



Date: September 28, 2010
To: Parks & Community Services Board
From: Laura Hughes, Park Ranger
Subject: 2010 Summer Park Ranger Program Brief

Bellevue 2010 Park Ranger Program End of the Year Report

Introduction

Bellevue's Park Ranger Program was established in 1987 as a condition of the Lake Hills Greenbelt and Phantom Lake Management Plan. The Summer Park Ranger Program is supervised by Laura Hughes, Park Ranger at the Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station.

The Program is responsible for responding to summer park patrol needs within the park system. Basic duties include: daily field patrol and response, customer service, public education and marketing, record keeping and reporting. The Park Ranger Program works cooperatively with city staff, and other regional, state and local education and enforcement agencies to facilitate education, improve signage and procedures, and to address various issues on Bellevue park property.

Purpose

The Park Ranger Program is an integral component to the Parks & Community Services Department and the city overall. Park Ranger Program Staff deliver the following services:

- Facilitate and assure a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for visitors.
- Help to protect and interpret park natural, historical, and cultural resources.
- Lead educational and interpretive programs
- Patrol within the entire park system and educate patrons on city park rules and regulations outlined in the Parks & Community Services Facility Code 3.43 (ex: off-leash dogs, transient camps, parking monitoring, etc.).
- Work cooperatively with the Bellevue Police Department, King County Animal Control and Marine Patrol, and other regional and state education and enforcement agencies, to ensure park safety and rule compliance. Document and report violations to appropriate agency.
- Work with the public to incorporate their suggestions into park operational practices.

Goals

The Summer Park Ranger Program strives each year to:

- Promote safe, informed and positive park experiences for the public.
- Allow visitors, now and in the future, to understand and appreciate the City of Bellevue parks through enjoyment, education, interpretation and inspiration.
- Maintain the natural beauty of the parks and park property.



Events for the Year

This year from May 25th - September 11th the Summer Park Ranger Program assisted with several City of Bellevue events.

- Bellevue Strawberry Festival at Crossroads Park
- City of Bellevue 4th of July Celebration at Downtown Park
- Sea Fair Weekend at the 40th Street and Sweylocken Boat Launches
- Community Campout

Interpretive Programs & Marketing Materials:

- Local Bellevue Day Camps
- Kelsey Creek Park Day Camps
- Canoe the Mercer Slough
- Nature walks at Mercer Slough, Lake Hills Greenbelt and Lewis Creek
- Coal Creek Park Interpretive Signage
- Community Farms and Gardens Flyers
- Nature Walk Outlines and Activities

The Park Ranger Program staff assisted with event set up, parking direction, and welcomed and provided hundreds of visitors with information. Outside of the events, our goodwill greetings increased this year, with a concentration during the 4th of July weekend.

Park Rangers also participated in numerous environmental education and interpretation programs. They lead nature walks at the parks, providing visitors with a background on the natural and cultural history of the Bellevue area. By leading canoe tours in the Mercer Slough,

Park Rangers interacted with almost 500 Canoe the Slough participants. While staffing the City's visitor centers, Park Rangers delivered programs, distributed program information, Bellevue park maps and information, and conducted one-on-one environmental interpretation.

The Park Ranger Program Staff have provided wonderful customer service to park visitors, and helped to maintain the safe atmosphere of the City of Bellevue parks. The Park Rangers spoke to roughly 7,000 visitors and educated over 400 off-leash dog owners on leash and scoop laws in parks. This season, the Park Ranger Program has received numerous comments from park visitors. These visitors have not only been impressed with the beautiful parks they are enjoying, but with the comfort in knowing there are Park Rangers present to ask questions to and to look out for their safety.

The Park Ranger Program serves as a valuable link between the City of Bellevue and its citizens and visitors. Park visitors feel closer to the city when they are able to easily meet some of the City's representatives. The Rangers provide a friendly face to give feedback to and a valuable source of information regarding Parks & Community Services events, locations, and policies.



The following chart is a breakdown of the parks patrolled, and the interpretive work that was done by the Summer 2010 Park Ranger Program Staff.

	Jun*	Jul	Aug	Sep*		YTD
Summer Park Ranger Program						
Activity Highlights						
Programs Delivered	8	10	16	7		32
Parks Patrolled	1356	1390	1379	429		3834
Parks Locked	304	486	445	148		707
Parking Notices Issued	35	64	46	12		146
Illegal Camping	1	2	1	2		6
Vandalism	9	11	4	5		31
Immediate Response Requested	11	27	8	1		41
Other	76	23	26	2		104
User Contacts						
Good Wills	2933	3649	2975	573		4472
Provided Assistance	78	135	172	31		525
Dogs Off-Leash or in Beach Park	247	208	188	33		432
In Park After Hours	27	147	502	124		1144

*Summer Ranger staff on duty for partial month.

Cc: Patrick Foran, Director
Shelley McVein, Deputy Director
Dan DeWald, Natural Resource Manager
Geoff Bradley, Environmental Programs Supervisor

