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With a large turnout expected for the City of Burleson's free concert and fireworks show on the Fourth of July, the Burleson Police Department is coordinating efforts to make the celebration proceed smoothly.

More than half a dozen officers will be working traffic and crowd control around Hidden Creek Sports Complex during the event, slated for 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, July 4. That number is in addition to the officers who will be handling patrol calls throughout the rest of the city.

Also assisting officers will be members of the Citizens on Patrol Program (COPs) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

This year marks the 11th annual Fourth of July Independence Day celebration. The fun takes place at the sports complex at 295 E. Hidden Creek Parkway. Fans can start setting up their blankets and chairs at 5 p.m. "Men in Black" will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. and perform a tribute to American icons Johnny Cash and Roy Orbison. Immediately following the concert, there will be a 20-minute fireworks extravaganza choreographed to patriotic music.

Food is available at the concession stand. The rest of the festivities, as well as parking, are free.

Employees of the City's parks and recreation department will be barricading and manning road closures on Dobson Street. Dobson Street will be closed at the intersection with Miller Street and at the intersection with Hidden Creek Parkway effective at 3 p.m. on July 4th. These closures are necessary because the staging for the fireworks show is on Dobson Street, south of the soccer fields.

Parking for the concert and fireworks is prohibited in the Hidden Creek Estates subdivision, located across from the sports complex. Parking in that subdivision will be reserved for residents and their guests, only. Residents of Hidden Creek Estates are encouraged to have guests arrive prior to 5 p.m. when the park opens for the festivities.

Police expect most of the Fourth of July traffic congestion to be on the I-35W service roads, both the north and south side, from Renfro Street to the Briar Oaks

overpass. Congestion is also expected on South Dobson Street, Hidden Creek Parkway, and East Renfro Street.

Parking will be allowed in the medians between the I-35W service roads and I-35W as long as the traffic exits on to the median from the service roads, not from the interstate. Police say there is a safety issue with I-35W traffic slowing down to a speed that is safe enough to pull on to the median. Parking in the median will be permitted as long as it does not affect the traffic flow on the service roads. All traffic that parks on the median between I-35W and the service road must enter and exit the median from the service road.

Fireworks enthusiasts will be able to park at the soccer fields on Dobson Street, but they will not be allowed to walk to the Hidden Creek Sports Complex since Dobson Street will be closed. Dobson will be closed to drivers attempting to reach Hidden Creek Parkway. Those who park at the soccer field will have to view the fireworks from the soccer fields. Parking will be allowed at the Burleson Community Center on Hidden Creek Parkway. Those who park at the community center will be allowed to walk to Hidden Creek Sports Complex.

Parking will be allowed on eastbound Hidden Creek Parkway, from Dobson Street to Hidden Lake Drive. No parking will be allowed on westbound Hidden Creek Parkway or on any bridges.

There will be additional parking in the Old Town area for those who want to watch the fireworks.

There are two exits from the sports complex parking lot. Those who exit from the east side will be funneled toward I-35W. Those who turn on to Hidden Creek from the west exit will go toward Dobson Street to get back on I-35W or CR 714.

No fireworks, including sparklers, will be allowed at Hidden Creek Sports Complex. The storage, use, possession and sale of fireworks, with the exception of the professional show, is prohibited inside the Burleson city limits and within 5,000 feet of the city limits.

Chairs are allowed at the sports complex, but shade structures are not. Pets on leashes are also allowed at the concert and fireworks celebration, but alcohol and glass bottles are not. Cigarette smoking is permitted in designated areas of the park.

The sports complex and golf course are located at I-35W and Hidden Creek Parkway. For more information about the event, call the City of Burleson Parks and Recreation department at 817-295-8168.