

BRIDGE LACROSSE

net gains for life

DALLAS PARK AND RECREATION
PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION

DALLAS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

*Presented by Bridge Lacrosse
David Higbee | Executive Director
April 3, 2025*



JOHN C. PHELPS PARK

3300 SOUTHERN OAKS BLVD
DALLAS TX 75216



WHO WE ARE

In 2003, in partnership with St. Philip's School & Community Center, Edie Lycke hosted a variety of lacrosse clinics in South Dallas. Edie was committed to providing resources to under-resourced areas and had a special passion for helping to close the opportunity gap.

Bridge Lacrosse is a sports-based youth development organization serving the predominantly under-resourced communities of southern Dallas County and east Travis County in Austin.

Bridge serves more than 800 youth through a range of lacrosse and non-lacrosse programs. Bridge believes that lacrosse can play an integral role in a child's development, and with 20 years of experience, we are thrilled to share our accomplishments and successes.

Our mission is to use the sport of lacrosse to broaden the horizons of our community's youth.



WHY BRIDGE LACROSSE

Our programs address the need for high-quality educational and enrichment opportunities for youth. We provide positive influences and interventions that prepare young people socially, mentally, and physically. We believe we have successfully contributed to closing the opportunity gap, offering a lifetime of learning and joy through a unique sport, fostering healthy relationships, and building an expanding network of supporters.

Our ultimate is for every student-athlete to maximize the opportunities and relationships accessible to them as participants and alumni. Our system assesses short-term outcomes related to social and emotional development, while also connecting to long-term positive outcomes. We are proud to have measurable data that reinforces our impact on youth.



WHO WE SERVE

In North Texas, we serve students in kindergarten through 12th grade in the greater southern Dallas County area. Our primary geographic focus includes predominantly low-income communities of color in southern Dallas County. Specifically, we target neighborhoods such as Oak Cliff, Fair Park, South Dallas, Pleasant Grove, West Dallas, and Cedar Crest, spanning ZIP codes including 75216, 75217, 75208, 75232, and 75227.

- **2023-2024 Program Numbers** (*Dallas Service Area*)
 - 772 Total Unique Student-Athletes
 - 48% Black
 - 35% Hispanic/Latinx
 - 10% White
 - 7% Multi-Racial or Other
 - 81% Free & Reduced Lunch
 - 46% Female

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & AWARDS

- 2024 D Magazine CEO Nonprofit of the Year Finalist
- 2023 Texas HS Lacrosse Class C North Champion
- 2021 Texas HS Lacrosse Class D State Champions
- 2021 Texas Girls HS Lacrosse Division 3 Champions
- Six Academic All-Americans
- Two High School League Coach of the Year Awards
 - Jack Gorman and Maddie Nayfa
- 2021 D Magazine CEO Nonprofit Leadership Excellence Finalist
- 2010 National Positive Coaching Alliance Coach of the Year Award | Jack Tierney
- 2011 & 2012 Dallas Positive Coaching Alliance Coach of the Year Award | David Higbee and Jessica Lommel





OUR IMPACT

We believe that our ultimate success comes from supporting our student-athletes with a lifetime of positive influences, interventions and opportunities. Our impact is spread out over 20 years of work in southern Dallas and include incredible highlights including:

- 90% of Bridge student-athletes enroll in college after HS
- 90%+ of student-athletes grow in social emotional learning
- 92% Overall program satisfaction
- 51% of HS increase in social capital as a participant
- Distributed more than \$50,000 in scholarships over 6 years
- Currently 12 alumni playing collegiate lacrosse; NCAA and NAIA
- Two alumni with professional lacrosse experience, Nakeie Montgomery and Jeremy Winston
- Annual 300+ Dallas Park & Recreation summer kids exposed to lacrosse at more than a dozen recreation centers

OUR ALUMNI

Upon graduating from high school, our student-athletes transition to alumni. We strive to maintain consistent contact with them, serving as a valuable resource for each individual, even those who are halfway across the country. For those alumni who have stayed in or returned to Dallas, many reconnect with us as volunteer coaches. We take great pride in this accomplishment, as it reflects the positive culture we have cultivated within our organization.

- **Schools Currently Attended by Bridge Alumni**

- Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University, Texas A&M, University of North Texas, Prairie View A&M, Howard University, Babson, Emory, University of Texas at Austin, College of the Holy Cross, Northeastern, Texas Tech, U Chicago, and many, many more!

- **Bridge Alumni Currently Playing Lacrosse**

- Southwestern, Hampton University, Delaware State, Lynn University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Missouri Valley, Centenary College, Life University

- **Alumni Back in Bridge**

- Currently 16 alumni serving as team coaches
- Four alumni currently serving as paid-staff members
- One alumnae currently serving on the Board of Directors





JC PHELPS PARK

Beginning in December of 2017, we chose to centralize our programming to a single area. At that time, all programs and teams were siloed at three schools; St. Philip's School & Community Center, Irma L. Rangel YWLS, and the Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy. By centralizing to one area, we could consolidate resources and strengthen the family culture that has helped us achieve and sustain growth.

Following the new year, we discovered JC Phelps Park as a new home. With the support and accommodation of Dallas Park and Recreation, the field was made available to our organization. Since that time, we have called JC Phelps Park home and operate all of our primary on-field programming there, as well as with a strong relationship with the JC Phelps Recreation Center.





JC PHELPS PARK USAGE & UPKEEP

- Our current usage of JC Phelps Park is roughly 370 hours per year. We are presently the largest user of JC Phelps Park.
- To date, we have invested almost \$15,000 into the quality of the playing surface at JC Phelps Park. These investments include upgrading the playing grass surface such as aeration, grass seed, and top dressing.

SARGENT PARK FIELD USAGE

- We also utilize field space at the neighboring Sargent Park. Our current usage of Sargent Park is 80 hours per year and serves as a secondary field for additional teams and programming, predominantly in the spring.

CURRENT AGREEMENT

- Presently, we have one beautification agreement with the Dallas Park and Recreation, JC Phelps Park. The agreement states that we support the upkeep of the area through community service cleanups and year-round litter and debris cleanup.



JC PHELPS PARK

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

Our goal is to develop a multi-year agreement with Dallas Park and Recreation that would allow us to greatly improve the amenities and space at JC Phelps Park, and ensure our continued growth and strength of programming.

- Phase One
 - Provide enhanced field maintenance, winter rye, aeration and top dressing
 - Store lacrosse goals on the field
- Phase Two
 - Collaborate with the Park Department to improve field lighting
 - Install a water fountain
 - Designate JC Phelps as lacrosse only athletic field
- Phase Three
 - Install dome post/barriers to protect playing surfaces at JC Phelps Park
 - Installation of Port-John Area/Enclosure
 - Install stadium seating





QUESTIONS?



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