

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: October 15, 2025

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Laura Harper – Park Ranger, Parks and Community Services Department

Subject: 2025 Summer Ranger Program
For information only - no Board action requested

Background

The Park Ranger Program was established in 1987 with the adoption of the Lake Hills Greenbelt and Phantom Lake Management Plan. Since then, Rangers have served as front-line ambassadors for Bellevue's parks, providing communication, outreach, customer service, and safety. Year-round staff are stationed at Lake Hills Greenbelt, Lewis Creek Park, and Mercer Slough visitor centers. Each summer, the program expands with additional seasonal rangers from Memorial Day through Labor Day to meet the needs of increased park visitation.

Ranger Duties

Summer Park Rangers serve as uniformed ambassadors, maintaining a daily presence from 8:00 a.m. to midnight. Their responsibilities include:

- Conducting park patrols to educate patrons, reduce conflicts, and discourage rule violations.
- Supporting public events such as the Lake-to-Lake Bike Ride and Movies in the Park.
- Staffing visitor centers, leading environmental programs, and assisting with day camps.
- Coordinating with state and local agencies on wildlife and enforcement issues.
- Providing assistance at Meydenbauer Bay Marina, including visitor support and rule education.
- Collecting park use data and documenting conditions such as vandalism, code violations, and trail maintenance needs.
- Collaborating with Police and outreach services to address unlawful camping.

2025 Summer Activity Highlights

Rangers engaged in both direct assistance and broad community outreach. Key outcomes include:

- Parks Patrolled: 2,827
 - Parks Locked: 742
 - Parking Notices Issued: 391
 - User Contacts (direct): 524
 - Goodwill Contacts (general interactions): 38,865
 - Patrons Assisted: 3,722
 - Immediate Responses: 91
 - Dogs Off-Leash/Beach Violations: 394
 - After-Hours Contacts: 641
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Meydenbauer Bay Marina

Since 2014, Rangers have provided seasonal staffing at Meydenbauer Marina. In 2025, rangers were on-site Wednesday–Sunday, 2:00–10:00 p.m. This season, Rangers interacted with visitors from 1,677 boats, providing:

- Visitor greetings and assistance.
 - Noise complaint response.
 - Education on marina and park rules.
 - Coordination with contracted security staff.
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Conclusion

The Summer Park Ranger Program continues to be a vital connection between the city and its park patrons. Rangers enhance safety, protect resources, and provide an approachable presence that enriches the visitor experience. Their work supports Bellevue's vision as a world-class city by aligning with key City Council priorities:

Responsive Government: Collected park use data, addressed maintenance needs, and assisted over 3,700 patrons.

Healthy & Sustainable Environment: Increased environmental awareness through education and outreach.

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Safe Community: Enhanced park safety through patrols, gate locking, and coordination with emergency services.

Quality Neighborhoods & Vibrant Community: Served as welcoming representatives of the city to nearly 39,000 park visitors.