



Dallas Park Rangers Program
Dallas Park and Recreation Department
Park and Recreation Board
January 7, 2016

Overview

- Past: Park Police
- Current: Park Ambassador Program
- New: Park Rangers Program
- Future:
 - Park Rangers Program Phase I
 - Park Rangers Program Phase II



Past: Park Police

- Park Police were hired for patrolling city parks as early as 1894
- By 1906, Park Department contracted with Dallas Police Department to hire additional Park Police during the State Fair of Texas
- In April 1907, the Dallas Park Board approved hiring procedures and rules for Park Police
- By 1980s, 80 officers were assigned to 23 parks from 8:00 a.m. to midnight



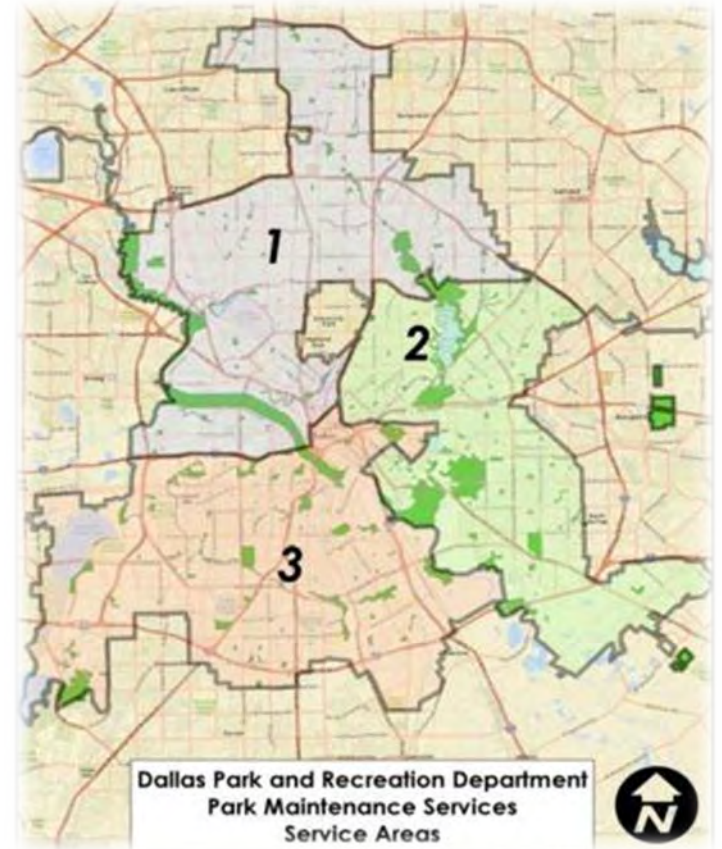
Past: Park Police

- On July 23, 1986, in an effort to streamline services and save costs, the City Council voted to consolidate the Park Police force with the Dallas Police Department (effective October 1, 1986)
- Impacts
 - Security in parks changed from preventive/proactive to reactive
 - Loss of park emphasis



Current: Park Ambassador Program

- Three Park Ambassadors
 - One ambassador per two maintenance district service areas
 - Five day work schedule weekend/evenings
- Current Responsibilities
 - Public Safety
 - Compliance
 - Customer Service



New: Dallas Park Rangers Program

■ Mission Statement

- To recognize and respond to the public's needs by providing an effective and efficient system of services that embodies public safety, meets citizen's expectations and fosters environmental stewardship

■ Purpose

- To ensure the safety and enjoyment of the city's parks and recreation facilities

Dallas Park Rangers Program

- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Public safety
 - Compliance
 - Education
 - Customer service



Dallas Park Rangers Program

- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Public Safety
 - Increase patrol of parks and trails
 - Increase coverage area
 - Identify and address concerns on parks, trails and park facilities
 - Coordinate park safety efforts with other city departments and public safety agencies
 - Perform park inspections



Dallas Park Rangers Program

- Roles and Responsibilities

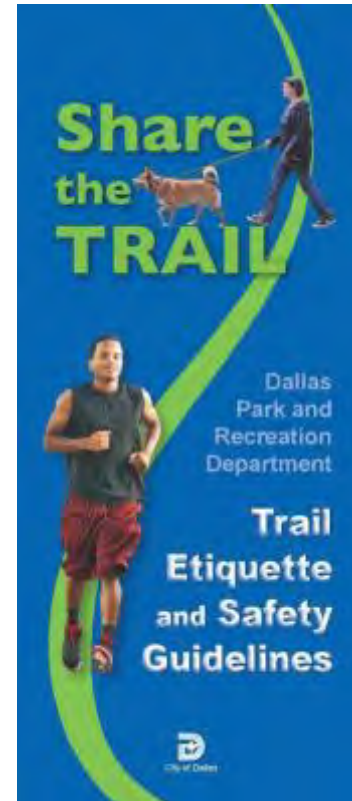
- Compliance

- Enforce City ordinances and park rules
- Address homeless encampments
- Report violations to appropriate enforcement department/agency



Dallas Park Rangers Program

- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Education
 - Provide information to patrons and visitors
 - Trail Safety
 - Anti Litter
 - Environmental Conservation
 - Programs and events



Dallas Park Rangers Program

- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Customer Service
 - Goodwill ambassadors to park users
 - Onsite visitor services
 - Online request forms
 - First Aid and CPR



Dallas Park Rangers Program

- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Athletic Fields
 - Rogue play
 - Alcohol consumption
 - Proper field usage
 - Field conditions/playability



Dallas Park Rangers Program

- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Reservations and Special Events
 - Proper use of pavilions and park grounds
 - Parking
 - Event monitoring



Dallas Park Rangers Program

■ Assignment

- Park Rangers Program will operate as a division of Park Maintenance Services

■ Staffing

- Effective January 1, 2016
 - One full-time Park Ranger Supervisor
 - Six full-time Park Rangers
 - One Park Ranger per Maintenance District
 - Evening and weekend work schedules based on park activity needs and reservation schedules



Dallas Park Rangers Program

Peer City Comparisons of Staffing

City of Austin

- One Supervisor
- 23 full-time Park Rangers



City of Portland

- One Supervisor
- 13 full-time Park Rangers
- 12 seasonal Park Rangers

City of Houston

- One Supervisor
- 36 full-time Urban Park Rangers



Dallas Park Rangers Program



■ Uniforms and Equipment

- Shirts
- Slacks
- Shorts
- Tool belts
- Flashlights
- Name tags
- Badges
- Hats
- Jackets/Coats
- Radios
- Mobile phones



Dallas Park Rangers Program

- Vehicles
 - Trucks with City of Dallas Park Rangers branding



MOCK-UP

Future: Dallas Park Rangers Program — Phase I

- Submit FY16-17 budget enhancement proposal for Park and Recreation Board consideration:
 - 17 additional Park Rangers to include:
 - Six Park Rangers
 - 10 Bike Patrol Rangers
 - One Park Ranger Program Manager
 - Vehicles, bicycles, equipment and uniforms
- Implement citizens on Park Patrol Program



Future: Dallas Park Rangers Program — Phase II

- Submit FY17-18 budget enhancement proposal for Park and Recreation Board consideration:
 - Install permanent and mobile security cameras
 - Implement live monitoring of security cameras
 - Hire off-duty DPD officers and/or Equipment and Building Services (EBS) security officers for night time park patrols and security
 - Consider drone surveillance





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