

7.1_Park Rangers Training - Consider extra money for training park rangers with additional skills (like ticketing)

Response:

The Park Rangers unit is currently working with an outside consultant to review the current training curriculum. The consultant is expected to provide guidance and suggestions on trainings needs. Park Rangers currently do not have ticketing authority related to parking tickets. A memo was provided to Mayor and Council in February 2021 after an extensive review of options for enforcement and citation authority. The memo (see 7.2 document) provides details on the reasoning behind not transitioning to a ticketing system. The memo includes recommendation for a notification process and additional training for park ranger staff focused on de-escalation, diversity, equity and inclusion and mental health first aid.

A review of Park Ranger training was completed 2020. The following topics are part of the current training curriculum that is being reviewed by the consultant:

- 60 hours of job specific orientation training,
- Monthly real-life scenario review to discuss mental health considerations/best practices, situational awareness and how to apply a community-equity driven approach.
- Undoing racism
- De-escalation techniques, and
- Mental health first aid.

These trainings for all current Park Rangers typically cost \$16,250 per year. Additional training recommends are expected from the consultant this spring.

Recommendations in the memo included an increased presence during the busy season (March to October). This past year, 8 seasonal park rangers were hired for the summer season and increased presence in some of the busiest parks. Hiring seasonal Park Rangers for the summer months in FY22 cost less than \$50,000.