



Dallas Park & Recreation

Park Ranger Program



**Dallas Park and Recreation Board
November 1, 2018**

Presentation Overview

- Purpose/Background/Overview/Hours of Operation
- Fiscal Year 17/18 “Hot Spot/Routine” Park Visits
- Fiscal Year 17/18 Total Park Visits/Special Events
- Partnership with Results (DPD/ACS/PKR)
- Park Ranger Overview “Partnership with Results”
- Comparisons & Information
- Proposed Park Ranger Timeline/Next Steps

Park Ranger Program Purpose & Background

Park Ranger Purpose

- To support the Department mission by providing efficient and effective services to park visitors that embody public safety and security, while fostering environmental stewardship

Park Ranger Background

- 1986 - Park Police Program disbanded and merged with DPD
- 2004 - Park Ambassadors hired as necessity for athletic field reservations (rogue play, lights and gates)
- 2014 - Park Ambassadors were switched to “Service Agents/Park Rangers” due to:
 - A need for other park related assistance (alcohol consumption, illegal vending, sleeping in public, loose dogs, parking on turf, etc.)
 - To be a liaison to other COD Departments and Park Maintenance and Operations

Park Ranger Program Overview

- Started in 2014
- 9 Park Rangers
- Area – Any of the 397 Parks located in the COD
- Defensive Equipment – OC Spray (coming soon)
- Citation Authority – Limited
- Mode of transportation – Trucks, foot patrol and UTV (coming soon)
- Providing extra eyes and ears for PKR, DPD & COD



Park Ranger Hours of Operation

Summer (May – August)

- Monday – Friday 1:30PM – 10PM
- Saturday/Sunday 10AM – 6:30PM (ES) & 1:30PM – 10PM (LS)

Spring/Fall (March/April/September/October/November)

- Monday – Friday 11:30AM – 8PM
- Saturday/Sunday 10AM – 6:30PM (ES) & 11:30AM – 8PM (LS)

Winter (December – February)

- Monday – Sunday 10:30AM – 7PM

Hot Spot and Routine Park Visits

Hot Spot Park Visits

- Established based upon reoccurring reports of infractions
 - 311 calls, City Council, Park Board, Park Management and various calls or e-mails, etc.
- Assigned to Park Rangers on a daily basis and account for approximately 56% of Park Ranger visits.
- As staffing increases so would the number of Hot Spot Park visits

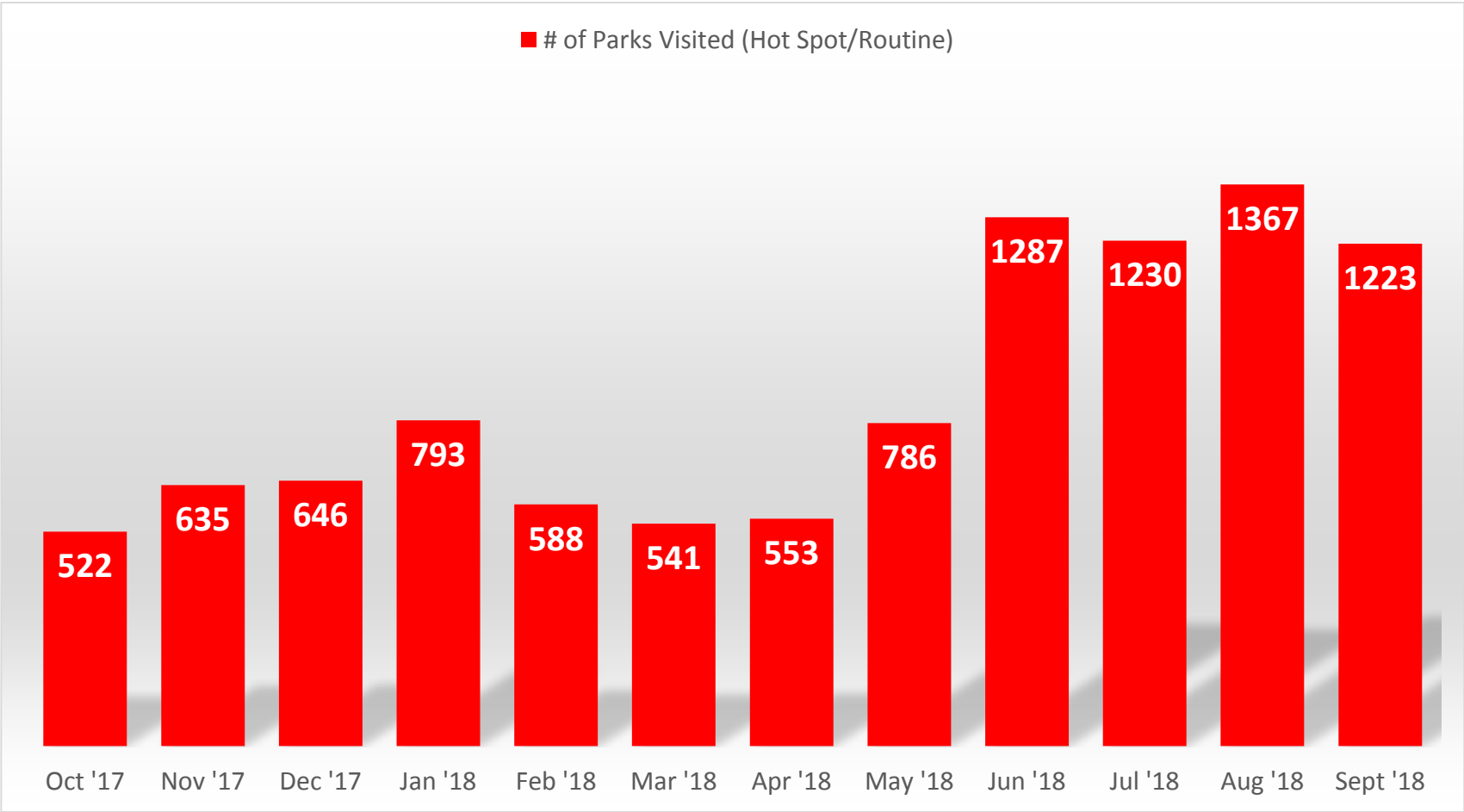
Routine Park Visits

- Random daily park visits
- Visited on a daily basis when going to/from Hot Spot assignments
- Account for approximately 44% of Park Ranger visits.
- As staffing increases so would the number of routine park visits



Fiscal Year 17/18 Park Visits

■ # of Parks Visited (Hot Spot/Routine)



Total Park Visits = 10,171

Special Events



Total Special
Events
attended =
36



Collaboration with Results

Target

- Park areas with consistent complaints and issues of loose dog incidents

Program

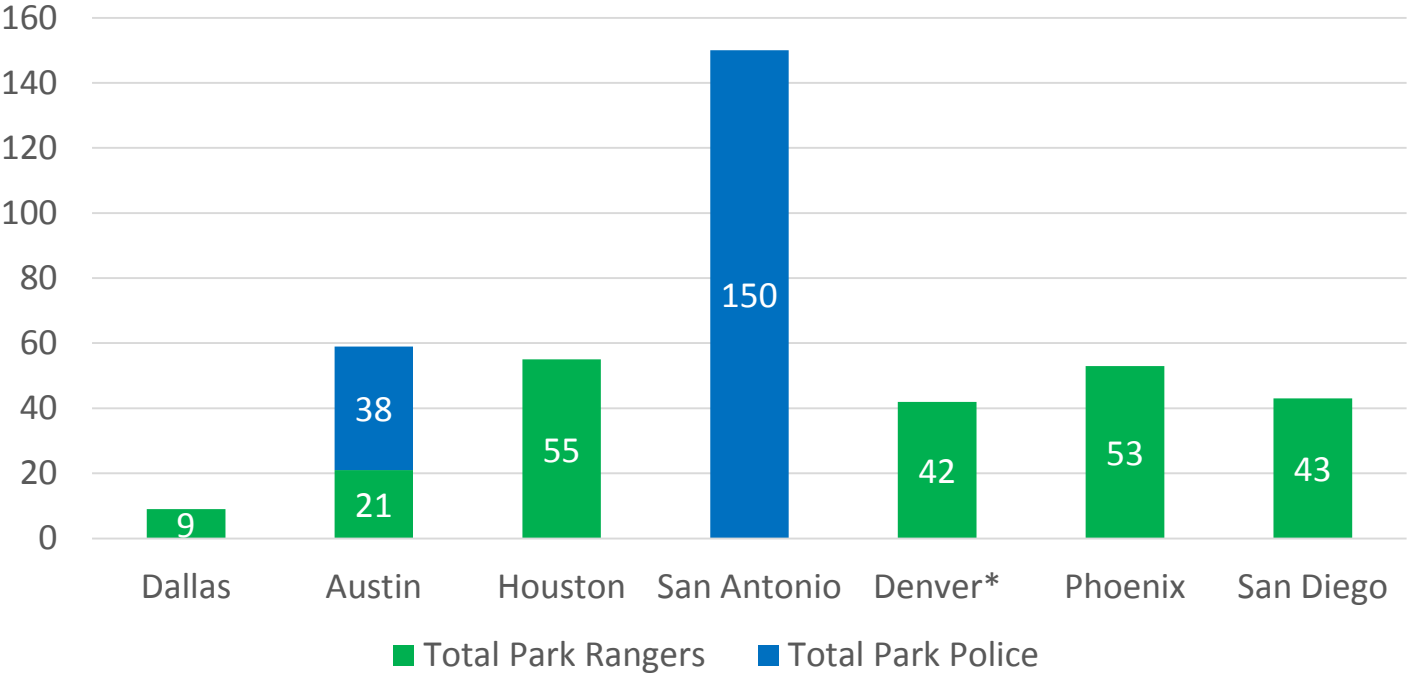
- 12 weeks (1 day per week/3 hrs. per day) coordinated sweeps w/ DPD, ACS, and PKR personnel working together

Results

- In **ONLY 36 hours**; a total **57** citations were issued encompassing a total of **94** violations

Peer City Comparisons

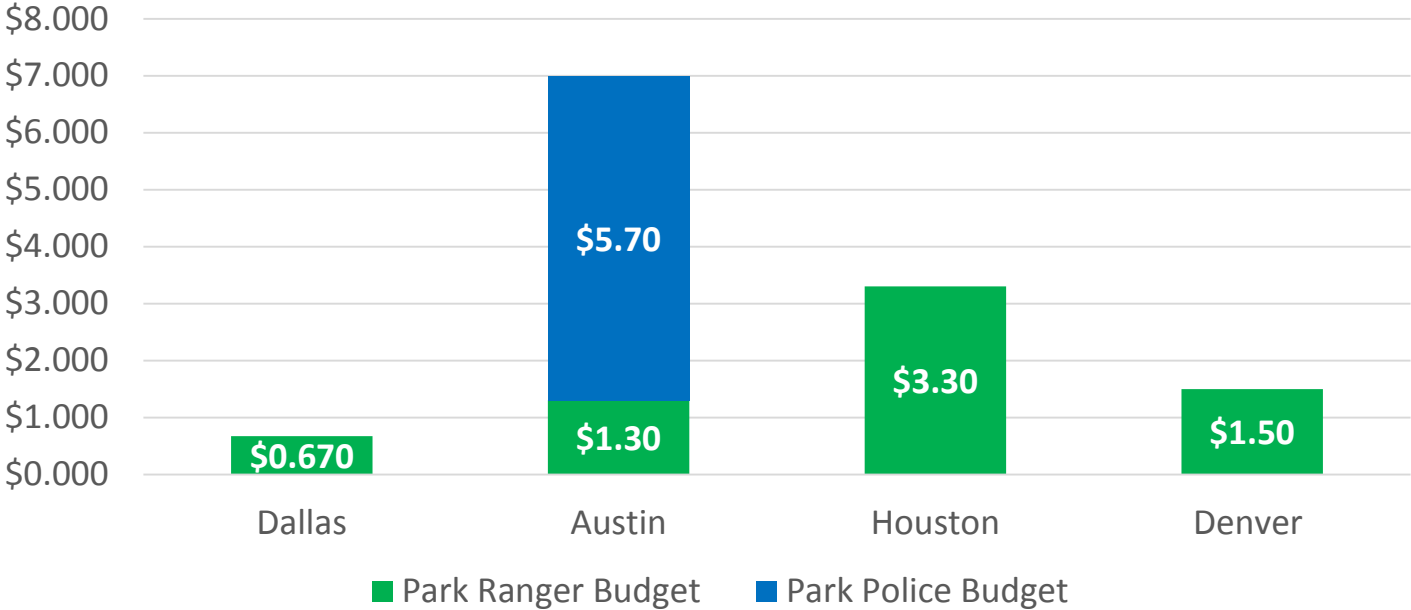
Number of Park Rangers



*Includes part-time Park Rangers
* 2016 Data

Peer City Comparisons

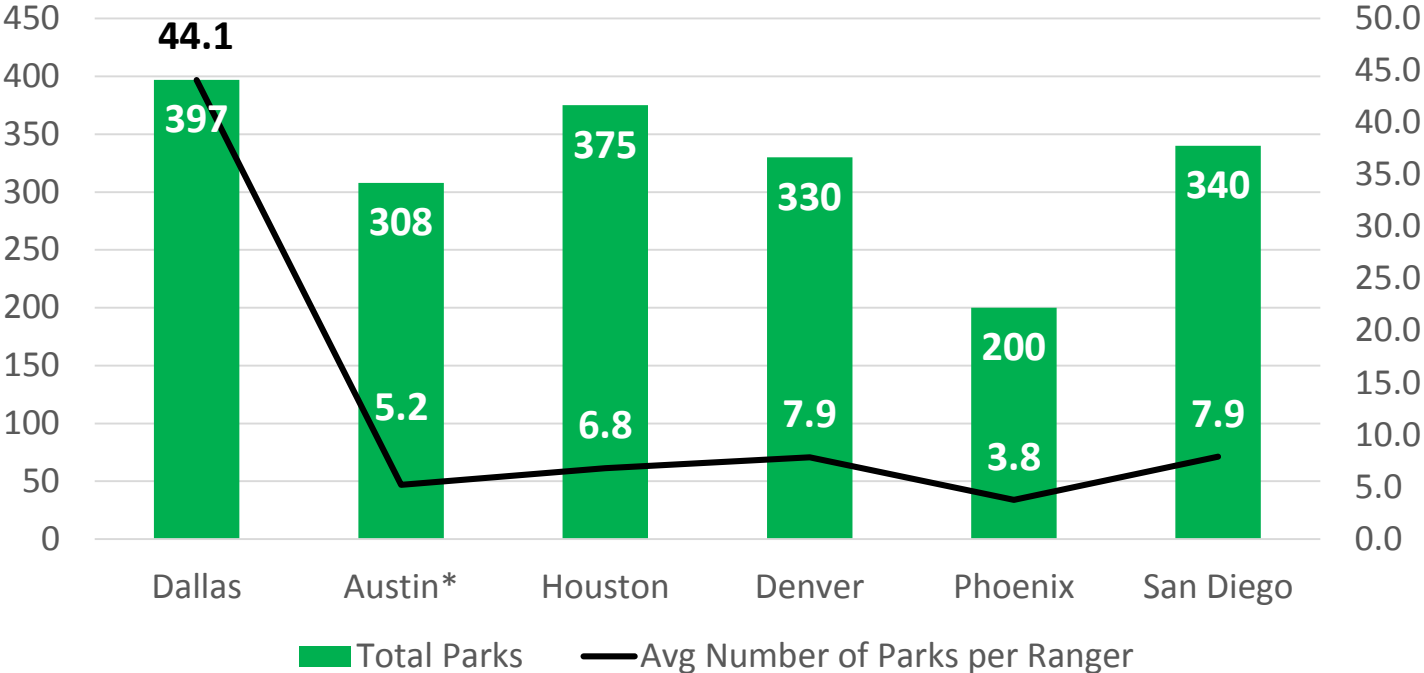
Park Ranger Budget
(\$M)



*2016 Data

Peer City Comparisons

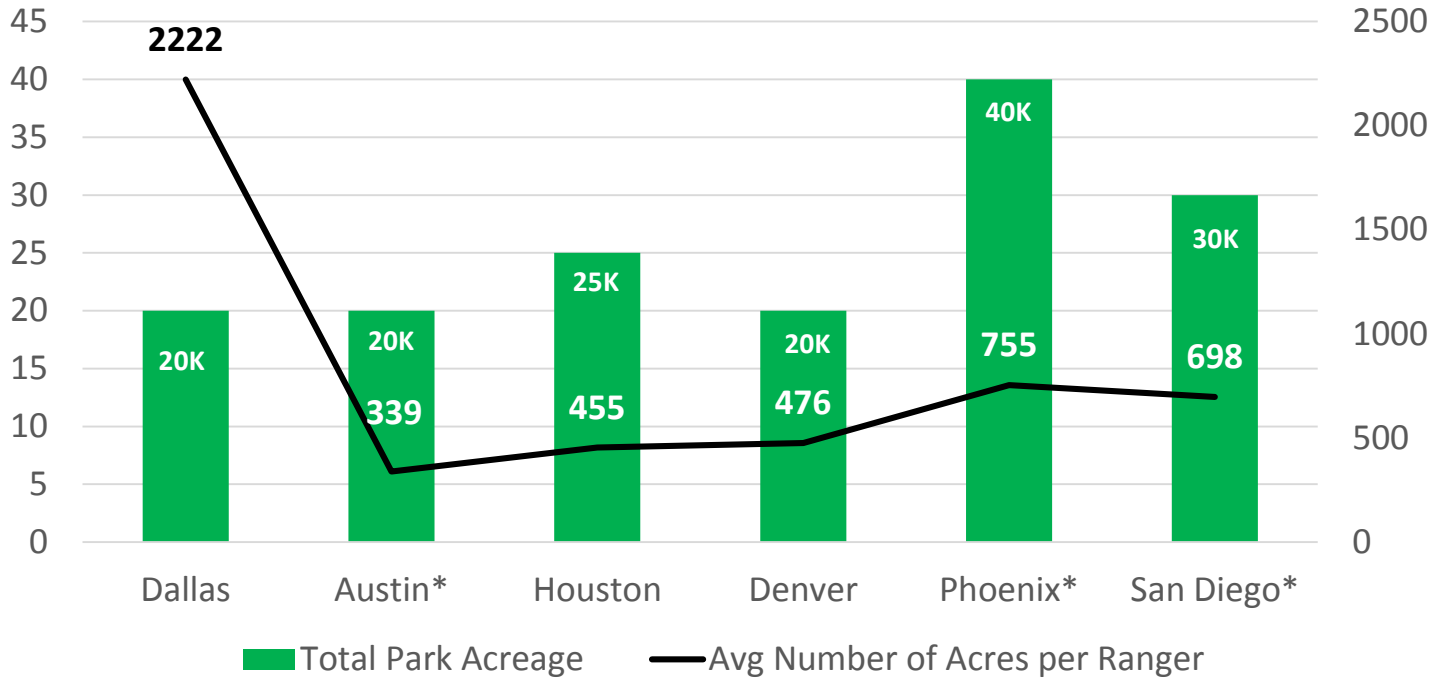
Estimated Number of Parks



*Austin includes Park Police
* 2016 Data

Peer City Comparisons

Estimated Park Acreage (K)



*Austin includes Park Police
*Phoenix includes undeveloped acres
*San Diego includes only areas of responsibility
* 2016 Data

Peer City Comparison Chart

City	Positions	Number of Parks	Est. Acreage	Budget	Citation Authority	Defensive Equipment
DALLAS	9	397	20K	\$670K	Yes (Limited) – Parking Citations and “Loose Dogs” next.	Oleoresin (OC) Training/Spray only but not mandatory
Austin	21 (+38 Park Police)	308	20K	\$1.3M (\$5.7M Park Police)	Yes - Only Parking Citations	Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray only but not mandatory
Houston	55	375	25K	\$3.3M	Yes - Only Health Dept. Ordinances on Park Property	Batons
Denver	42	330	20K	\$1.5M	Yes - Only Park Rules on Park Property	OC Spray, Ballistic Vests, Batons, only for self defense purposes
Phoenix	53	200+	40K – including undeveloped	Unknown	Yes - All City codes but only on Park Property	Batons and OC Spray
San Diego	43	340	41K – Only responsible for 30K	Unknown	Yes - Public Officer under the CA Penal Code	OC Spray Optional

* **2016 Data**

Proposed Timeline

Phase I (Current)

- 9 Park Rangers
- Limited Citation Authority
- Issue OC Spray

Phase II (1-2 Years)

- 8 Add'l Park Rangers
- 1 Chief Park Ranger
- Bike Patrol
- DPD (OT) / Security Officer Assistance

Phase III (3-4 Years)

- Dispatch & Radio Communication w/ DPD

Next Steps

- Continue building the program through additional positions, additional trainings/certifications and outreach
- Continue developing partnerships with other City Departments (Animal Care Services (ACS), Code, Dallas Police Dept. (DPD), Office of Homeless Solutions, Etc.)
- Implementation of DPD (OT)/Security Officers to provide greater coverage of parks citywide
- Continue to explore new technologies to enhance park security



Dallas Park & Recreation

Park Ranger Program



**Dallas Park and Recreation Board
November 1, 2018**