



Date: October 6, 2014
To: Parks & Community Services Board
From: Laura Harper, Park Ranger
Geoff Bradley, Environmental Programs Supervisor
Subject: 2014 Summer Ranger Program

BACKGROUND

The Parks & Community Services Department established the Park Ranger Program in 1987 with the development of the Lake Hills Greenbelt and Phantom Lake Management Plan. Park rangers play an integral role in public communication, outreach, and service delivery. Full time park rangers are currently stationed at visitor centers located in the Lake Hills Greenbelt, Lewis Creek, and Mercer Slough Nature Park. With increased park programming and visitation during the busy summer months the park ranger program expands with additional seasonal staff from May – September.

RANGER DUTIES

Seasonal assistant park 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. Rangers perform daily park patrols to provide education of park rules, reduce user conflicts, and decrease depreciative behavior. In addition, rangers lead environmental programs designed to increase knowledge and understand of Bellevue’s natural and cultural resources. Additionally they provide valuable assistance with special events and minor maintenance activities including litter pick up, graffiti removal, and signage replacement. Other duties include the following:

- Provide staffing assistance at visitor centers
- Assist with development interpretive displays and brochures
- Coordinate with state and local agencies on wildlife issues
- Maintain updated information in the park kiosk system
- Perform park visitation studies, monitor use, and solicit user feedback
- Document and report code violations to BPD, WDFW, or other appropriate enforcement agencies
- Maintain accurate records, reports, and statistics on park use
- Assist with community events such as 4th of July, Sea Fair, Strawberry Festival, and Downtown Park movies
- Hike trail system and report trail conditions, vandalism, user counts, etc.
- Work with Police to remove transient camps from parks
- Patrol Phantom Lake per the LHGB Management Plan

MEYDENBAUER PUBLIC DOCK PILOT STAFFING

This season the City offered staff at the Meydenbauer Marina for the duration of the Summer Ranger Program. This program was managed and staffed by the Park Ranger Program lasting from Memorial Day – Labor Day. We reached over 600 visitors this season at the marina alone and provided the following services:

- Greeted and assisted marina visitors
- Provided noise control
- Alcohol rules education
- Parking management
- Litter control

2014 SUMMER RANGER ACTIVITY REPORT

The table below illustrates the extent of the outreach efforts provided by the 2014 Summer Park Ranger Program.

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD Total
Activities						
Parks Patrolled	164	1176	1547	1889	391	5167
Park Gates Locked	0	182	304	293	10	789
Parking Notice Issued	0	62	79	63	53	257
Camping In Park	2	4	4	4	3	17
Vandalism	8	29	16	17	2	72
Immediate Response	1	10	28	42	7	88
Illegal Action	6	47	216	248	19	536
Other	19	61	52	141	18	291
User Contacts						
Good Wills	2398	21045	34614	28230	4306	90593
Provided Assistance	18	300	685	797	124	1924
Dogs Off-Leash or in Beach Park	54	268	322	297	54	995
In Park After Hours	29	647	946	954	114	2690

*Summer Rangers working only part of the month.

The summer Park Ranger Program serves as 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 enables Bellevue to be a world class city.

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