



Dallas Park & Recreation

**Teens Organized and Prepared for Success:
A New Program Initiative**

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

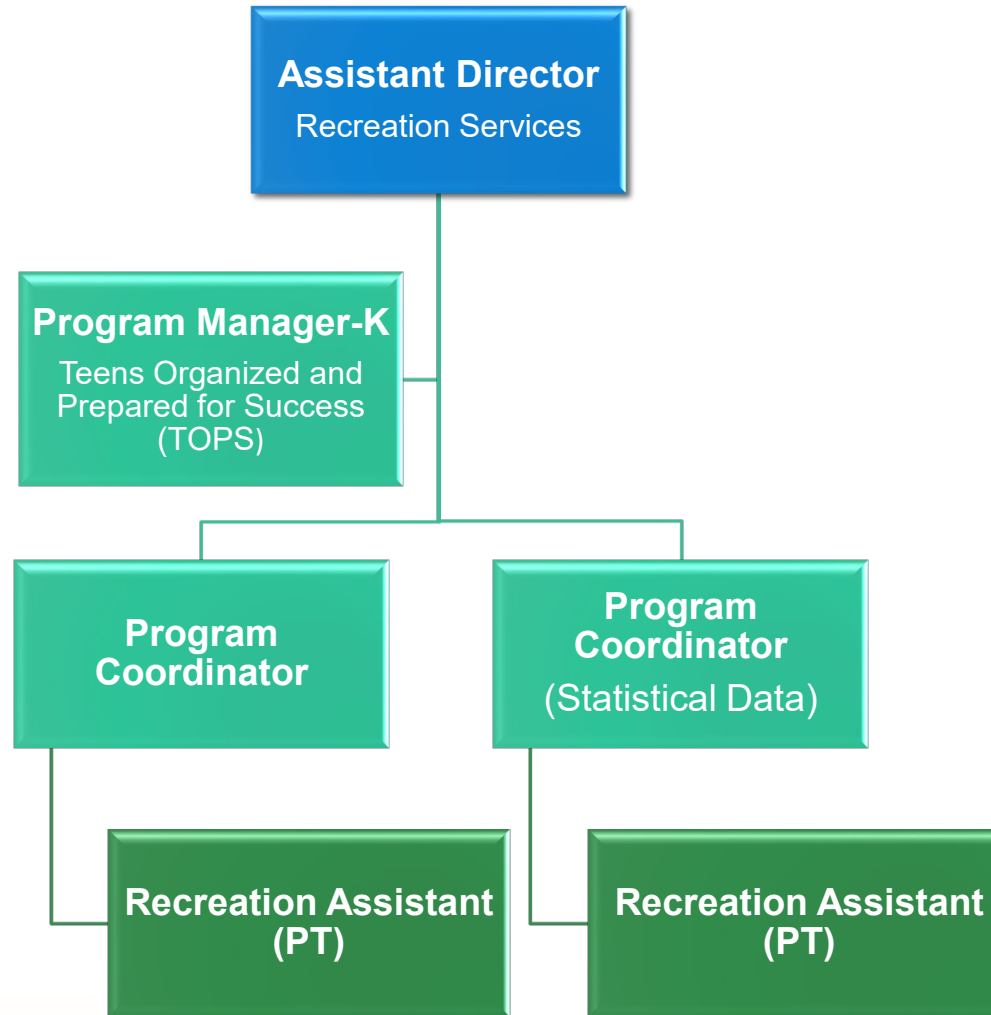
OCTOBER 1, 2020

OVERVIEW

In response to the Mayor's Task Force on Safe Communities and the City Manager's R.E.A.L. change initiative (Responsible, Equitable, Accountable, and Legitimate), Dallas Park and Recreation will implement a new youth division, *Teens Organized and Prepared for Success (TOPS)* an outcome-based program designed to reinforce positive behavior and reduce the recidivism rate among Dallas teens

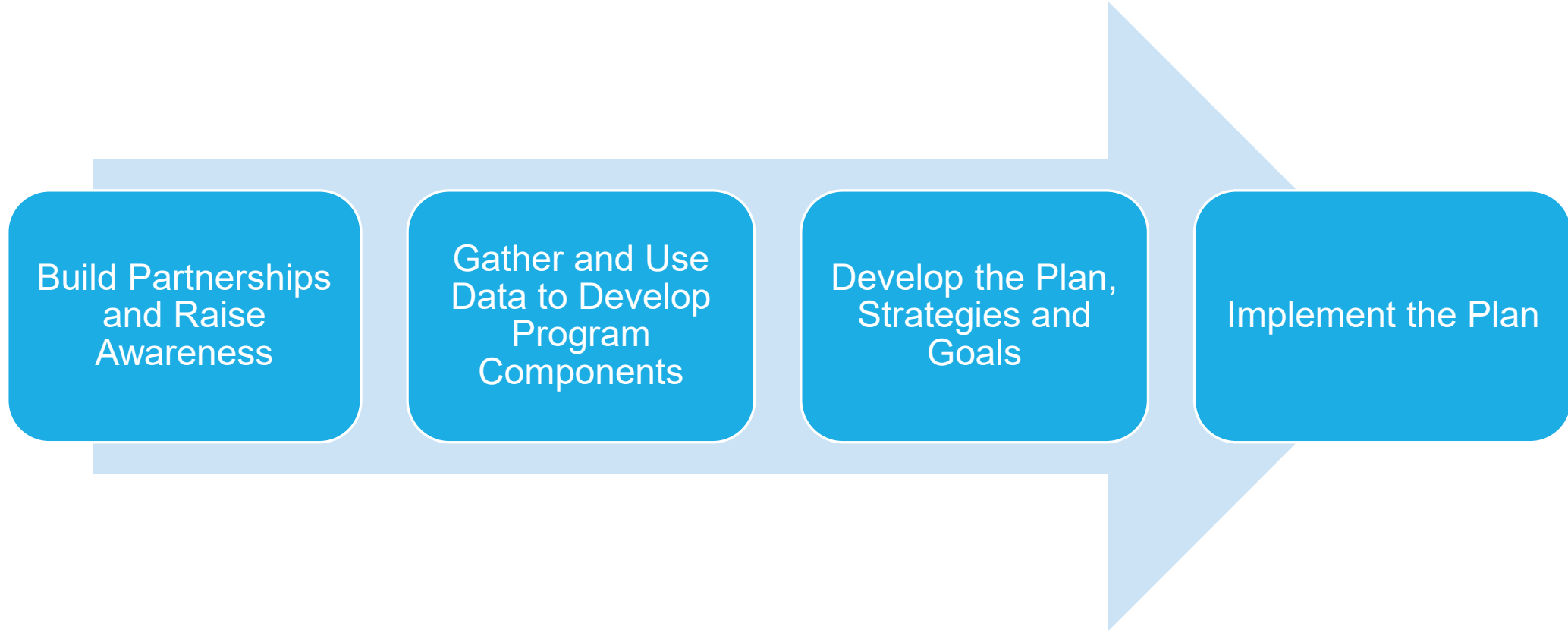
- This initiative will serve as the umbrella division for Teen Recreation (TRec)
- TOPS program delivery will be conducted through a collaboration of City departments, community organizations and stakeholders
- TOPS will partner with area vocational programs to implement a job readiness and apprenticeship program for teens
- Partnerships with community health organizations is vital to the wellness and success of a participant
- Implement a referral program to be used by schools, social service agencies, parents, and law enforcement

PROPOSED STAFFING STRUCTURE



PLANNING PHASE

A successful plan involves the early identification and engagement of stakeholders.



DISCUSSION AND PLANNING

In order to better understand the current services provided to/for teens, Dallas Park and Recreation (PKR) held virtual discussions with multiple City of Dallas departments. PKR also distributed a survey to identify possible redundancy and service gaps throughout our system

- Dallas Police Department
- Dallas Public Library
- Office of Arts and Culture
- Office of Resilience
- Office of Homeless Solutions
- Intergovernmental Services



PROGRAM PILLARS



Prevention and Intervention

Focused on helping teens work through behavioral or emotional difficulties and build trusting relationships with their family and peers



Education and Career Training

Focused on preparing teens for the future by providing educational resources and career training that will help reduce truancy rates for teens in Dallas ISD and other surrounding school districts

PROGRAM PILLARS



Health and Wellness

Focused on improving health and wellness of teens by providing programs and workshops topics that address teen pregnancy, STD prevention, bullying, and drug and alcohol addiction prevention



Recreation and Social Opportunities

Focused on providing teens recreational and social opportunities such as, sports, games, performing and fine arts, technology, and fitness. These recreation and social opportunities are designed to enhance the social skills of participants



Mentoring and Leadership

Focused on providing mentorship programs and initiatives that will help teen navigate through their teen years. These efforts will impact teens through character-building programs that develop self-awareness, self-confidence and social competence

GOALS

■ Prevention and Intervention

- Collaborate with community partners on the development of a website / app specifically for teens in the City of Dallas. This technology piece would outline a list of resources teens and families can utilize as they navigate the teen years
- Development of a Crisis Intervention Team comprised of Dallas PD officers, Dallas PKR staff, and Community Partners that will respond to teen related incidents. This group of trained professionals will work to prevent, intervene, and respond to issues facing the teen community
- Work with Dallas PD to reduce number of teen related incidents / offenses in the City of Dallas

■ Education and Career Training

- Increase high school graduation/GED completion among program participants
- Increase enrollment of post-secondary education, vocational training, and/or employment at a livable wage
- Provide access to career training that is focused on professions in the technology field. This will prepare teens for employment opportunities of the future

GOALS

■ Health and Wellness

- Decrease the number of teens in the community engaging in alcohol and illegal drug use
- Conduct programming/seminars that address teen pregnancies and reduce associated risk factors
- Provide resources to aid transitional and homeless youth; offer programs that address mental health
- Establish fitness and nutrition baselines for teens and address health-related issues facing the teen community

■ Recreation and Social Opportunities

- Provide participants recreational and social opportunities such as TRec, Visual and Performing Art programs, library programming, and Dallas PAL activities. These programs are focused on encouraging positive social behaviors such as social confidence, empathy, and improved conflict resolution skills
- Continue to provide teen specific recreation opportunities such as TRec, Outdoor Adventures, and Equestrian programs to connect teens with other participants and the outdoors. These programs will continue to focus on assisting teens with managing daily stress
- Commit to offer cultural programming focusing which provide teens an opportunity to celebrate the diversity among them

GOALS

■ Mentoring and Leadership

- Establishment of E-mentoring program that will allow mentees an opportunity to check in with assigned mentor several times a year
 - Discussions will focus on academic achievement, career exploration, and development of a support system
- Institute a teen leadership program that would center around civic engagement and help shape the future of the City of Dallas regarding Social Equity, Conservation, and Public Service
- Provide mentoring programs specific for young women. The focal point of program is to impact the lives of teenage girls through character-building programs that develop self-awareness, self-confidence and social competence

NEXT STEPS

- **Continue discussion with City departments**
 - Identify level of partnership and support
- **Recruit and Train qualified team members**
 - Determine initiative timeline with measurable outcomes
- **Establish a coalition of community advocates and stakeholders**
 - Further build out program
 - Review current data, trends and services
- **National Collaboration Consortium Meeting**
 - Collaborate and discuss best management practices with other recognized park systems, Chicago Park District, and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
- **Listening Sessions**
 - PKR will host virtual listening sessions to gather information on the direction of youth programming and the impact it is having on youth and communities
- **Program Implementation: April 2021**





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