

Purpose:

To increase the District's ability to arrest criminals by rewarding witnesses who report incidents of theft, vandalism, or other criminal activities of or on park property and facilities.

Policy:

The Vashon Park District will accept donations from community members who wish to establish a reward for information resulting in the arrest and conviction of criminals charged with acts resulting from a specific incident.

The dollar amount of the reward must be commensurate with specific donations made for an act or acts of criminal activity. District funds may not be budgeted for reward purposes.

Procedure:

- Acts of criminal activity will be reported to the community via local media and/or social media.
- Community members will be encouraged to donate to a reward fund at the District's discretion via local media, social media, and/or park signage.
- Donations for a reward fund will be accounted for in a specific income account in the District's accounting system.
- Instructions for reporting an act in progress will include the following:
 - **Be Alert:** If you see suspicious activity in progress, report it immediately.
 - **Call 911:** Go to a safe location and call the police.
 - **Provide Details:** Tell the police what you saw, where the incident occurred, what the suspect looked like, what they were wearing, and what the activity was. You may request to remain confidential if you do not wish to be contacted by the police department. You will need to provide your name in order to get a police report number to obtain a reward.
 - **Be Safe:** Do not make contact with the suspect. Listen to the instructions from the police department and do not do any investigation work.

Instructions for collecting the reward will include:

- **Follow Up:** Call the police department 2-3 days later to determine if an arrest was made. If an arrest was made from your call, then you are eligible for a reward. Request the police report number.
- **Reward:** Contact the Vashon Park District and request the criminal reward. You will be asked for the police report number, incident date and your name. Once the information is verified, the criminal reward can be issued.

Applicability:

This policy applies to all donations made for criminal activities on Vashon Park District properties where a reward has been offered, including petty infractions (graffiti), misdemeanors (illegal dumping), theft, burglary, and acts of vandalism. Vashon Park District staff and Commissioners are not eligible for a reward.