

# Park Ranger Program Expansion

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Seattle Park District Board  
April 3, 2023



Healthy People, **Thriving Environment**, **Vibrant Community**



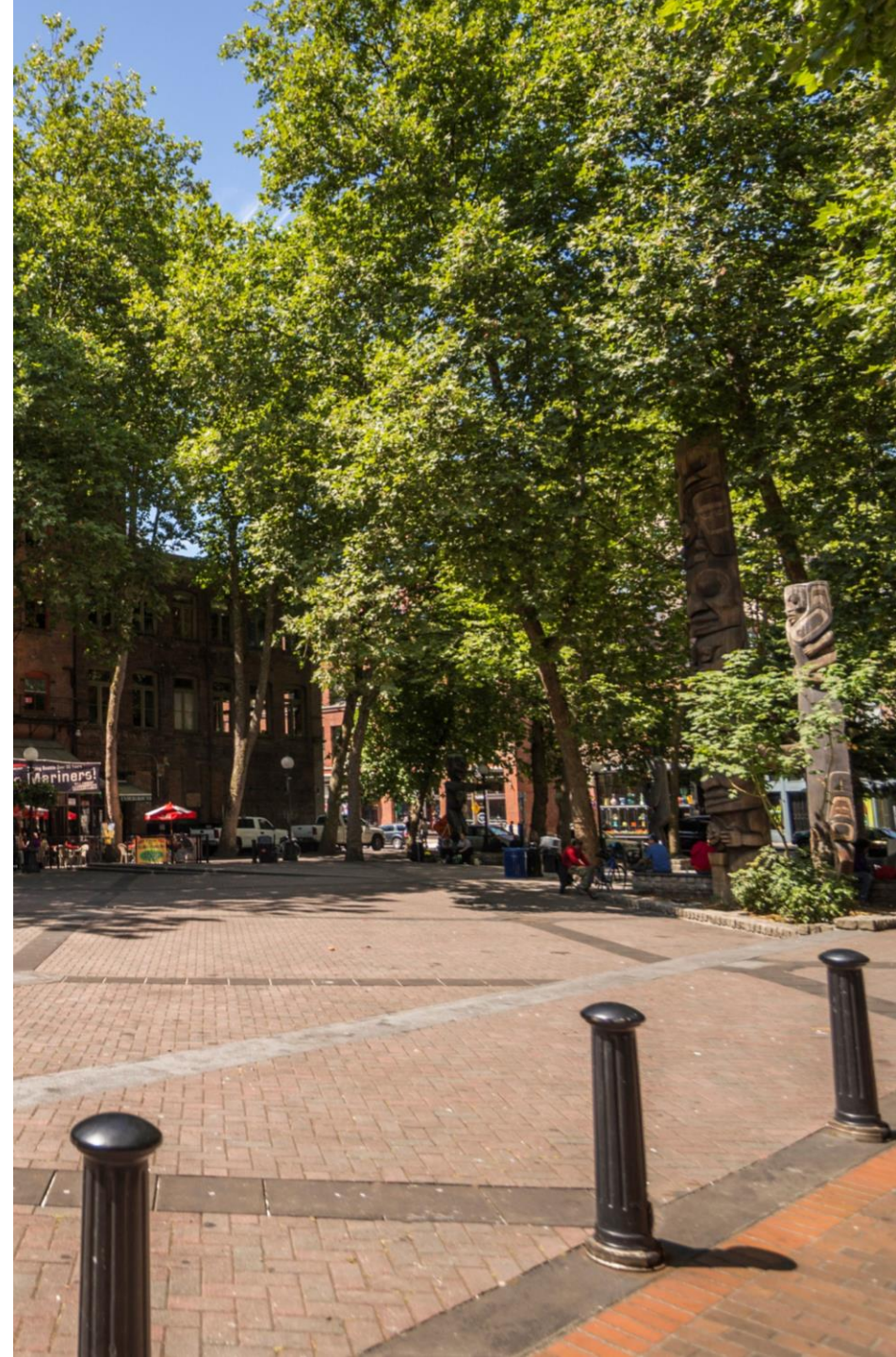
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# Briefing Overview

## Information Requested (Resolution 51):

- Park Ranger Job Duties
- Recruitment Strategy
- Training



# Investment Overview

***\$3M adds up to 26 Rangers** (total of 28) to enhance safety and promote voluntary compliance of park rules.*

*Program **begins in downtown parks** and expands to neighborhood parks (subject to bargaining).*

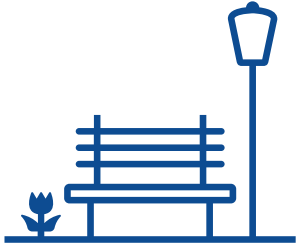
## Program Alignment

- Supports **One Seattle vision** of a thriving, healthy city and a **vibrant downtown**
- Advances City commitment to **providing safe and welcoming park spaces**
- SPR "**No Wrong Door**" approach to community service



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# Park Ranger Duties



## Education

Educate community members and visitors about Seattle's park system and associated rules of conduct and city resources



## Engagement

Serve as ambassadors about Seattle's park and recreation system and support interpretation and preservation of natural resources



## Enforcement

Support compliance with park regulations, issue warnings and citations and/or request support from other city partners when needed

# Park Ranger Recruitment

Shared position widely:

<i>Minimum Qualifications</i>	<i>Desired Qualifications</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of one year of experience in parks and recreation, security, or related field</li> <li>• OR a combination of education and/or training experience which provides an equivalent background required to perform the work of the class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to community oriented public safety approaches</li> <li>• Excellent customer service skills and comfort with community relation building and enforcement of park rules</li> <li>• Strong communication skills</li> <li>• Education first approach with an emphasis on social equity</li> <li>• Relevant experience or certifications</li> <li>• Ability to pass a police-level background check</li> </ul>



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# Park Ranger Training

- Rangers will complete a **six-week in-house training academy** combining classroom and field work
- Trainings **delivered by SPR staff and partner agencies** (i.e., SPD Communications Center, Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, Portland Parks & Rec, etc.)
- Primary curriculum topics include:



**Welcome &  
Onboarding**



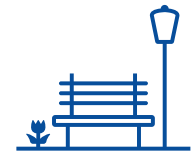
**Working with  
the Public**



**Safety, First  
Aid &  
Emergency  
Response**



**Enforcement  
Protocols**

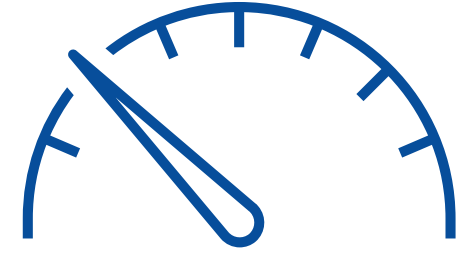


**SPR Deep  
Dive**



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# Park Ranger Training and Accountability



## **Park District Board Request** (*quarterly*)

- The number of verbal warnings issued and reason
- The number of written warnings and citations issued (and reason)
  - *Exploring with SPD: the number that led to criminal trespass arrests*
- Update on the number of Park Rangers hired
- Locations (parks) where Park Rangers are being deployed

## **Additional metric** (*annual*)

- Park Code (SMC 18.12) violations recorded through Park Ranger app



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# Initial Deployment

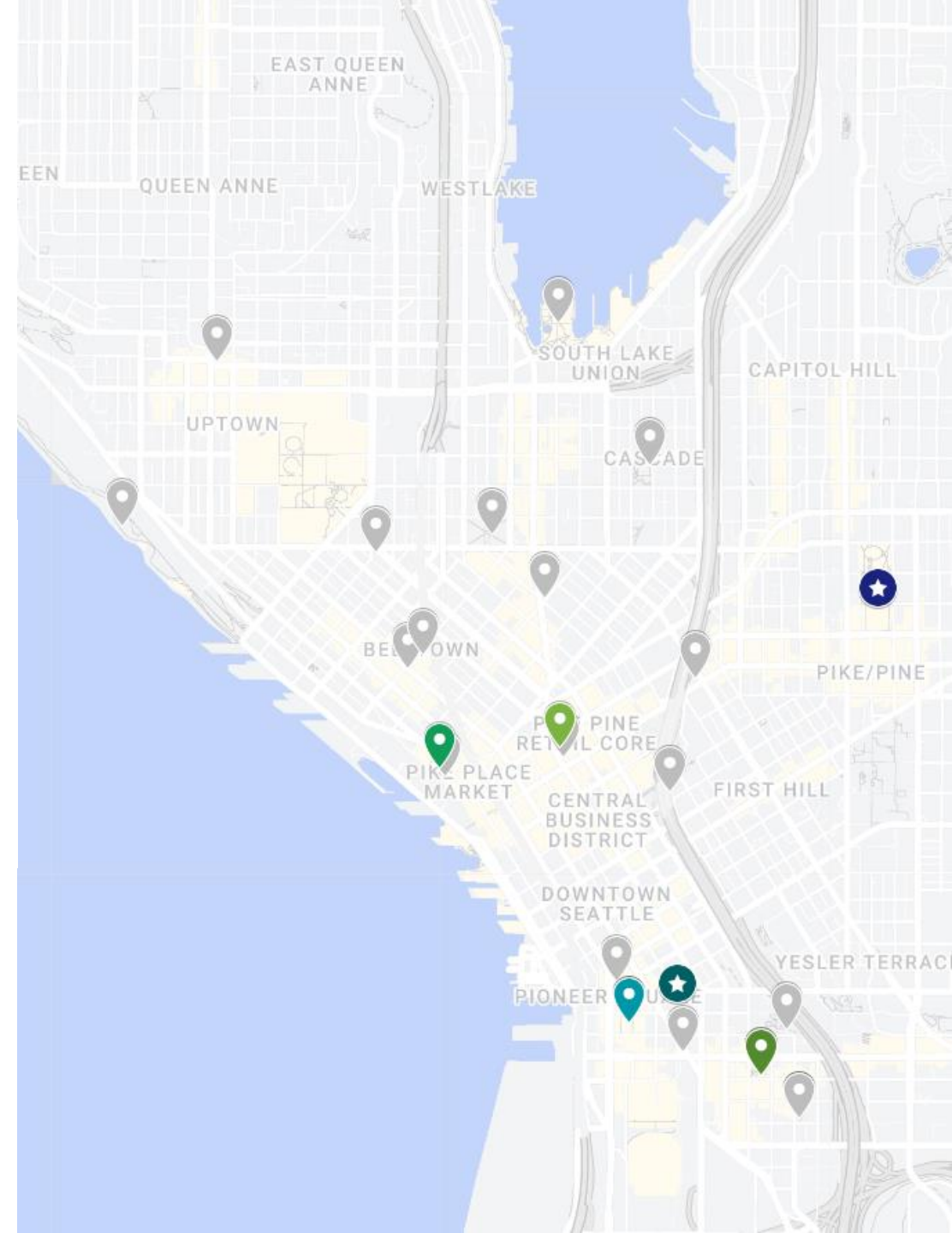
## *21 downtown parks (46.2 acres)*

- 7 days / week - 6:00 am to 9:00 pm
- 3 Teams a day (2 Rangers each team)
- Emphasis Cal Anderson & City Hall Park

## *Deployment Considerations*

- Special events
- SPD incidents
- Public complaints
- Park Code violations
- Graffiti/vandalism hotspots
- Peer Ranger team needs
- Concierge/activation team observations

-  Cal Anderson Park (hub)
-  City Hall Park (hub)
-  Westlake Park
-  Hing Hay Park
-  Victor Steinbrueck Park
-  Occidental Square
-  Other downtown parks





# Park Ranger Expansion Timeline



**Recruitment & Onboarding**  
*Phase 1 Goal: Supervisor + 13 Rangers (includes existing)*



**Training academy**



**Phase 1 Rangers deployed**  
*(7-day coverage)*



**Phase 2 Hiring**  
*(up to 28 total)*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
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# Questions & Discussion



**Seattle**  
Parks & Recreation

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