



City of Dallas

Pedestrian and Trail Safety

**Public Safety Committee
March 7, 2023**

M. Renne' Johnson, Assistant
Director, Park & Recreation
Department

David Pughes, City Marshal (I),
City Marshal Office

Michael Igo, Assistant Chief,
Dallas Police Department
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- Park Safety and Security Strategic Plan
- Strategic Plan – Trail Safety Highlights
- Dallas Marshals Trail Safety Strategies
- Dallas Police Department Trail Safety Strategies



Park Safety and Security Strategic Plan



- Park Board Ad Hoc Safety and Security Committee formed in 2022
- Developed Strategic Plan / Primary Focus Areas
- Considers all park sites – trails, parks, and recreation centers
- Builds upon existing strategies
- Charts path forward for continued safety and security stewardship of city parks

Park Safety and Security Strategic Plan

PRIMARY FOCUS AREAS



INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES

Foster interagency coordination, collaboration and integration across all agencies that contribute to preserving park safety and security



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Proactively engage and involve the community to grow enthusiasm and support around efforts to maintain safe park facilities



EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY

Increase investment in tangible resources that support enhancing safe park facilities

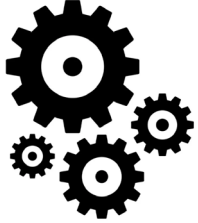


SAFETY STRATEGY GUIDELINES

Formulate robust strategies that foster environments where customers view park facilities to be safe and inviting



Strategic Plan – Interagency Initiatives



INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES

Foster interagency coordination, collaboration and integration across all agencies that contribute to preserving park safety and security

Primary Interagency Partners:

- Park and Recreation
- Dallas Police
- Dallas Marshals
- Office of Homeless Solutions
- Homeless Action Response Team (H.A.R.T.)
- Code Compliance



Strategic Plan – Interagency Initiatives



INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES

Foster interagency coordination, collaboration and integration across all agencies that contribute to preserving park safety and security

Homeless Encampment Resolutions

- Require close collaboration with multiple departments:
 - Park and Recreation
 - Office of Homeless Solutions
 - Dallas Police
 - Dallas Marshals

Before



After



Cottonwood Trail at Forest Lane Overpass



Strategic Plan – Community Engagement



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Proactively engage and involve the community to grow enthusiasm and support around efforts to maintain safe park facilities

Objective 2: Design a PKR program that models Dallas Police's Volunteers in Patrol (VIP) Program

- Partnering with DPD Neighborhood Police Officer units
- Partnering with community groups to enlist participation during trail planning and design phase and on-going partnerships after trail opening:
 - Friends groups
 - Homeowner associations
 - Targeted task forces / PKR stakeholders



Strategic Plan – Equipment & Infrastructure



EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY

Increase investment in tangible resources that support enhancing safe park facilities

Objective 2: Leveraging funds to optimize security infrastructure

Near-Term Prioritized Infrastructure TRAIL SITES		
Type	Number of Trail Sites Identified	
	Funded for FY 23	Unfunded
Lighting	2	14
Security Cameras	1	8



Strategic Plan – Equipment & Infrastructure



EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY

Increase investment in tangible resources that support enhancing safe park facilities

- Continue with ARPA-funded infrastructure installations in 2023
- 2024 Bond Program Planning
 - Include lighting and cameras with the design package for approved trail projects
 - Incorporate lighting at strategic locations (parking lots, trail heads, etc.)
 - Pursue solar-powered lighting as appropriate



Solar Lighting Installation
Northaven Trail – Pensive Trailhead



Strategic Plan – Safety Strategy Guidelines



SAFETY STRATEGY GUIDELINES

Formulate robust strategies that foster environments where customers view park facilities to be safe and inviting

Objective 1 / Initiative 1.4:

- Staffing Needs – Expand the bicycle patrol program to provide greater patrols of the citywide trail system
- Trails patrolled 2 times per week by Park Rangers
- Infractions are reported and mitigated, as appropriate



Next Steps



- Initiate strategic plan implementation efforts
- Periodic implementation status updates to Park and Recreation Board
- Continue interagency coordination to enhance trail safety
- Expand the park ranger bicycle patrol program as additional resources become available
- Enlist more community stakeholders to actively support trail safety awareness



Marshals Park Unit



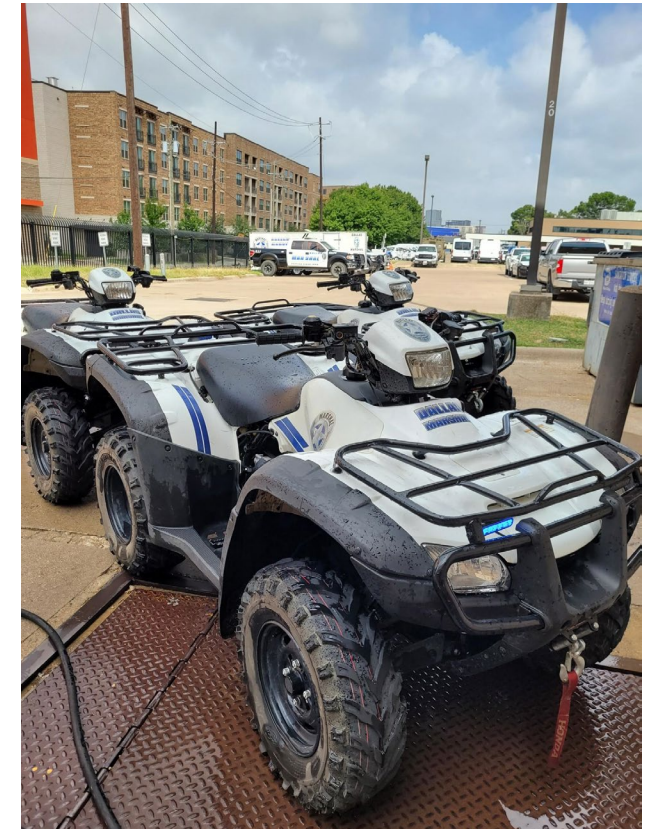
- In 2021 the park unit was created
 - 1 Sergeant and 3 Deputy Marshal's
- In FY 22 four Deputy Marshal positions were added to the Marshal's for the park unit and an evening shift was created
- In FY 23 four Deputy Marshal positions were added to the park unit
 - Day shift 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - 1 Sergeant and 3 Marshals (2 vacancies)
 - Evening shift 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
 - 1 Sergeant and 4 Marshals (1 vacancy)
- Patrol parks seven days per week in conjunction with Park Rangers and Dallas Police Officers



Future Trail Safety Unit – Dallas Marshals



- Trail Safety Unit will be operational in Spring 2023
- Utilizing current staffing, two Marshals will be assigned specifically to trail safety
 - Bicycle patrol certification training is March 29-31, 2023 (minimum 2 Marshals)
 - Will also use ATVs to patrol
- The Trail Safety Unit will work in collaboration with:
 - Dallas Police NPO Unit
 - Park Rangers
 - H.A.R.T. Team
 - Office of Integrated Public Safety



Dallas Police Department Overview



- City Trails Overview
- Visibility / Enforcement
- Crime Metrics
- Trail Safety Tips
- Next Steps



City Trails Overview



- Over 175 miles
- Frequently patrolled trails:
 - White Rock Lake Trail
 - Santa Fe Trail
 - Katy Trail
 - AT&T Trail and Trinity Forest Trail



Visibility/Enforcement



- **White Rock Lake Trail**

- 9.4-mile trail
- Encircles White Rock Lake
- Patrols conducted daily
 - Bike Patrol
 - Mounted Unit
 - All terrain vehicle
 - Vehicle patrols

- **Santa Fe Trail**

- 4.7-mile trail
- Begins east of Deep Ellum/Exposition Park and connects into west side of White Rock Lake
 - Bike Patrol
 - Mounted Unit
 - Self-initiated and complaint directed patrols



Visibility/Enforcement



- **Katy Trail**
 - 3.5-mile trail
 - Begins north of American Airlines Center and ends at Central Expressway
 - Patrols conducted daily
 - Bike Patrol
 - Mounted Unit
- **AT&T Trail and Trinity Forest Trail**
 - 8.1-mile trail
 - Multiple access points to trail
 - Patrols are self initiated, and complaint directed
 - Bike Patrol
 - Mounted Unit



Crime Metrics – All City Trails



- Offenses within 100 feet of trails

Offense	2021 (EOY)	2022 (EOY)	2023 (YTD)
Aggravated Assault	161	135	5
Robbery	50	61	6
Murder	3	8	0

Crime Metrics – Monitored Trails



- White Rock Lake Trail, Santa Fe Trail, Katy Trail, and AT&T/Trinity Forest Trail (Offenses)

Offense	2021	2022	2023	Totals
Aggravated Assault	10	13	0	23
Robbery	3	2	1	6
Murder	0	0	0	0



Crime Metrics - Arrests



- Arrests within 100 feet of all City trails

Offense	2021	2022	2023	Totals
Aggravated Assault	29	51	0	80
Robbery	12	15	0	27
Murder	1	2	0	3



Trail Safety Tips



- Be aware of your surroundings
- Report suspicious persons or behavior
- Avoid wearing earbuds
- Run/bike/walk with a friend or in a group
- Wear bright or reflective clothing
- Vary your exercise routine
- Carry pepper spray or whistle
- Carry a fully charged telephone



Next Steps



- Continue to work with Dallas City Parks and Marshal's Office on crime prevention on City parks and trails
- Collaborate with the Office of Homeless Solutions to provide alternative housing solutions
- Continued use of Departmental resources – Mounted Unit, NPOs
- Increase the number of certified bike officers on the Department
- Cross-train NPO officers to conduct bike patrols at parks/trails
- Leverage additional technology to monitor trail locations
- Public Service Announcement on trail safety (what3words app)
- Secure additional funding for equipment
 - Bikes
 - ATVs





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