



City of Dallas

Park Resources and the Impact of Encampments

**Parks Trails and Environment
November 4, 2024**

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Park and Recreation
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- Background/History
- Purpose
- Issues/Operational Impact
- Encampments on Parks
- Proposed Action



Background/History



- From 2019 to 2020, encampments increased by 53% on park property
- Park Maintenance and Operations (PMO) staff allocated resources to remove encampments from their general fund budget
- In 2021, a budget enhancement of \$106K was utilized for contractual services to clean encampment park sites
- FY 2023-24 \$382K was allocated to form a PKR Homeless Action Response Team (HART) to perform encampment assessments and cleanings
- PKR HART staff includes one HART Supervisor, three maintenance staff, and equipment



Purpose



Provide an update on encampment cleaning and its impact on park resources



Kleberg



Issues/Operational Impact



Park leadership addresses safety, health, and environmental concerns related to the unsheltered population and the impact on the park experience.

- **PMO District Maintenance Teams**

- Replace park amenities when stolen or damaged beyond repair impacts the budget for amenity purchases
- Repair park amenities when damaged or vandalized (i.e. graffiti, missing trash receptacle lids)
- Secure or anchor park amenities to reduce removal from parks
- Provide unscheduled power washing to clean pavilions and surfaces
- Clean playgrounds, portalets/restrooms water fountains, park benches, and picnic tables impacted by the presence of the unsheltered
- Perform litter and debris removal from creeks, parks, natural areas, and trails



Issues/Operational Impact



- **Facility Services Division**

- Remove or secure electrical outlets to reduce the unsheltered from gathering at pavilions resulting in a reduction in the number of pavilions with power in the reservation system
- Secure the electrical load center to prevent unauthorized use of power
- Repair structural damage to pavilions caused by fires, vandalism, alterations for sleeping areas, and graffiti
- Install additional lighting to pavilions and other low-light areas at the park to reduce the unsheltered from gathering at pavilions, loop trails, and amenities
- Repair pavilion lighting caused by vandalism



Lake Cliff



Issues/Operational Impact



- **Conservation Management Team**

- Perform routine assessments of natural areas
- Provide staff recommendations on vegetation removal and modifications of wooded areas
- Create fire prevention plans for forested areas



White Rock Creek Trail



Issues/Operational Impact



- **Park Rangers and Marshals**

- Park Rangers and Marshals routinely monitor unsheltered communities on hotspot list to quickly report re-entry to encampment sites within 24 hours
- Park Marshals provide support during site assessment and clean-ups

- **Forestry Team**

- Removes vegetation/underbrush and lifts tree canopies to create sightlines



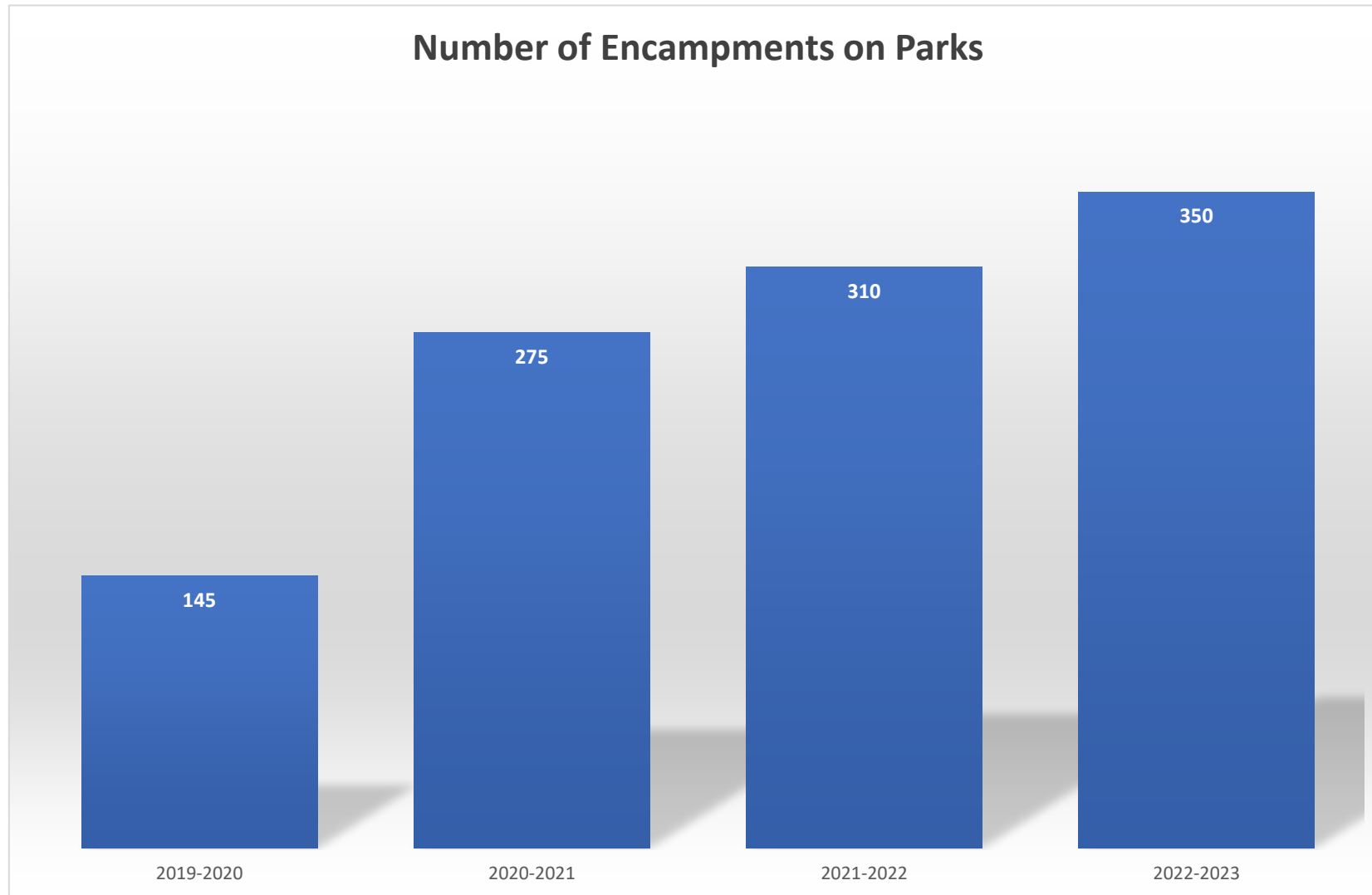
Samuell Farm



Encampments on Parks



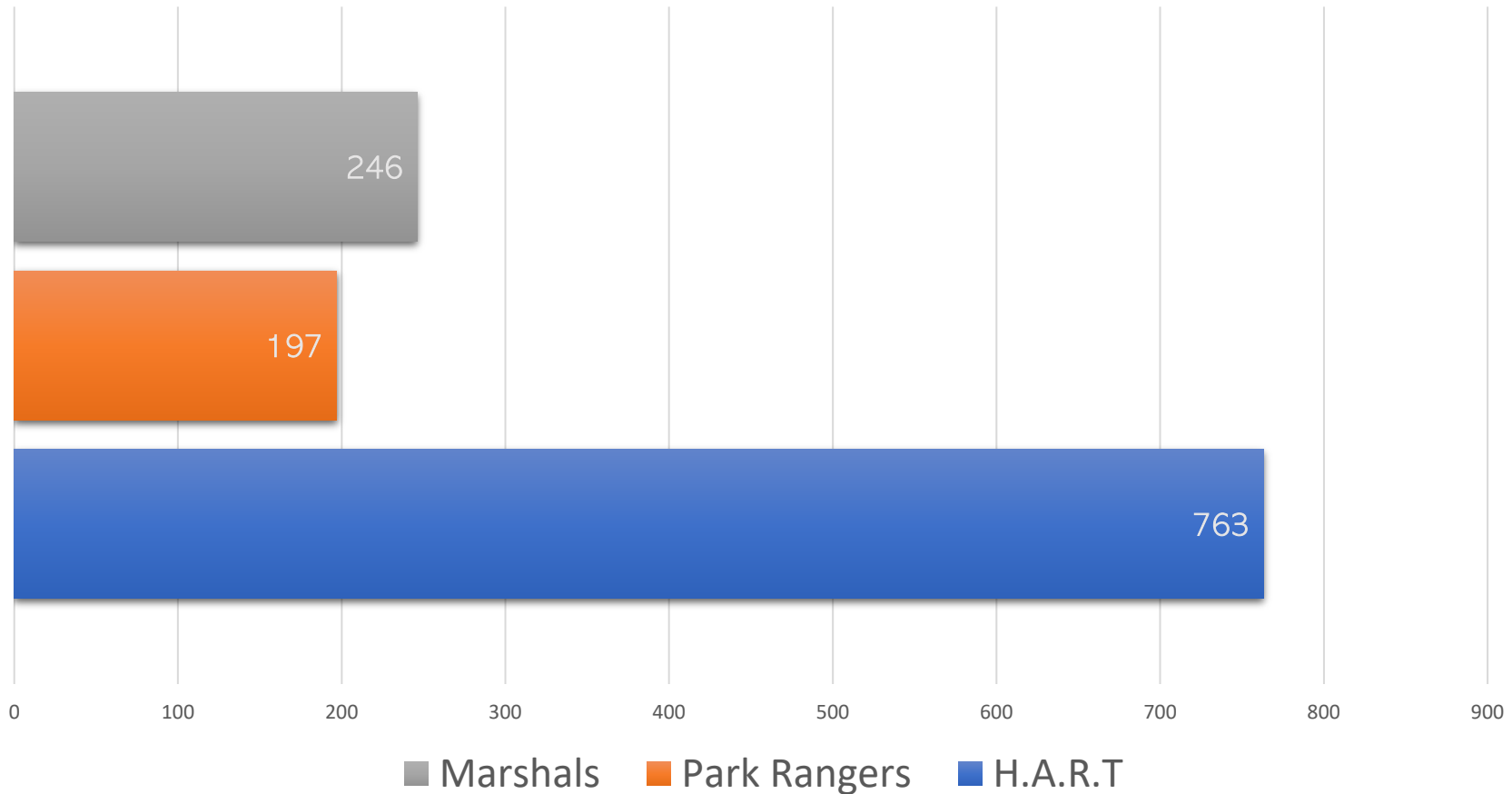
Number of Encampments on Parks



Encampments on Parks



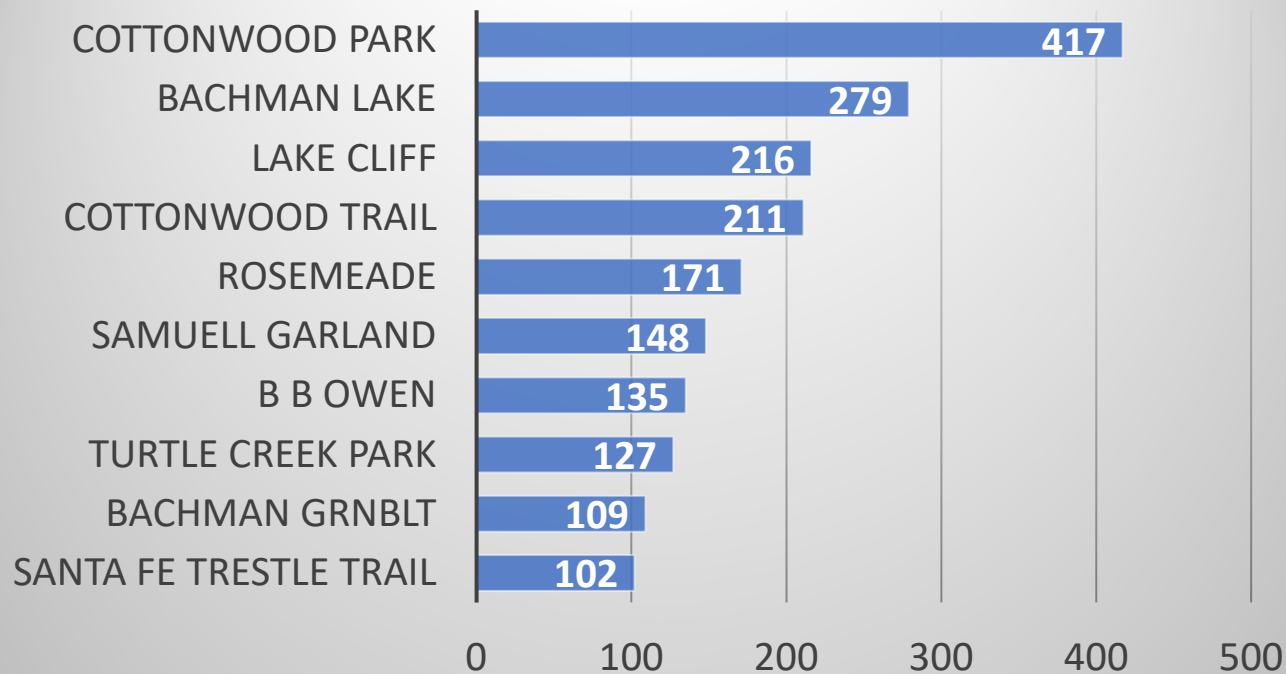
Number of Park Visits for Encampments
Fiscal Year 2023-2024



Encampments on Parks



Number of Park Visits by Site



Santa Fe Trail



Proposed Action



Create strategies and monitor resources to respond to the expanding needs of the HART Program

Continue collaborative efforts with the Office of Homeless Solutions Outreach

Seek additional resources to expand the HART Program





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