



SAN JOSE
**PARKS, RECREATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

Park Ranger Program Status Report

Item 8.1

January 29, 2019

Referral from Public Safety, Finance & Strategic Support Committee

December 13, 2018



Park Ranger Program Working Group

- Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services
- San José Park Rangers
- San José Police Department
- San José Fire Department
- Housing Department
- Environmental Services Department
- Human Resources Department
- City Manager's Office
- Mayor's Office
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- County of Santa Clara, Office of the District Attorney
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- NAACP – San José Chapter
- Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful
- Friends of Los Gatos Creek
- South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition
- Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
- West Valley College – Park Management Program

Working Group – Accomplished Tasks

Phase I

Ranger Program Review

Identification of current Park Ranger Program service model:

- Visitor Services
- Resource Management
- Public Safety

Phase II

Facilitated Discussions

- Working group goals
- Park Ranger safety concerns
- Park Ranger enforcement duties
- Watershed Protection Team objectives
- Risk Self-Assessment
- Environmental impacts

Phase III

Facilitated Discussions

Evaluation of service model alternatives & logistics:

- Identify safety equipment
- Strategize departmental coordination
- Apply relevant policy & regulations
- Identify action steps
- Review from OER & Bargaining Units

Phase IV

Advisory Recommendation to PRNS/SJPD

Formalize an advisory recommendation for the Director of PRNS and Chief of Police of SJPD:

- Immediate Plan: what can we do now to address these issues and needs?
- Long-Term Plan: What is the long-term solution to addressing these issues and needs?

Working Group (continued)

The working group divided the Park Rangers' daily job duties into three main categories:

- Visitor Services
- Resource Management
- Public Safety

Visitor Services Job Duty Examples

- Resource assistance to the homeless population
- Educate on park rules and procedures
- Park user concerns, conflicts, and issues
- Visitor questions
- Interpretive programs
- Picnic table compliance
- Special event support
- City ambassador
- Support volunteers
- Park patrol checks
- Tours
- Ride-a-longs
- Training

Resource Management Job Duty Examples

- Fire prevention patrols
- Restoration
- Jr. Ranger Program
- Lake water testing
- Regulatory agencies
- Protect fish and wildlife
- Repair equipment/signs
- Cherry Flat Dam inspections
- Graffiti abatement
- Volunteer projects
- Animal abatement
- Open and close parks
- Document park conditions
- Park/trail maintenance

Public Safety Job Duty Examples

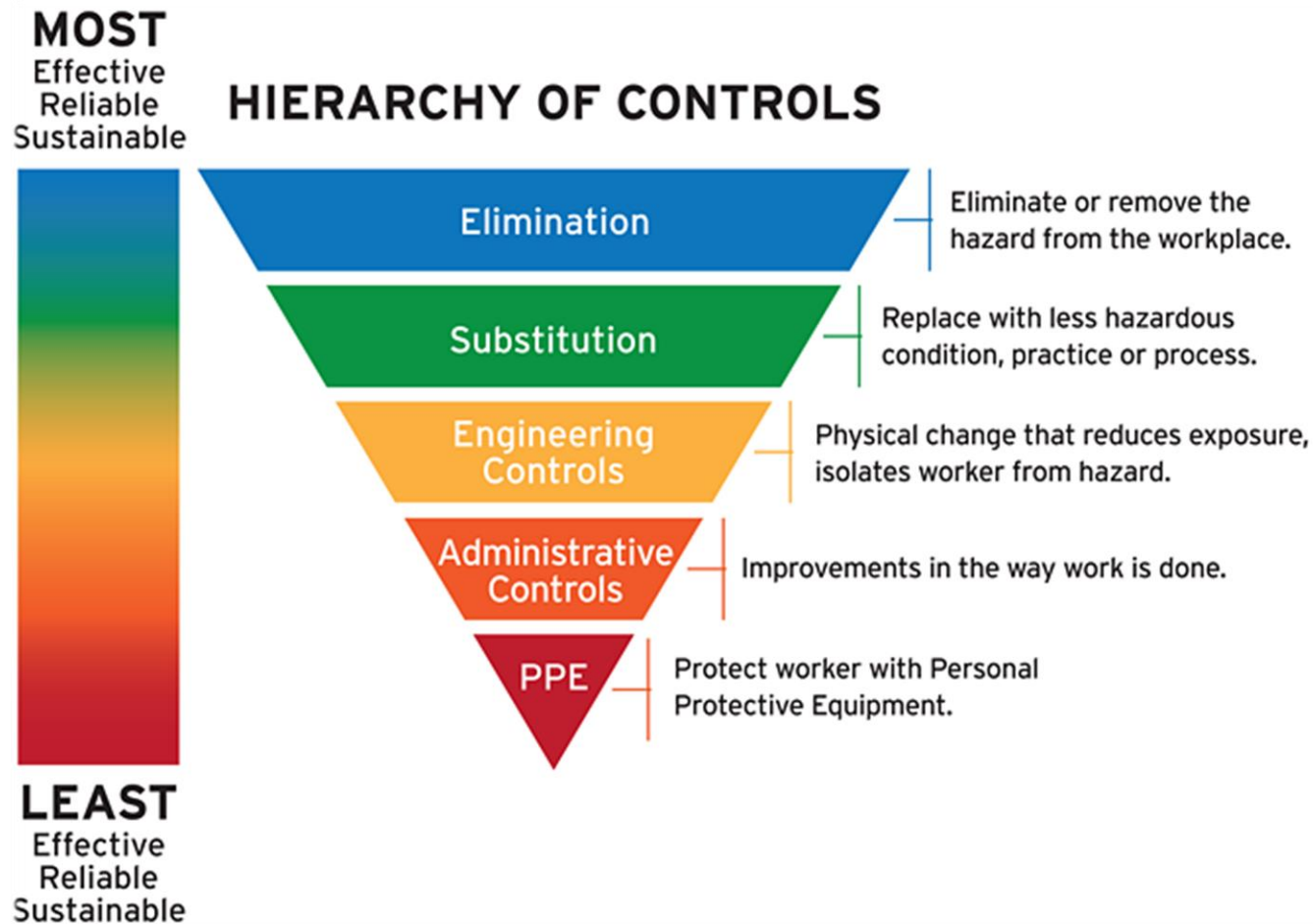
- Joint Creek-Side Patrols with SJPD:
- Homeless encampment abatement
- Prevent future re-encampments
- Assist in identifying environmental law
- Enforcing compliance with Park Rules
- Enforcing Picnic Reservation compliance
- Active patrols in and around all park systems
- Assist in search and rescue efforts
- Provide wildfire support and prevention
- Provide knowledge of geographical areas within the parks system
- Provide basic first aid

Park Ranger Hazard Analysis

Park Ranger Hazard Analysis for Job Duties

- Focused on job tasks to identify hazards before they occur.
- Focused on the relationship between the worker, the task, the tools and the work environment.
- Step 1: Research and define the task in detail
- Step 2: Identify hazards associated with the task
- Step 3: Identify controls that will prevent injury

Hazard Analysis Process – *Hierarchy of Controls*



Identifies methods of accomplishing tasks while isolating workers from hazards

Factors in the urgency of the task:

- Life Safety/Life saving task
- Immediately Dangerous to Life/Health (IDLH)

Immediate Next Steps

- PRNS/PD joint review of patrol costs to inform budget priorities
- Finalize Ranger duty manual
- Work with regional partners on recruitment/training/academy
- Consider body-worn cameras and related ranger training

Conclusion

Going forward, San José Park Ranger duties will include the following:

- Visitor Services
- Resource Management
- Defined Enforcement Activities