



Date: October 9, 2012
To: Parks & Community Services Board
From: Laura Harper, Park Ranger
Geoff Bradley, Environmental Programs Supervisor
Subject: 2012 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 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 parks patrol to provide education of park rules, reduce user conflicts, and decrease depreciative behavior. In addition, rangers lead environmental programs design to increase knowledge and understand of Bellevue's natural and cultural resources. They also 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 DTP movies
- Hike trail system and report on trail conditions, vandalism, user counts, etc.
- Work with Police to remove transient camps from Parks
- Patrol Phantom Lake per the LHGB Management Plan

2012 SUMMER RANGER ACTIVITY REPORT

The table below illustrates the extent of the outreach efforts provided by the 2012 Summer Park Ranger Program.

	May*	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep*	YTD
Activities						
Programs Delivered	22	29	33	29	10	123
Parks Patrolled	225	594	1,147	1,100	333	3,339
Parks Locked	81	239	256	225	45	846
Parking Notice Issued	5	65	62	55	5	146
Camping In Park	2	7	9	8	3	29
Vandalism	44	128	28	11	8	211
Immediate Response Requested	1	3	2	18	1	25
Illegal Action	6	45	45	75	16	433
User Contacts						
Good Wills**	3,379	19,321	36,736	64,424	9,476	133,336
Provided Assistance	63	280	312	400	41	633
Dogs Off-Leash or in Beach Park	33	188	317	218	56	784
In Park After Hours	6	767	1,180	1,290	144	3,381

* Summer staff on duty for partial month

** Good Wills include estimated visual contacts based on special event attendance

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