

SHINE – A program of Oklahoma County Government that saves taxpayer dollars and improves the community

What is SHINE?

SHINE stands for Start Helping Impacted Neighborhoods Everywhere. It was created by Oklahoma County Commissioner Brian Maughan to better serve the public and to make low-level offenders do true community service.

Under SHINE, judges sentence non-violent offenders to do a certain number of hours of community service. They are assigned to supervised SHINE crews who go out into the community to do meaningful work that makes Oklahoma County neighborhoods and business districts safer, cleaner, better places for all.

How Much Does SHINE Save?

So far SHINE has reduced jail populations by about 80 inmates per day. At a daily incarceration cost of about \$40 per inmate, that's a savings of almost \$1.5 million in just the first year of SHINE. Plus, the county is not liable for medical services to those not in jail.

SHINE also saves uncounted dollars by deploying non-salaried SHINE crews who are working off their debt to society to do work that would ordinarily cost taxpayer dollars. When SHINE crews remove dumped trash, trim brush or clear out a transient camp on public property, they do the work of a county or city crew of a dozen or more. SHINE has saved money for local schools, city governments and non-profit groups alike.

What Are Some SHINE Success Stories?

Crystal Lake in far west Oklahoma City is the city's largest public park, but it had become almost unusable thanks to widespread dumping of refuse. SHINE crews have worked for months to remove some 2,200 dumped tires, clear brush, trim trees and upgrade the lakefront. Now, youth and Scouting groups are planning to return to Crystal Lake, a restored jewel of the city park system.

SHINE has also partnered with local police to remove graffiti from both public areas and private property, with owner permission. When police spot new graffiti, they relay the location to SHINE and a crew soon arrives to clean or paint over the mess.

Who Supports SHINE?

SHINE has drawn statewide and national attention as a model program. Locally, Chesapeake Energy, a county housing authority and the City of Oklahoma City have become funding partners with SHINE to make it even more effective and to underwrite supervision and equipment costs.

Most of all, SHINE has been a tremendous success with neighborhood associations and local community groups whose requests for litter cleanup and graffiti removal had long been lost in red tape.

