Safety City Lubbock
From Then to Now
What Is Safety City?

Safety City is a 2 ½-acre miniature city built to teach good safety habits to youngsters. This miniature city is a simulation of the real traffic environment, incorporating many of the features and traffic hazards found in the actual community.

Safety City Program has been developed to aid second and fourth grade teachers in planning and organizing learning experiences that will effectively teach rules of pedestrian, bicycle and automobile safety to second and fourth grade elementary students.

At Safety City, children will be able to practice the lessons they have learned in the classroom in a realistic setting. The hands-on approach will result in a better understanding of the traffic environment and its dangers.
How Will Safety City Work?

- After completing a two-week class study of safety procedures, children will make a field trip to Safety City. Upon arrival at the miniature city, a trained volunteer will present a short discussion about safety procedures to the children. Afterwards, each child will have the opportunity to practice the safety techniques taught in the classroom phase on the streets of Safety City.

- Youngsters will be divided into three separate groups—pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. The children will rotate throughout the three groups and thus, get to practice all safety procedures with the supervision of trained volunteers. Potential safety “hazards” such as over-passes, construction zones, railroad crossing and school zones are included so that children can learn how to react to these circumstances in real-life situations.
How Long Did It Take?

1987

Idea from Suzie King, Community Research/Development Chairperson with Junior League

Dr. Velma Ruth Shambeck, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education with Lubbock Independent School District and Dr. Mike Moses, Superintendent

Met with Community Center Directors and City of Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department to decide on a site.

Gary Higdon with Granite Construction agreed to help with the site development and construction of site improvements.

1989/1990

Parks and Recreation Board votes unanimously to support the project and project was presented to the Lubbock City Council.
Where Will Safety City Be Located?

The City of Lubbock City Council voted to donate the land located at K.N. Clapp Park, 46th and Avenue

1. Overpass
2. Classroom Facility
3. Staging Area/Electric Car-Bicycle Parking and Fire House
4. Observation Tower
5. Depot
6. Caboose
7. City Hall
8. Maintenance Building
9. School House
10. Fire Station
11. Church
Replica

Safety City

K.N. CLAPP PARK
46th Street and Avenue U
January 1991

Steering Committee was formed to oversee Safety City development and secure the needed funds.

Junior League of Lubbock donated $60,000 to start the funds. ($775,000 needed to offset the estimated cost)

The Steering Committee approached businesses to have them sponsor a miniature building with their sign and logo to maintain and lease for 10 years for $7,500 or $10,000.

The City of Lubbock will provide maintenance and upkeep of the facility once it is built.

Lubbock Independent School District developed the curriculum and will provide transportation for 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} grade students to Safety City and will train all Elementary Crossing Guards at the site.

The Lubbock Chapter of American Institute of Architects designed the site and the adjacent classroom facility. Many other businesses, civic groups, PTAs and concerned citizens also supported and additional cash and in-kind gifts were given to fund the facility and to keep it in operation.
How Long Did It Take?

May 1991

Safety City’s Groundbreaking Ceremony

April 26, 1993

Safety City’s Grand Opening

August 1993

L.I.S.D students took field trips to Safety City

1996

Safety City begins opening to the public
Safety City continues to educate students from Lubbock ISD (second grade) and have included schools districts in the following counties: Crosby, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock (6), Lynn and Terry Cities within a 50 mile radius
What’s Happening Now

❖ Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

❖ Field Trips and Tours

Groups interested in a future safety class can tour the facility.
(Church Groups, Scout Troops)

❖ Safety City Health and Safety Fairs

Parents and children will be able to visit over 25 booths hosted by local health and fitness organizations and education on the correct way to install a carseat.

❖ Trick or Treat Street

A night filled with fairies, superheroes for a friendly trick-or-treat extravaganza.
What’s Happening Now

❖ Summer Activities
   Summer Camp for ages 6 – 12 years old (swimming and other activities)

❖ Bicycle Lessons
   Bring your bicycle and helmets for a perfect fit

❖ Birthday Parties
   Facility rental (cannot use equipment)

❖ Special Needs Programs
   Safety City has ADA compliant equipment for children with disabilities.
Programs Offered and How Is It Operated

- Traffic Safety Programs to cover Bicycle, Pedestrian and Railroad, in addition to Electrical and Fire Safety
- Safety City is staffed with 2 full-time employees and 1 maintenance worker
- The Fire Department has 3 people who are rotated for Fire Safety Instruction.
How Many Children Visit Safety City

2015 - 2016

2015  5,606 Participants and 13,156 People attended Special Events

2016  1,955 Participants and 13,678 People attended Special Events

Special Events:
- Bicycle Lessons
- Birthday Parties
- Trunk-A-Treat
- Christmas Carnival
- Carseat Checkup Events
- Summer Camps
- Health/Safety Resource Fairs

Participants:
- Public and Private School Districts
- Day Cares
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Open Recreation
- Special Needs

Special Events: Christmas Carnival, Trunk-A-Treat for Halloween
Provide Educational Material for participants
- Tex and Dot coloring books
- Buckle Up coloring books
- Other age appropriate material
- Presentations on Traffic Safety topics
- Carseat Checkup Events/Safety Fairs
- Meeting Space for Steering Committee/Training
- TxDOT Sign Shop Has Helped
- Provide information/training for grant opportunities
What’s Happening Across the State

Safety Cities/Towns in Texas
"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead
Make a difference in your community

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