



Date: Sept 8, 2016

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Laura Harper, Park Ranger
Geoff Bradley, Environmental Programs Supervisor

Subject: 2016 Summer Ranger Program

BACKGROUND

The Parks & Community Services Department established the Park Ranger Program in 1987 with the development of the Lake Hills Greenbelt management plan. As visitor centers were added with park development, additional rangers were hired to staff these visitor centers and expand environmental programming. Full time park rangers are currently stationed at visitor centers located in the Lake Hills Greenbelt, Lewis Creek Park, and Mercer Slough Nature Park. Park rangers play an integral role in public communication, outreach, and service delivery.

SEASONAL RANGERS

With increased visitation during the busy summer months the park ranger program expands with additional seasonal staff from Memorial Day – Labor Day. Seasonal rangers are uniformed, front line ambassadors for the city providing a daily presence in the parks from 8am – midnight. They work cooperatively with Bellevue police and other agencies to help increase user safety, prevent resource degradation, and improve park user satisfaction. Daily patrols provide park rules education, reduce user conflicts, and decrease undesirable behavior. In addition, rangers lead nature walks designed to increase knowledge and understanding of Bellevue’s natural and cultural resources. Furthermore, they provide minor maintenance activities including trail monitoring, litter pick up, and graffiti removal. Other duties include the following:

- Provide staffing assistance at visitor centers
- Help maintain interpretive signs and kiosks
- Develop and deliver interpretive programs
- Coordinate with appropriate agencies on code violations and wildlife issues
- Maintain records, reports, and statistics on park use
- Assist with community events such as 4th of July, Sea Fair, and Lake to Lake Ride
- Work with Police to remove transient camps from parks
- Patrol Phantom Lake per the LHGB Management Plan

MEYDENBAUER MARINA STAFFING

For the third concurrent season parks rangers have also staffed the Meydenbauer Marina during the summer season. Park rangers greet and assist marina visitors, document park use, provide education on park rules and regulation, and assist with parking and litter control. Information gathered will be important for the future development of Meydenbauer Marina.

2016 SUMMER RANGER ACTIVITY REPORT

The table below illustrates the extent of the outreach efforts provided by the 2016 Summer Park Ranger Program.

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD
Park Patrol - Ranger Staff						
Activity Highlights						
Parks Patrolled	88	1451	1263	1873	421	5096
Parks Locked	15	240	238	285	35	813
Parking Notice Issued	3	21	76	68	6	174
Camping In Park	1	3	5	3	0	12
Vandalism	6	13	13	6	6	98
Immediate Response Requested	0	20	35	29	2	86
Other	0	76	252	312	0	640
User Contacts						
Good Will Contacts**	907	14260	18155	21601	2842	57765
Provided Park User Assistance	25	477	660	546	8	1716
Dogs Off-Leash or in Beach Park	23	76	209	256	20	584
In Park After Hours	27	490	945	778	15	2255

**Since 2015 Goodwill contacts have been defined as actual interaction with citizens.

Park rangers provide a valuable link between the City of Bellevue and its citizens. Rangers provide a friendly, approachable field contact that helps ensure safe and enjoyable user experiences. The Park Ranger Program is just one example of how Bellevue Parks is providing the high level of customer service that separate Bellevue from other cities as a world class city.

CC: Patrick Foran, Director, Parks & Community Services Director,
Shelly McVein, Deputy Director
Dan DeWald, Natural Resource Division Manager