterans Memorial Park significantly improved safety and reduced crime, leading to a safer and more welcoming environment for all visitors. While challenges such as privacy concerns and maintenance issues were encountered, proactive engagement and effective management ensured the success of the initiative. This case study demonstrates that with careful planning, transparency, and ongoing evaluation, CCTV surveillance can be a valuable tool in enhancing public safety in public parks.