

# Glendale's O'Neil Park under siege from vandals

New amenities, including bowl-game football field, keep suffering damage since recent refurbishment



(CITY OF GLENDALE PHOTOS, SUBMITTED)

These side-by-side images show the new multipurpose sport court that had been installed at O'Neil Park as recently as this past November, and the same court after suffering vandalism.

Posted Tuesday, February 28, 2023 3:14 pm

## **IF YOU GO**

What: Community meeting about O'Neil Park vandalism

When: 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 1

Where: O'Neil Park, 6448 W. Missouri Ave., Glendale



By [Steve Stockmar](#)

Mail |

Twitter: [@stevestockmar](#)

A community park that has been in the city of Glendale's park system for 62 years and has received everything from donated structures to volunteer hours — not to mention the Guaranteed Rate Bowl game sod — in the past few months is under a vandalism siege.

The city reports O'Neil Park, 6448 W. Missouri Ave., in the Ocotillo District, has been vandalized on five occasions since November, when most of the recent refurbishment took place.

There has been graffiti sprayed on play structures, sports courts and buildings. Basketball backboards have been shattered, and the brand-new Fiesta Bowl Basketball Court that was installed has been burned.

Also, the [game-used sod from the 2022 Guaranteed Rate Bowl](#) in downtown Phoenix, another donation by Fiesta Bowl Charities, has been damaged throughout various sections of the field.

Just this past November, volunteers came by the dozens to assist with installing new amenities. More than 100 volunteers from Fiesta Bowl Charities, BHHS Legacy Foundation, Palo Verde, Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority and Kaboom! came together to build the state-of-the-art playgrounds and a sport court that would be used by more than 6,000 children each year.

The Kaboom! playground project suffered from vandalism as well. Both playgrounds, one for 2- to 5-year-olds and the other playground for 5- to 12-year-olds, were damaged by vandals.

The neighborhood will gather this week to seek answers.

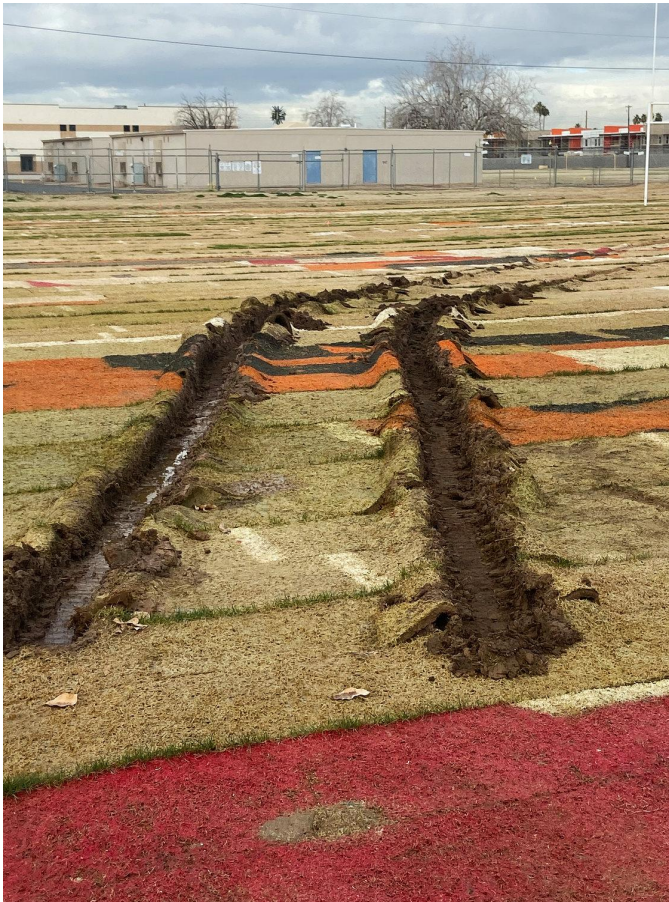
A meeting will take place at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 1, at the park at the intersection of 64th and Missouri avenues. Councilmember Jamie Aldama, of the Ocotillo District, and Glendale Police Sgt. Randy Stewart will be on hand.

“We will be asking the public for any information that someone might have to help us figure out who caused the damage,” Stewart told the Independent via email on Tuesday. “Our detectives are looking for leads to help investigate the case.”

Fiesta Bowl Charities just this year installed the 80,000-square-foot football field in partnership with the BHHS Legacy Foundation and the AZSTA as the final step in the new complex.

Before receiving the new play space, O'Neil Park had featured outdated infrastructure at the end of its lifespan of use.

This 11-acre community park has been part of the Glendale park system since 1961. O'Neil Park includes the O'Neil Recreation Center, which offers a variety of after-school activities for kids.



(CITY OF GLENDALE PHOTOS, SUBMITTED)

Fiesta Bowl Charities donated the turf used at the Guaranteed Rate Bowl on Dec. 27 at Chase Field to Glendale, which had installed the field at O'Neil Park earlier this year. A photo provided by the city shows recent vandalism to the turf.



(CITY OF GLENDALE PHOTOS, SUBMITTED)

Vandals have also destroyed sections of fencing at O'Neil Park in Glendale.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

More than 100 volunteers from Fiesta Bowl Charities, BHHS Legacy Foundation, Palo Verde, Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority and KABOOM! came together this past November to refurbish O'Neil Park, which has been in the city since 1961.