

## Michella Welch Timeline

Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1986 (Spring Break)

Puget Park, 3100 N. Proctor



- 1000 HRS- 12-year-old Michella and her two younger sisters left their home at 1500 N. Oakes and went to Puget Park. Michella and one sister rode their bikes and the other sister was on roller skates.
- 1100-1130 HRS- Michella left her sisters at the park and rode her bike home to get lunches for all three girls.
- 1100-1130 - 13-year-old witness reported that he was a classmate of Michella's at Grant Elm. He was at Puget Park on the day of the homicide and reported that Michella mentioned that she wanted to go home to pick up some food. **The witness said there was a man snooping around who kept looking at them. The man had been under the Proctor Bridge when they first saw him and then he came into the park. The man went back under the bridge for 5-10 minutes, then came back out and continued to stare at them. The witness called the man a derogatory name. When the man began to approach them, they decided to leave and head toward Michella's house.** The witness said Michella had been looking for her sisters but couldn't find them. The witness described the man in the park as a **W/M, 24-26 YOA, 5'9, skinny, blue jean jacket with holes in it, blue jeans, dirty and ripped white tennis shoes.**
- 1300-1330 – An employee at Michella's school reported that she drove by Puget Park and saw Michella talking to a W/M who was pointing down toward the gulch. She described the male as possibly **Hispanic, 25-35 YOA, 5'8, slender, with black hair, possible moustache and light colored clothing.**
- 1315 HRS – Michella's sisters returned to the park and did not see Michella. They went under the bridge near a cave and played for another half hour or so. They came back up into the park to find Michella's bike chained up with her sister's. The lunches were on the picnic table in a brown paper bag. They went to the edge of the gulch and called Michella's name with no response. They went down a trail into the gulch looking for Michella when their babysitter arrived and called them out.
- 1510 HRS – First officers arrived at the park and began searching gulch.



- 2327 HRS – Michella’s body was located in a fire-pit area within the gulch by a SAR search dog and handler.
- 5/9/86 – 16-year-old female was interviewed. She reported that **approx. 3 weeks before the homicide** (unknown time), she was walking N/B on the east sidewalk approaching the Proctor Bridge in front of Puget Park. She said a W/M jumped out of the shadows from under the bridge and grabbed her by the right arm and attempted to pull her off the sidewalk. The female pulled away and crossed the street; the suspect followed her until she went to the GQ Market lot and told her friends what happened. She and her friends chased the suspect, but lost him in the area. The incident was not reported to police at the time. **The suspect was described as a white or Hispanic male, late 20’s-early 30’s, 5’7, small build, black wavy collar length hair, dirty face, stubble, looked strung-out and had body odor. Wearing black waist length jacket, blue jeans and a large ring on his right ring finger, holding a cigarette.**



Sketch of a suspicious white male described as being 35 to 40 years old, 6’4” with a thin build, narrow face and a long nose. He was wearing tan colored clothing. This person was seen walking quickly from the area of the park by a citizen the day of the incident.



5/12/86 – Metro Parks Employee was interviewed. On 3/13/86, she was doing some gardening work in the area of N. Lawrence and N. Alder when she observed a suspicious male walking down the Puget Park trail toward the intersection of N. Lawrence and N. Alder. When she looked at the man, he would jump into the bushes. He did this several times and then walked back toward the gulch. She described the subject as a W/M, mid 40’s, 6’0-6’4, 210lbs, dark brown hair with some gray, unshaven, bushy dark brown moustache. Suspect was seen wearing a hip length black vinyl jacket and tan pants. She said his clothes looked like they came from a thrift store. She assisted with this sketch.

Numerous tips were called in reporting a subject matching this description, hanging around the park in the weeks prior to the homicide.