

CRIME ALERT

Powderhorn Park

July 28, 2009

Facts:

On July 27 at approximately 10:00 p.m., a sexual assault occurred in Powderhorn Park. The female victim was pushed to the ground and sexually assaulted by a male not known to her. The suspect fled the scene on a bike.

The suspect was described as a Latino male, approximately 5' 9", 24-25 years of age. He wore blue jeans and a white t-shirt with red and blue stripes.

If you have any information about this assault, please contact the Sex Crimes Unit at 612-673-3081.

This is only the rape of any type in the park so far this year and the only stranger rape in the immediate vicinity of the park.

What you can do:

- Be extra cautious about your surroundings. Trust your instincts. Be aware of strangers loitering in your area.
- If at all possible, travel in groups or pairs, not alone—especially after dark. There is safety in numbers.
- If you are out walking after dark, plan and use the safest and most direct route to your destination.
- Be wary of isolated spots.
- Use strong body language by walking with confidence and purpose, head up.
- If you think someone is following you, switch directions and walk to a place where there are other people.
- **Call 911** immediately to report any suspicious activity.

If you are confronted by a potential attacker:

- Call attention to yourself by yelling, using loud verbal commands, a screech alarm, or other noise to attract attention to the attacker.
- Talk; stall for time; assess your options.
- Keep distance between yourself and a potential attacker by walking or running away and/or placing obstacles between you and the attacker (car, bus shelter, etc.)
- Do what you need to do to survive. Your single most effective weapon is your own judgment.
- **Call 911 and report it.**
- Inform the responding officers if you see something that may have been handled or left behind by the suspect (cigarette butt, pop can, etc.).

For more information about personal safety and other crime prevention information, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Notsch (612-673-2856 or karen.notsch@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).



If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the Minneapolis Police Department at 612-673-2912.