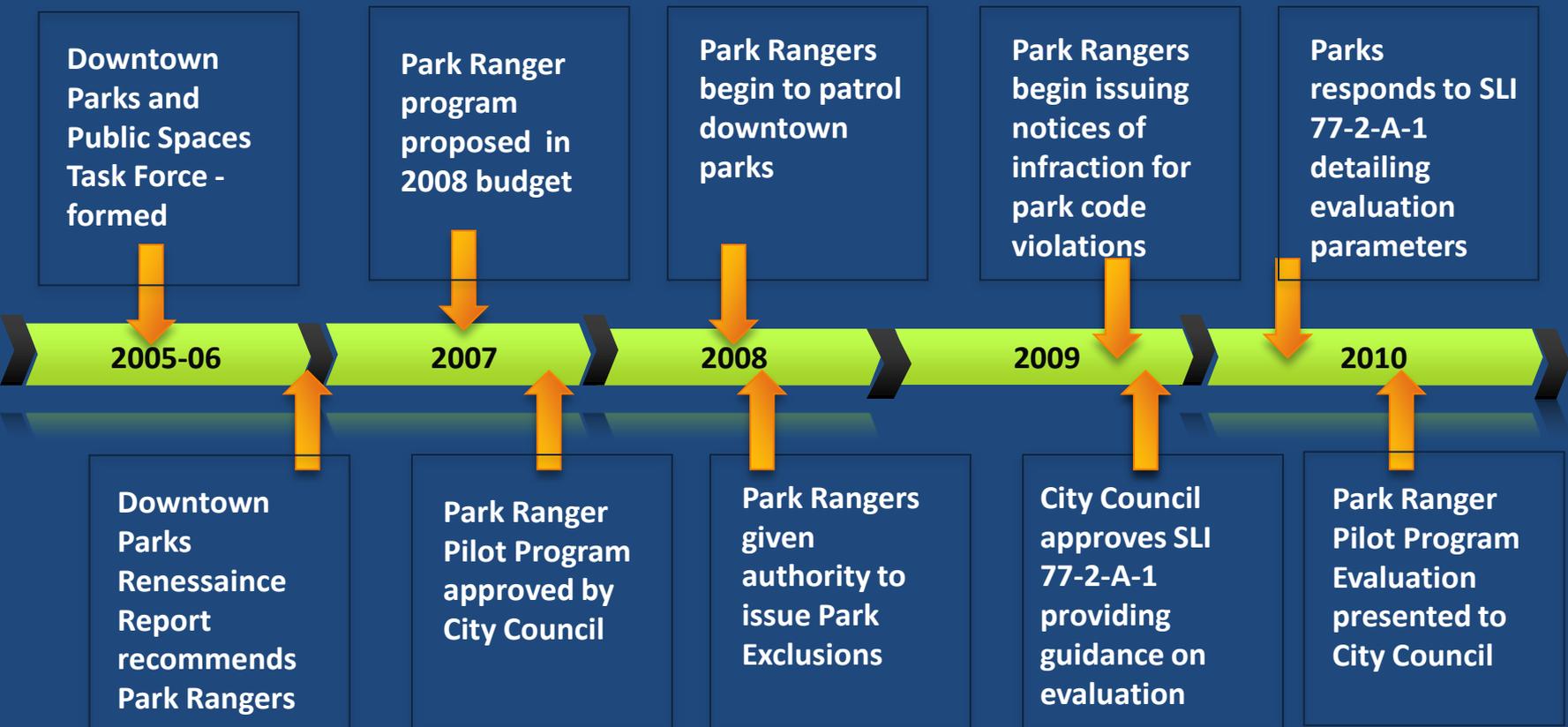




Park Rangers Evaluation of Pilot Program

Seattle City Council
Parks and Seattle Center Committee
August 5, 2010

Park Ranger Program Milestones





Seattle Downtown Parks & Public Spaces Task Force Report





Improve security in the parks. The City should fund a new Park Ranger security force of uniformed, unarmed Parks staff. Rangers would provide year-round, all-day, every day coverage in the nine downtown destination parks. The Rangers would be friendly and firm, would provide information about plantings and other park features, and would provide security. The Rangers would patrol the parks on foot and bicycle, and would notify SPD through radio contact of illegal activities.

Park Ranger Program Overview

Addressing Public Safety



Ballard District Council



Event Support



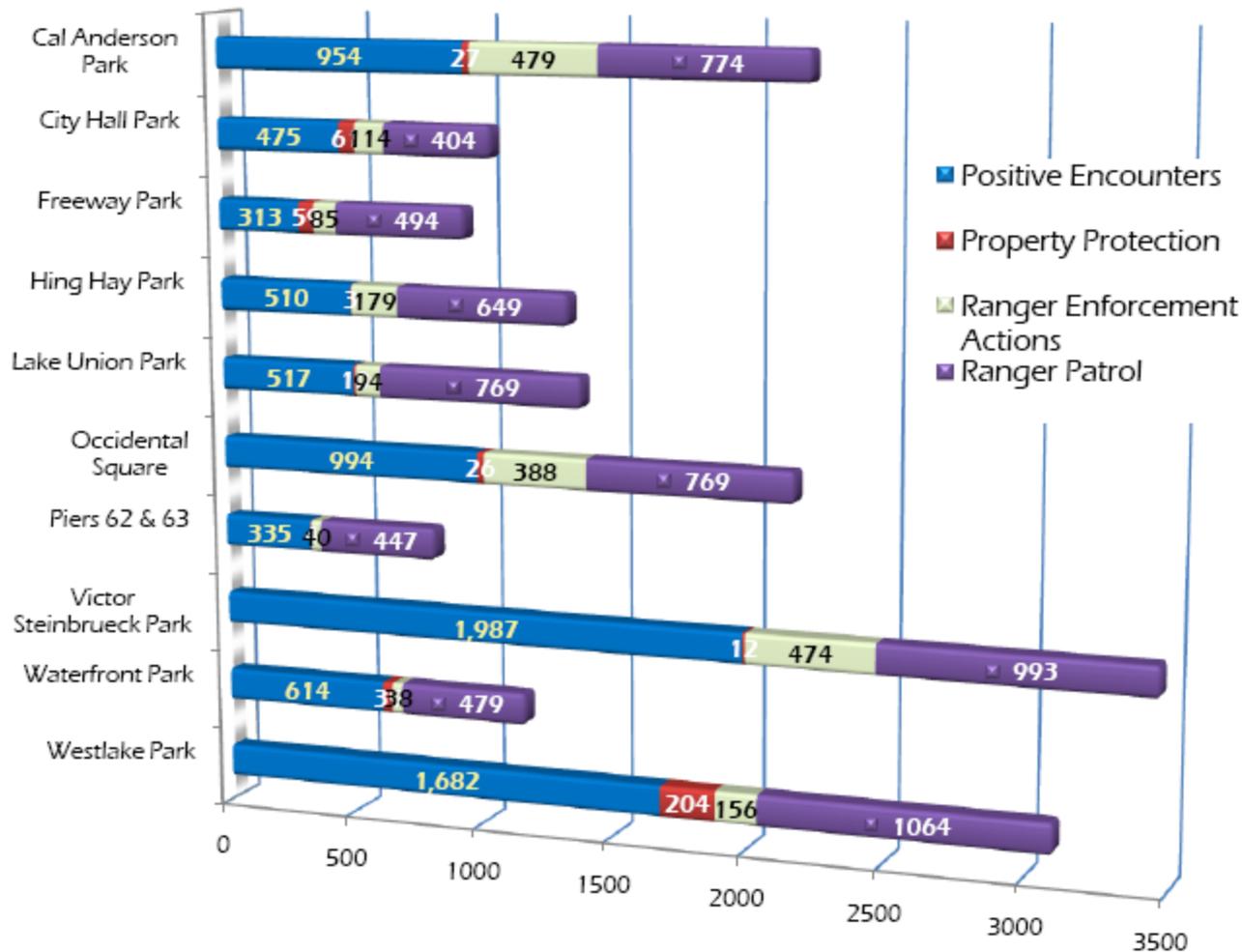
Westlake Youth Outreach



Original Destination Parks

1. Cal Anderson
2. City Hall
3. Freeway
4. Hing Hay
5. South Lake Union
6. Occidental Square
7. Pier 62 / 63
8. Victor Steinbrueck
9. Waterfront
10. Westlake

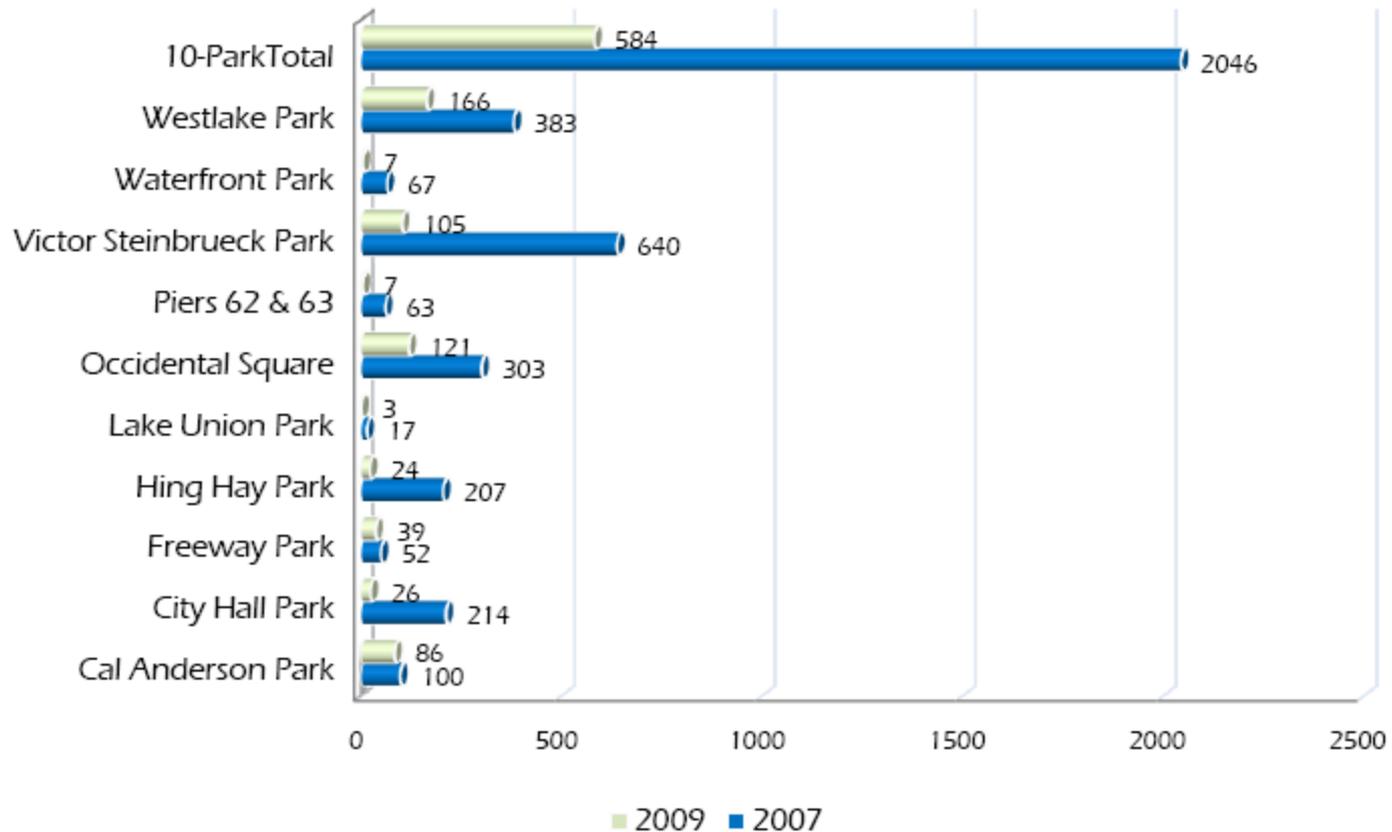
Park Ranger Encounters at Selected Downtown Parks 1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009



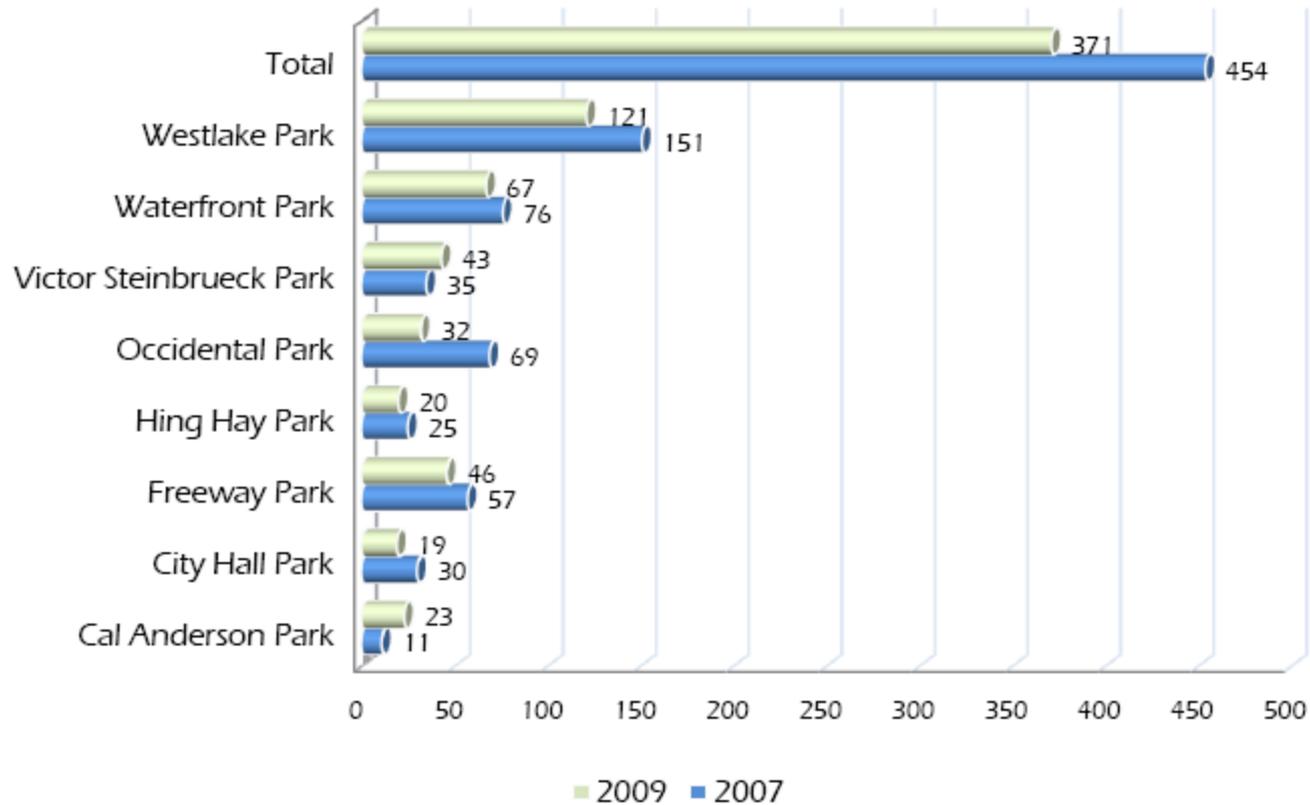
Program Evaluation Outcome Measures

- Public Safety – SPD and SFD data logs for police and emergency medical assistance
- Activity Levels in the Park
- Public Perception of Safety and Effectiveness
- Metropolitan Improvement District Data
- Maintenance Requests
- Volunteer Involvement

Seattle Police Dept: Park-based Reports



Seattle Fire Dept Response Reports at/near Downtown Parks



Survey Results

% of people agreeing that Park Rangers:

- Encourage positive activity 82%
- Contribute to a welcoming atmosphere 82%
- Discourage illegal & antisocial behavior 68%
- Provide valuable information to park users 74%

Majority of respondents believe program is effective in making parks safe and support expansion of the program.

Summary of Evaluation Components

Evaluation Component	Outcome Description	Assessment
Calls for Police Assistance	Declined 71%	Positive
Calls for Medical Assistance	Declined 18%	Positive
Animal Control Enforcement	Increased at our request	Positive
Park Events	Increased attendance	Positive
Park Ranger Patrol Activities	Positive interaction and enforcement	Positive
Community Attitude	Positive Survey results & letters	Positive
Graffiti Abatement	Increased removal	Neutral
Summary of Evaluation	Most positive, none negative	Positive

Recommendations

Continue and expand the program

- Continue comprehensive coordination with Police, Fire, MID, Animal Control, Maintenance, and Programming
- Continue downtown activation programming
- Expand size of Park Ranger force
- Allow Park Rangers to patrol entire park system