



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a safe and pleasant atmosphere for family recreation;
To protect and preserve life and property within the parks;
To inform and assist the public;
And to provide these services in a courteous and professional manner."

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

The Year in Review

The **Great Parks of Hamilton County (GPHC) Ranger Division** stayed busy throughout 2018. Typically, our new year starts with identifying and scheduling annual training. Rangers completed four in-house blocks of training and five outside training blocks by mid-May. Two part-time rangers were hired by April 6. With three parks situated along the Ohio River and record breaking floods this year, it stayed a little hectic into May and let us embrace the busy season head on.



On June 14, Chief Executive Officer Jack Sutton appointed Acting Chief Ranger Richard Spreckelmeier to the position of Chief Ranger, which had been vacant since April 2017. Sergeant Dale Steele was sworn in later the same day as Ranger Captain.

The Chief immediately focused on filling several open positions within the Ranger Division. Three promotional processes filled four open supervisor positions and two hiring processes brought five more new part-time Rangers on board. All of these processes were accomplished by the end of December with an additional part-time process started mid-December. Recruiting will continue into 2019 until all positions have been filled.

Research, change and advancements in law enforcement never end and we are certainly not exempt. Public perception, use of force, transparency and recruitment/retention top the list of common challenges. As law enforcement agencies nationwide strive to strengthen relationships with the communities they serve, we will continue to embrace the guidelines set forth by the State of Ohio (Ohio Collaborative) in addition to the recurrent self-assessment the General Orders of the GPHC Ranger Division Operations Manual dictate. Our second on-site re-certification will occur late 2019.



On the 27th of October, 27 law enforcement agencies in Hamilton County received a major blow to their computer-based records system when their Records Management software (Pamet) experienced a massive server failure. Ultimately, all data from 2014 through October 27, 2018 vanished and agencies were unable to access the program for weeks.

For five agencies hosting the program on in-house servers, it was business as usual. For the rest of us, the data has yet to be recovered. Fortunately, we were mid-transition, still maintaining our in-house name file, daily log and hard copies of offense reports. We are on track with our IT department to host Pamet on our own server in 2019.

Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) were upgraded this year to provide better mapping, unit tracking and officer safety and new ones were purchased for every patrol cruiser.

Each Ranger received a new winter/spring coat ensemble in 2018 as well. The coat consists of a lightweight inner water resistant shell and a reflective, waterproof outer shell. Black and tan coats were ordered continuing our transition away from the traditional green. We offered our worn green coats to a neighboring Ranger department that was more than happy to take them off our hands as their Rangers did not have winter coats.

PROMOTIONS



Sergeant Dale Steele was promoted to **Ranger Captain** on June 14, 2018.



Sergeant Ali Bird was promoted to **Investigative Lieutenant** on July 12, 2018.

On December 13, **Ranger Alexander Stephens and Ranger Katie Lake were promoted to Sergeant.** Sgt. Stephens is assigned to Winton Woods and Sgt. Lake is assigned to Sharon Woods.



Ranger Alex Stephens began his career with the GPHC Ranger division in 2017. He has worked in the Miami Whitewater Forest and Woodland Mound districts. Prior to his time here, Alex spent three years working corrections for the Hamilton County Sheriff's office and five years in the United States Air Force where he served as a Staff Sergeant and was deployed to Afghanistan. Alex is working on a degree in Criminal Justice. Ranger Stephens was promoted to Sergeant on December 13, 2018. He was serving the Ranger division as a Field Training Officer at the time of his promotion and remains an instructor in the A.L.I.C.E. program.



Ranger Katie Lake's GPHC career began in 2003 as a Safety Technician. In 2007, she was hired by the Ranger division and eventually assigned to the Shawnee Lookout district. Katie has a degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati and is committed to the development of her professional career. She is always willing to assume positions of responsibility within the Ranger division. Ranger Lake Katie was a Field Training Officer and served on the 2019 Kick-Off Committee at the time of her promotion. She remains an active member of the Park Employee Engagement Team (PEET).

PROMOTIONS



Ranger Elliott Spraul
was promoted to full-time
December 14.



Ranger Matt Randolph
was hired part-time April 6 and
promoted to full-time December 13.



Ranger Kendra Keuffer
was hired part-time October 31 and
promoted to full-time December 15.



Ranger Shawn Wright
was hired part-time October 31 and
promoted to full-time December 16.

NEW HIRES



Ranger Craig Nance
was hired part-time June 28.



Ranger Michael Long
was hired part-time October 31.

NEW HIRES



Ranger Jason Gantt
was hired part-time on October 31.



Ranger Joseph Murray
was hired part-time on March 8 and
resigned May 23.

RETIREMENT / RESIGNATIONS



Ranger Douglas Proud retired
from Great Parks on October 10,
2018 after **32 years** of full-time
service.



Ranger Kevin Richards resigned
from Great Parks on November 17,
2018 after **17.5 years** of part-time
service.

It was determined in July **Ranger Shad Wetterich** would not be returning to work following an auto accident that occurred while he was on duty last year. **Ranger Darryn Chenault** accepted a position with the University of Cincinnati Police department in December. We wish them both the best!

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

- 30 Years** – Chief Richard Spreckelmeier
- 25 Years** – Lieutenant Greg Grimm, Ranger Sherry Garner
- 20 Years** – Sergeant Todd Williams
- 15 Years** – Ranger Rick Dove

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Commendation



On February 21, 2018 **Ranger Shad Wetterich** received a Letter of Commendation from Chief Spreckelmeier for backup assistance he provided to Harrison PD on December 2, 2017 when he assisted with an assault with injuries call. Ranger Wetterich assisted in subduing a distraught and paranoid subject with visible hand lacerations. The subject fled during pat down but was quickly located by Ranger Wetterich who observed the subject repeatedly inflict life threatening wounds to his body with a large knife.

Ranger Wetterich assisted with controlling the subject, recovering the knife and keeping him alert until the squad arrived. His command of the situation and quick action prevented the subject from inflicting more cuts and ensuring the safety of all officers involved.

Letters of Appreciation



Ranger Matt Siry received a Letter of Appreciation from Chief Spreckelmeier for the professional assistance he provided to victims and EMT's at the scene of an active shooting inside a restaurant on Beechmont Avenue on December 13, 2017. The initial dispatch indicated multiple employees had been shot and hostages were being held inside. Upon arrival, Ranger Siry learned the shooter was in custody and waited for units to clear the building. He entered the building prepared to care for casualties and spent his time with one victim who had received a gunshot wound to the head until EMS arrived.



Chief Spreckelmeier issued a Letter of Appreciation to **Ranger Jordan Batts** for the lifesaving actions he displayed at the scene of a serious motorcycle accident on the 275/Route 52 Kellogg Avenue ramp to 275 the evening of May 12, 2018. Ranger Batts was first on scene and immediately recognized the extent of the injuries sustained by an unconscious male and monitored his breathing while notifying the Communications Center of the accident and need for a squad.

Ranger Batts kept the victim alive with rescue breathing until EMS arrived. The victim's friends expressed sincere gratitude for the assistance Ranger Batts provided that night and for giving them one more week with their beloved friend.

Letters of Appreciation

On June 9, 2018 **Ranger Jeff Tremain** received a Letter of Appreciation from Chief Spreckelmeier after he assisted Delhi Township PD with a medical emergency in the parking lot at 5664 Hillside Avenue. At the time of dispatch, Ranger Tremain advised the Communications Center he was close to the location and was asked to respond. Upon arrival, he instantly recognized the incident as a cardiac emergency and requested a squad respond. The victim stopped breathing while waiting for the squad to arrive. Ranger Tremain and a Delhi Township officer administered CPR until EMS arrived and transported her to the hospital.

The actions and judgements made by Ranger Tremain were the epitome of professional and exemplify positive results of his training and expertise.



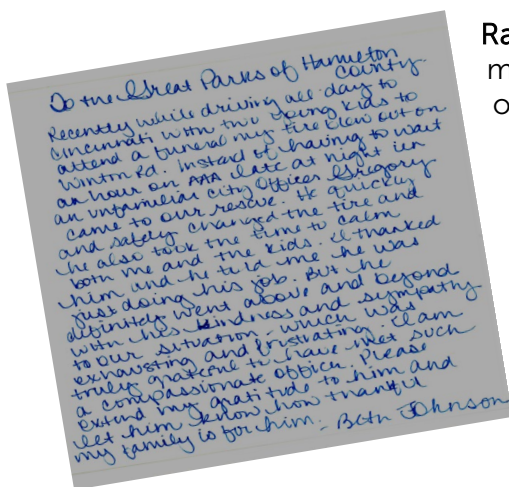
Chief Spreckelmeier also presented Letters of Appreciation to then **Sergeant Dale Steele** and **Rangers Nathan Zimmerman and Eric Gregory** for the professional assistance they provided to the Blue Ash and Springdale Police Departments in 2017 with homicide investigations. All were officially acknowledged in the 2017 Ranger Division Annual Report upon receipt of the original agencies' correspondence. **Ranger Gregory** also received a thank you from the HCPA SWAT Team Commander for responding to anticipated trouble involving protestors at a local public venue in March.

Compliments Received

The following Ranger Division employees received thank you letters from the public this year:

Ranger Matt Siry and **Dispatcher Joy Stapleton** for helping a lost park patron find her way home when she became disoriented in one of our parks.

A group of friends paddling from Caesar Creek to the Ohio River arrived at Lake Isabella for an overnight stay to find their pre-arranged night was not going to happen. They were most appreciative of the polite and professional manner in which **Ranger Joel Altman** reached a perfect resolve.



Ranger Daren Stoeckel for the kind demeanor and courteous manner in which he assisted a disabled motorist in the wee hours of the morning at the Miami Whitewater Forest Soccer Complex.

An out-of-town stranded mother with two young children made sure the Ranger Division knew how much she appreciated **Ranger Eric Gregory** for changing her tire and calming her kids down when they experienced a flat tire on Winton Road.

Rangers participate in the following
Hamilton County Police Association (HCPA) Specialized Assignments:

Ranger Kelly Williford is a member of the **HCPA Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USAR)**. This dive team provides law enforcement agencies in and around Hamilton County with underwater police assistance in recovering property and evidence to aid in criminal investigations. U.S.A.R. members are highly trained in underwater search and recovery and specialize in techniques designed to reduce risks law enforcement personnel are exposed to when diving in highly hazardous underwater conditions.



U.S.A.R. did not respond to any critical incident assistance calls this year as opposed to five Critical and 17 Non-Critical requests received last year. The team trains regularly and remains prepared. Ranger Williford participated in 10 of 12 training blocks conducted in 2018.

On June 27, Ranger Williford (pictured with his son) presented a new boat and equipment to a group at Camp Campbell Gard in Hamilton, Ohio.

In October, the USAR visited Sharon Woods and Miami Whitewater Forest to perform site and survey inspections on the water drainage control valves in both lakes. Divers removed all debris around the valves and ensured the valves were operational.

The **HCPA Honor Guard** was established in 2002 with the primary purpose of providing Police Honors to police officers killed in the line of duty or retired police officers who have passed. **Ranger Dave Spurgeon** has represented Great Parks on the unit since 2002.

The unit was detailed to or participated in 63 events in 2018, the busiest year the HCPA Honor Guard has had to date.

The HCPA Honor Guard was also detailed to the National Police Memorial in Washington D.C., National Night Out and the annual HCPA Banquet which Ranger Spurgeon attended.

All members are expected to maintain 50% participation in unit details. The unit averaged one detail every 5.8 days. Funeral details of late are often officers we have worked with, trained with, are acquainted with, or have met through our Law Enforcement careers. A consequence that is inevitable.





The HCPA **Most Wanted Band** experienced another exciting year of providing Music with a Message to groups throughout Hamilton and Clermont counties. **Ranger Missie Shannon** is a proud member of Most Wanted. The band spent less time on stages and dance floors this year but still did an excellent job breaking down barriers between law enforcement and the general public. The majority of this great work is being accomplished in schools. Students receive lessons through music like 'Just Saying No to Drugs and Alcohol', 'No to Bullying', and 'You Can Be Whatever You Want to be by Staying in School and Graduating from School'.

Cincinnati Police District 3 requested **Most Wanted** to play for its National Night Out. It was a new venue for the band and a new band for the venue. Despite the rain that day, it didn't dampen the good time had by hundreds who attended. Although it took a little time for the audience to warm up to a group of singing and dancing police officers, after the first song or two, it was dancing and singing throughout the park; so much positive interaction with the community. Ranger Shannon felt particularly lucky to have spent nearly an hour during a rain delay with a 94 year old resident who lived next to the park all of her life. The resident described how the neighborhood had evolved, how the park came to fruition and how she wished Sunday dinners were still held under the pavilion. According to Ranger Shannon, she was the lucky one who received the Music with a Message lesson that rainy day.

Ranger Eric Gregory is an active member of the HCPA **Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT)** team. He joined SWAT eight years ago as a tactical member. Tactical members make entry on warrant service, secure wanted subjects and are responsible for hostages and innocent bystanders of active scenes.

The SWAT team is comprised of an elite group of 54 highly trained police officers from various police agencies throughout Hamilton County. In addition to their law enforcement duties, the team participates in a number of community events with schools, parades and orphanages every year.

Each year, Ranger Gregory takes part in the Greater Cincinnati Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics. This year, with his daughter Isabelle in tow, he and other SWAT team members braved the cold water with hundreds of others at Joe's Crab Shack in Bellevue, Kentucky. The water temperature was a chilly 40 degrees! The event raised nearly \$130,000 for Special Olympics in Ohio and Kentucky.



Rangers participate in the following
Great Parks of Hamilton County Ranger Division (GPHC) Specialized Assignments:

ALICE

Two Rangers are certified to instruct ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) program. **Captain Dale Steele** served as our sole instructor in 2018 until **Sergeant Alexander Stephens** completed the training and became a certified ALICE instructor as well.

ALICE is designed to increase chances of surviving a violent attack, particularly by an active shooter. Active shooters, in schools and office buildings, have a very high shot-fired to hit-ratio with 80% of shots fired in most situations being fatal. The program is offered on an as-requested basis within Great Parks and is often tailored to specific division requests. The goal is to equip staff with more options that work in "real" situations. Two training sessions with 38 attendees were held in 2018.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)

Rangers Sherry Garner and Nicole Peacock were certified instructors for the ASI (American Safety Institute) ATV Rider Course. Rangers are certified in the operation of an ATV as training allows.

Four Rangers were certified in the operation of the ATV in 2018. ATV's deploy Rangers quickly due to its high maneuverability, relative quietness and ability to negotiate rough terrains. They are easy to ride on flat ground at a slow pace, but to achieve an ATV's performance potential, the machine demands techniques never learned or imagined. Improper operation of an ATV can cause serious injury. The course covers breaking, turning, stopping quickly, riding over obstacles, traversing hills and trail riding. All designed to promote safe, responsible ATV use while on patrol.

CPR / First Aid

The CPR/First Aid Instructor for the Ranger division is **Ranger Missie Shannon**. There were no First Aid/CPR trainings scheduled in 2018. Mobile Aid patrol bags were purchased in an effort to combine all First Aid/CPR equipment carried in cruisers into one bag. Mobile Aid was specifically selected as it offers AED and Bag Valve Masks storage in one area and the remaining First Aid equipment in another. With this upgrade, rarely used items were removed from the First Aid equipment and all outdated pieces were eliminated and/or replaced.

The Mobile Aid bags also provide uniformity. Rangers working in any district will find each bag contains the identical emergency medical supplies in all, regardless of which district the emergency may occur in. The bags are light weight with straps to allow for backpack-like carrying. When a new product comes along, there is still plenty of room inside to accommodate it.

Defensive Tactics/ Scenario Based Training

Sergeant Tim Biaglow and **Rangers John Patterson** and **Nathan Zimmerman** were the Ranger division's Defensive Tactics Instructors. While there was no mandated training from the State of Ohio this year, our instructors still provided in-house Use of Force training.

Sergeant Biaglow attended Scenario Based Instructor School offered by the Attorney General's Office this year. This created an opportunity for us to take advantage of a new program offered by the Attorney General's Office where all equipment and safety gear needed to conduct Scenario Based Training in-house is loaned to departmental instructors.



This method of training allows instructors to teach not only "how" to use force under stress, but equally, if not more importantly, "when".

The availability of simulated lethal and less lethal training options enabled instructors to create a safe and effective environment for conducting force on force training. Special thanks to the supervisors and Ranger Elliott Spraul who volunteered to facilitate the training.

Field Training (FTO)

The Field Training Officer (FTO) program is a 12-week course in which new Rangers take part in a training curriculum designed to prepare them for their Park Law Enforcement Officer role. This departmental training encompasses all aspects of the duties and skills required of a new Ranger.

Captain Dale Steele supervised the program through most of 2018 with **Sergeant Todd Williams** assuming the FTO Program Supervisor duties late in the year. Sgt. Williams attended a two-day training course on Managing Field Training Programs in November 2018.

Six Field Training Officers (FTOs) logged a total of 1,642 training hours in 2018. These hours were spent training seven new Part-time Rangers. The FTOs who logged training hours were - Edwin McFadden III, Jordan Batts, Katie Lake, Eric Gregory, Alex Stephens and Kelly Williford.

The seven new part-time Rangers who received the training were: Joe Murray, Matt Randolph, Craig Nance, Jason Gantt, Kendra Keuffer, Shawn Wright, and Michael Long. All new hires are now trained in the Central, East and West Regions during their field training period.

Firearms

Sergeant Tim Biaglow and Ranger Kelly Williford qualify all sworn Ranger personnel with the use of their handgun, shotgun and rifles as mandated by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. 2018 was a busy year as the division brought on seven new hires that had to be re-qualified by our instructors. In-house shoots were offered in May, July and September with 30 Rangers participating in at least one of the shoots. Scarlet Oaks Police Academy, Hamilton County Sheriff Office and Forest Park Police Department ranges were used for our in-house shoots this year.



While the state mandates a yearly qualification, our instructors exceed minimum standards and coordinate two additional trainings through the year. This year's training focused on transitioning skills and various firearms drills which help Rangers become more proficient with their weapons. On May 26, our instructors were invited to a demonstration day by Sig Sauer at the Cincinnati Airport Range where they were able to test fire and see all the latest weapons Sig Sauer has to offer.

Color Guard Team



The Ranger Color Guard handles any local, public ceremonial requests to present the flags, and is a great way to represent Great Parks in the communities we serve. At every event the Ranger Color Guard participated in this year, there were enough Rangers to present all three flags; the United States of America flag, the State of Ohio flag, and the Great Parks of Hamilton County flag, flanked by two Rangers carrying the rifles.

Members of the Ranger Color Guard team are: **Lieutenant Ali Bird and Rangers Dave Spurgeon, Eric Gregory, Kevin Richards, Andrew Mueller, Edwin McFadden III, McCoy Lambing, and Michael Farmer.**

The Color Guard Team was invited to five events this year:

- April 3 Red's Opening Day Parade, Findlay Market
- May 11 Police Memorial, Cincinnati Police Department
- June 1 St. Joseph Orphanage, Great American Ball Park
- Aug 14 Cincinnati Red's Game, Great American Ball Park.
- Aug 19 Special Olympics, Winton Woods Parky's Farm

GPHC Committees

Kick-Off Team – Sergeant Katie Lake

At the start of February, employees from several different park divisions came together to begin planning for the agency's biggest meeting of 2019. The committee decided on the theme "Make the Connection". The theme was intended to serve multiple meanings which include: connections between our employees, different connections between park divisions and regions, as well as the relationships and partnerships between outside organizations and our visitors. **Sergeant Katie Lake** and **Ranger Eric Gregory** were responsible for providing input on the video, fun, and food portions of the meeting. The meeting was held at The Grove event center in Springfield Township and provided attendees with fun facts, entertainment, and information about current and future endeavors.

PEET (Park Employment Engagement Team) – Sergeant Katie Lake

PEET spent 2018 identifying ways to connect our staff to one another and our mission. The main goal of PEET is to make positive impacts and improvements on our agency's culture. Based on surveys, employee discussions, and feedback from events like Kick-Off and Charting Change, the team made the decision to focus attention on five specific areas to refine or develop. Those areas include: the Job Shadowing program, staff Networking/Volunteering opportunities, Team Building, Training & Education, and Core Values. The goals will continue into 2019. The team will move forward with progress on mid-range and long-term goals previously set.

Safety Team – Ranger Andrea Alberico

The Safety Team held one meeting in the spring of 2018. We discussed the history of the committee and its future of keeping employees safe and healthy while in their daily work environments. A number of articles were written for the Gazette that featured information on severe weather, environmental hazards, common workplace hazards and how employees can help avoid being injured by these occurrences. The articles also emphasized the importance of employees notifying their co-workers and supervisors right away when an unsafe situation in their workplace presents itself. The saying "If you see something unsafe say something" is the message the Safety Team attempts to convey to all employees. The overall mission of the team is to encourage and promote safe practices for employees in the workplace.

Social Media – Lieutenant Ali Bird

The Social Media Committee disbanded in 2018 with the hiring of a dedicated Social Media Strategist. Lieutenant Ali Bird represented the Ranger division on this committee from 2015-2018. She was responsible for the majority of the Rangers' social media content. We would be remiss if we did not mention her cunning efforts over the years.

Controlled Bow Hunt Program

The Controlled Bow Hunt program continues in order to manage the deer population in our parks. The program is an ecological management tool used to promote the growth of healthy plant and animal populations. The program is focused on removing white-tailed deer in areas of overpopulation. Hunters in the program must comply with rules set forth by Great Parks and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. In early summer, hunters are drawn by lottery and required to attend an outdoor proficiency shooting test.

Lieutenant Greg Grimm and **Ranger Rick Dove** held qualifications over a two day period. Hunters were required to place four out of five arrows inside a 10" circle at a distance of 20 yards. In 2018, over 200 hunters participated in the qualifications.



Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA)

Our division actively supports Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) and the Law Enforcement Section. OPRA is a non-profit, public interest organization representing nearly 1,900 professionals and citizen board members striving to provide quality park and recreational facilities and opportunities for all Ohioans while protecting and preserving Ohio's natural resources. **Ranger Eric Gregory** and **Ranger Edwin McFadden III** attended the annual OPRA Conference and Trade Show in Sandusky, Ohio in 2018. The conference focused on developing leadership skills, creating diversity in the workplace, sustainable growth, and urban deer management.

More than 20 municipal, county, state and federal agencies from across Ohio, including several of our Rangers, attended an OPRA Law Enforcement Section Workshop on May 7 at Wildwood Preserve to crack down on thefts from motor vehicles and a notorious identity theft ring known as the "Felony Lane Gang." The Felony Lane Gang, which targets parks and other public places, originated 10 years ago in Florida and has been linked to criminal activities in over 500 cities across 45 states.

In the fall of 2018, we hosted the OPRA Law Enforcement Section meeting at Sharon Woods. Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Park Officer Jason Lagore provided a K9 demonstration and training session to park law enforcement officers from across Ohio.

Park Law Enforcement Association (PLEA)

PLEA is a national professional development organization that provides informational services directed at educating park and recreation professionals of the role park law enforcement plays in providing and maintaining excellent parks and recreation facilities. PLEA also emphasizes visitor and resource protection and the relationship in overall park operations.

Captain Dale Steele, **Lieutenants Greg Grimm** and **Ali Bird**, and **Sergeants Tim Biaglow** and **Todd Williams** attended the 2018 PLEA Conference held in February in San Marcos, Texas.

Captain Steele continued his service as Treasurer on the PLEA Executive Board in 2018 and attended the annual PLEA Board meeting.

All five attended training blocks on 'Training the Somali National Police'; 'Small to Large Event Planning'; 'Stop the Bleeding'; 'Decision Support Services from the National Weather Service'; 'Policies for Changing Employee Conduct'; 'Wildland Fire Structural Triage'; 'The Fight After the Fight, Three Rounds and Counting' (an officer's story of survival before, during and after a critical incident and a Field Trip Day to area parks.

Verbal Defense and Influence (VDI)

Ranger Edwin McFadden III joined Lieutenant Ali Bird and Ranger Matt Siry as a Verbal Defense and Influence (VDI) Instructor this year. VDI is a global approach to managing conflict at the point of impact; the short period of time when a tense situation can escalate to emotional and/or physical violence.

VDI addresses the entire spectrum of human conflict, from interpersonal discord, verbal abuse and bullying, to crisis communications, assault and physical violence. It is designed to reduce complaints, liability, and injuries while improving collaboration, morale and overall safety.

Our VDI Instructors were requested to develop a lesson plan for all Great Parks employees aimed at providing improved and consistent service to our guests. This training will train employees on how to professionally deal with difficult people, identify what they can handle on their own, and know when it is time to call a Ranger. The goal is to make training available to Great Parks staff in 2019.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Our Rangers participated in the following events outside of our parks:



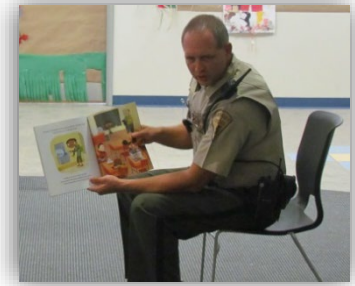
Law Enforcement Events / Parades

- 5/11/18 Police Memorial Day, Cincinnati – GPHC Color Guard, Dove
- 5/27/18 Crosby Township 103rd Memorial Day Parade – Stoeckel
- 6/4/18 Sharonville Touch-A-Truck Event – Farmer
- 6/13/18 Blue Ash Summit Park Bike Rodeo - Farmer
- 6/15/18 Springfield Township Touch-A-Truck Event – Spraul
- 6/23/18 Greenhills Day Parade – Chenault
- 8/7/18 National Night Out, Pierce Township – Zimmerman
- 8/14/18 Cincinnati Reds Game, GPHC Color Guard
- 9/29/18 Woodford Paideia Touch-A-Truck Event – Grimm

School Programs

Rangers Andrea Alberico and Doug Kachele were community readers to preschoolers at the Theodore M. Berry Life Learning Center of Cincinnati-Hamilton County Head Start in October.

In addition to reading to the children, they answered questions from the children about their jobs. The Ranger division responds to as many requests for private Ranger programs as we can each year. It is one of many ways we utilize to connect and engage with the communities we serve across Hamilton County.



The bulk of requests for Ranger programs outside of our parks are received from schools, churches, and organized youth groups. These requests are typically assigned to the on-duty Ranger who is working the shift in the district closest to the program location.

Many programs take place within our parks as well. While the bulk of in-park inquiries pertain to the duties and 'day in the life of a Ranger' from guests who cross paths with Rangers while on routine patrol, there are those who prefer to schedule learning time. Our goal is to respond to these requests from the public across Hamilton County.

Youth Programs

- 3/9/18 Cub Scout Pack #641 at Miami Whitewater Forest – Ranger Stoeckel
- /27/18 Trail Life program at Winton Woods – Ranger McFadden
- 6/15/18 Boy Scout program at Winton Woods – Ranger Richards
- 10/15/18 Boy Scout Troop #867, Woodland Mound – Ranger Zimmerman

**Cub Scout Pack #641
Miami Whitewater Forest**



Trail Life - Winton Woods



Ranger Programs

In addition to participating in all Special Events presented by Great Parks, Rangers took it to a whole new level this year by creating our own 'Meet a Ranger' Day at Winton Woods on September 1st.

Lieutenant Greg Grimm and Rangers Mike Foley and Edwin McFadden III enjoyed spending their day hanging out and 'talking shop' with all in attendance. The program was promoted by the Marketing department prior to and well received by the public.



Meet A Ranger Day



Sergeant Alex Stephens and Ranger Nicole Peacock met with park guests and assisted families with Great Parks' Fish Camps 101 and 201 held at Lake Isabella this year. They 'talked fish' while baiting hooks and sharing the art of fishing with attendees.

The Ohio Department of Soil and Water Conservation hosted a fishing derby at Miami Whitewater Forest in August where Ranger Darren Stoeckel provided information on boat safety.

Rangers actively patrolling parks enjoyed spending time with visitors interested in knowing the particulars about their job or what's going on in the parks in general.

Ranger Jordan Batts presented a program to two classes at New Richmond Elementary School in Clermont County in February.

Career Days / Jobs Fair

- 2/13/18 Hocking College Jobs Fair, Nelsonville, OH – Grimm, Zimmerman
- 3/9/18 Winton Woods, Meadowlinks Golf Course, Junior Achievement – Lambing
- 4/19/18 Career Day, Roger Bacon High School – McFadden
- 4/22/18 Girl Scout Career Day, Cintas Center – Bird
- 10/26/18 Career Day, Woodlawn Schools – Chenault



Special Events

Rangers were busy again this year assisting guests, parking cars, handling calls for service and maintaining a safe atmosphere for guests at numerous Great Parks special events.



Parky's Farm in Winton Woods was the venue for the traditional Easter Spectacular and the fall Halloween Nights children's events. Summer Concerts sizzled with bands playing in various parks throughout the season with sounds ranging from Jazz to Motown to Rock to Classical music. The Shakespeare in the Park performance was held at Glenwood Gardens with mild summer temperatures creating a favorable atmosphere for those taking in the performance.

Mother Nature was once again good to us in June when the Cincinnati Pops Summer Concert returned to the harbor point at Miami Whitewater Forest. The dry conditions were welcomed by Rangers as we depend heavily on dry turf conditions to park vehicles in non-paved areas to accommodate the crowd of over 4,000 guests! A new pedestrian traffic pattern was implemented this year to improve safety and visibility.



Events geared towards introducing visitors to outdoor activities included the YMCA Healthy Kids Day (Parky's Farm), and the Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo (Winton Woods harbor). These events provided opportunities for guests to engage in outdoor activities such as the climbing wall, paddling, outdoor skills demonstrations, mountain biking, fly fishing, archery, and loads of outdoor fun for children and adults alike.

As an organization with parks throughout the entire county, Great Parks has become a popular venue for benefit walks, 5K races and car shows. The largest of such events was the ALS Walk held in October at Harper Meadows in Winton Woods. Rangers provided safety and security as well as traffic control to ensure guests enjoyed a safe and pleasant experience during all aspects of their visit. Events of this scale often require "off duty" details where Rangers work with the event organizer to manage the logistics unique to each event and location.



The Holiday in Lights 5K Run/Walk kicks off the Holiday in Lights Festival at Sharon Woods each year. Rangers were staffed at various intersections and crosswalks to move vehicles and people in and out safely. The Holiday in Lights 5K draws 1,800 plus participants along with family and friends. Rangers utilize a local business complex and all paved areas of Sharon Woods to accommodate the parking needs.

CENTRAL REGION HIGHLIGHTS

Winton Woods – submitted by Lieutenant Ali Bird

In addition to all of facilities and amenities in Winton Woods, Winton Woods Rangers patrol Triple Creek, Farbach-Werner, Richardson Forest Preserve, Glenwood Gardens and Newberry Wildlife Sanctuary. One Sergeant and five full-time Rangers are assigned to the district in addition to multiple part-time Rangers who help cover shifts when needed. Shifts operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

On January 21, a Winton Woods Ranger stopped a vehicle for speed. Marijuana was detected and the vehicle and driver were searched. The driver advised she had a conceal carry permit and a loaded weapon in the vehicle. A large sum of cash and a small bag of marijuana were located on the driver, a medium size bag of marijuana in the vehicle, and a backpack with three large bags of marijuana in the trunk. Total weight of the marijuana was 485.3 grams with a street value of approximately \$4,800. The driver was arrested, charged and transported to the Hamilton County Justice Center. After the arrest, a routine cruiser revealed a bag of white powder had been shoved up under the cage and floorboard in the backseat. The white powder was confirmed to be 111.49 grams of cocaine, with a street value of roughly \$8,900.

While incarcerated, the defendant discussed hiding the cocaine in the cruiser, lying to us about possession of it and referencing the recovered marijuana on the jail's recorded phone line. She was charged with two counts of Drug Trafficking and two counts of Felony Drug Possession. After nearly a year in court, a plea bargain was agreed to and the drug possession and trafficking marijuana charges were dismissed in exchange for a guilty plea to trafficking cocaine. The defendant is still waiting to be sentenced. We have filed for civil forfeiture of the cash and weapon involved in this incident.

Park employees reported two subjects sleeping in a truck at a shelter in Winton Woods in the early morning hours of July 4. When the Ranger arrived, both subjects were asleep in the vehicle with the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Both occupants were identified. The driver had an active warrant from Butler County. He also told the Ranger the only drug present in the vehicle was drug paraphernalia from the night before and an unloaded pellet rifle.

During the vehicle search, a cigarette pack with four pills and four gel squares was located in the driver side door. More marijuana, a loaded, accessible rifle and other drug paraphernalia was found in the backseat. The pills tested positive for methamphetamine and the gel squares for LSD. The driver was charged with two felony counts of Drug Possession, Improper Handling of a Firearm in a Motor Vehicle and Carrying a Concealed Weapon. Through court proceedings, the CCW and possession of meth charges were dismissed in exchange for a guilty plea to possession of LSD and Improper Handling of a Firearm in a Motor Vehicle. The rifle was forfeited to our department.

A Ranger pulling into a parking lot for a routine check of motor vehicle permits on July 14 noticed two people sitting in a vehicle with a bicycle parked up against it. As he approached, the male occupant quickly jumped out and began walking into the woods. The Ranger witnessed him pull something from his pocket, go down a steep hill and begin digging into the hillside. He was ordered to return to his vehicle but continued to walk along the edge of the creek and then swam across it to the other side.

The Ranger stayed with the vehicle and female occupant but called for additional units to respond to the wooded area on the opposite side of the creek. When the male subject exited the woods, he was promptly arrested. A K9 was called for an article search of the wooded area and a bag containing confirmed heroin and crack was located in the area. The male subject was charged with Felony Drug Possession, Obstructing Official Business and citation for Possession of Marijuana that was found in the vehicle. The case is still working its way through the judicial system.

During an after-hours vehicle check on November 3, the Ranger smelled an odor of marijuana and saw smoke inside a vehicle upon approaching it. When asked if there were any drugs and/or weapons in the vehicle, the driver replied yes, a firearm and marijuana in the middle console. A second firearm was located in his front pants pocket during the pat down and was seized by the Ranger. The vehicle search revealed a bag of marijuana, a still burning marijuana cigarette, a vape pen with two THC cartridges and a loaded firearm with two additional loaded magazines. The subject was charged with OVI-Physical Control, Using Weapons While Intoxicated and a misdemeanor drug abuse charge. This case is still in court.

On December 2, another after hours vehicle check led Rangers to hashish and roughly 50 grams of non-prescribed medical marijuana jellies. The driver also possessed a loaded handgun and was charged with felony Drug Possession for the jellies and a misdemeanor for the hashish. This case is still active in court

In 2017, 17 thefts from motor vehicle incidents were reported in Winton Woods. In 2018, there were only 7. Three occurred in the Mill Race Golf Course parking lot and one each at Fox Knoll shelter, Parky's Farm, Farbach-Werner and Glenwood Gardens. It would seem our efforts through signage and social media may be working. The biggest piece of advice we pass along to our guests is to not leave anything in their vehicles. Do not hide it upon arrival - take it with them or leave it at home.

Winton Woods Rangers established a solid working relationship with Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services (HCDDS) after collaborating on multiple reports of patient abuse incidents. On May 23, we were dispatched to the campground for a report of a non-breather. Upon arrival, CPR was immediately administered to the subject until the squad arrived and transported her to the hospital where she was unable to be revived. The following day, we received notification from HCDDS they would be conducting an investigation into this incident which required a lateral police report from our agency. This was the beginning of a lengthy investigation into the death of the patient to determine whether or not the caregivers were at fault.

Two additional instances of patient abuse were reported this year where we worked jointly with HCDDS. The first was the possible physical & verbal abuse of a patient that occurred while in Winton Woods Park. Our report was closed when HCDDS determined the complaint to be unfounded during the course of their investigation. The third incident involved a subject who was left behind after visiting Farbach Werner with a group facility with HCDDS handling the investigation into that care facility, too. These joint investigations enhanced our knowledge of the resources available through HCDDS and provided us with contacts and experience to use and benefit from as future incidents demand.

EAST REGION HIGHLIGHTS

Sharon Woods – submitted by Sergeant Tim Biaglow

In addition to patrolling Sharon Woods, Francis RecReacres and Lake Isabella, the Sharon Woods Rangers also provide regional coverage to the Woodland Mound District. We greet all new employees during the Safety portion of the Getting Started orientation program. This is presented at the Employee Training Center in Sharon Woods. This year, we attended 16 Getting Started programs. As we cannot be everywhere at once, this is the perfect opportunity to show everyone they can help by alerting the Ranger division to potential criminal activity.

The Sharon Woods Rangers are committed to providing safety within our parks. Through a park-wide attempt to reduce thefts from motor vehicles, Rangers distributed safety tips, placed signage reminding guests to secure their belongings and increased patrol in key areas. While vehicle break-ins remain the most troublesome crime at Sharon Woods, we strive to educate the guests not to become victims and to report suspicious activity immediately.

Being the oldest of all of our parks, it goes without saying Sharon Woods is home to some great events. Civil War Days, Soccer leagues, Concerts in the Park, Dog Walks, Classic Car Show, Deer Park Annual track meet, countless fundraising walks, the Haunted Village and the ever popular 5K Holiday in Lights Run and Walk, and Santaland to end the year. We assist with parking and security during all events to help ensure guests have a safe and memorable experience.

One significant change befell Lake Isabella this year with the addition of a new campground. This primitive campground offered guests a new place to enjoy time outside with family and friends. These 24 sites tucked in next to the Little Miami River stayed busy and uneventful from a Ranger prospective which is exactly what we like to hear.

Woodland Mound – submitted by Captain Dale Steele

Woodland Mound Rangers patrol Woodland Mound, Withrow Nature Preserve, Otto Armleder, Little Miami Golf Center, Bass Island, Avoca Park and Kroger Hills Nature Preserve. Aside from issuing citations, Woodland Mound Rangers gave 403 warnings to guests while in the parks. The majority of these warnings were for being in the parks after hours or to guests allowing their dogs to run off leash in prohibited areas.

Rangers arrested 15 adults and juveniles for criminal offenses committed in these parks. They also recited 36 adults back to court with new court dates on warrants that did not require a physical arrest. Eight arrests were made in all for felony drugs and/or drug abuse instruments and three for improper transportation and/or possession of firearms. Arrest charges were filed on a theft from a motor vehicle case that occurred in 2017 at Otto Armleder Park. Two arrests were made for Falsification and Disorderly Conduct. A group of juveniles in Woodland Mound after closing hours possessed drugs, drug paraphernalia and a realistic BB gun. One juvenile was charged with possession of and trafficking in drugs.

Thefts from motor vehicles continued in 2018 with Rangers taking 24 less reports than they did in 2017. Two fire runs were reported, one at Woodland Mound when a post and part of the roof burned of a picnic shelter as a result of coals placed in a nearby trash can and the other was a brush fire at Little Miami Golf Center. Twenty-four animal complaints were received in 2018 including 3 for aggressive dogs at Otto Armleder. Rangers also responded to 2 calls concerning an injured Barred Owl and an injured Great Blue Heron.

Public assists were requested 73 times for lockouts. On 88 other occasions, Rangers assisted the public or other departments with emergencies including a female motorist having a diabetic issue on US 52 near Woodland Mound, locating a suicidal subject at Armleder, assisting Fairfax Police with a subject threatening to engage in a shootout with police, providing assistance with CPR at a motorcycle accident along US 52, assisting with a subject who barricaded himself in a store in Fairfax and an armed robbery incident in Mariemont.

The Woodland Mound Rangers assisted other Rangers and Great Parks' departments 46 times throughout the year. One Ranger went above and beyond to assist an elderly woman near Avoca Park who was confused and lost by escorting her to her home many miles away.

WEST REGION HIGHLIGHTS

Miami Whitewater Forest – submitted by Sergeant Dan Hodapp

Miami Whitewater Forest Rangers assumed responsibility for patrolling Mitchell Memorial Forest from Shawnee Lookout in 2018. With this, in addition to more land acquisitions, the patrol area for us continues to grow. There is one Sergeant and five full-time Rangers assigned to our district. This year, one full-time Ranger retired after 32 years of service with the Ranger division.

The biggest challenge of the year was being short staffed, especially with two full-time Rangers being out the majority of the year. With a larger patrol area and being short staffed challenged our West Region patrol. Working as a team, we all stepped up to assist guests and provide a safe environment for them to have memorable experiences in our parks.

Miami Whitewater Forest hosted the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra once again. Great Parks Forever sponsors this annual event. For the first time in history, the concert was on a Saturday instead of the weekday events of past. While attendance was slightly down, there were still a couple thousand patrons who enjoyed the summer evening night.

The multi-use Shaker Trail experienced a few issues this year remnant of years past. With our new vision of trail use, Rangers no longer enforce speed or other issues. Instead, the trail should be used with courtesy and consideration of traffic, weather and time of day. A new paved parking lot was installed on Baughman Road connecting the new Whitewater Trails subdivision to the outer loop of the trail near the wetlands.

This was the year for non-criminal turf damage reports. Large vehicles turning around in our parks caused major ruts and turf damage. It was also a year for trees falling on vehicles, patrons driving golf carts into the water on the golf course, and many dog versus dog bite reports.

Criminal reports were primarily vehicle break-ins with personal items stolen. Most had limited leads but those that did were investigated. Where available, surveillance video and pictures were pulled and shared with local agencies but the suspects were not identified. A few cases received at the end of the year are still being. Again, that information is being shared with multiple local agencies and the federal Felony Lane Gang Task Force. This occurs when check books and identification cards are stolen from local victims then cashed at multiple banks all over the United States.



Two interesting criminal offenses occurred in early spring. First, Rangers were dispatched for subjects stripping copper wire at the Simmonds Family Dog Park. While responding to assist, the Shawnee Lookout Ranger stopped at the Vegas scrap metal business. The suspects were in line to scrap 25 spools, 325 lbs, a scrap value over \$700. The value for Duke was over \$2,000 dollars. It was determined the suspects were drug addicts and stole the copper from a Duke Energy job site.

Second was a burned vehicle located by a bow hunter at Oak Glen Nature Preserve. It was so badly burned that all evidence had been destroyed. Although torched to the ground, Rangers were able to locate a VIN number. The vehicle was identified as a Buick Enclave and had been stolen near Indianapolis, Indiana a couple of days earlier.

Rangers investigated a reported public indecency upon learning a suspect exposed himself at Simmonds Family Dog Park. The investigation led to a house in Mt. Healthy where the suspect admitted to the offense and was cited.



Multiple assault allegations were reported in one incident that were determined to be unfounded.

One 10 point buck deer was poached at Miami Whitewater Forest. An unknown suspect shot the deer in the head but the deer ran off. A park patron alerted Rangers who had to euthanize the deer. The Ohio Division of Wildlife took possession of the deer. As of November 2018, no suspect had been identified.

Shawnee Lookout – Sergeant Todd Williams

Four full-time Rangers and one part-time Ranger are assigned to patrol the Shawnee Lookout district. Primary patrol duties of Mitchell Memorial Forest and Kilby Road properties were reassigned to Miami Whitewater Forest.

Shawnee Lookout Rangers took three thefts from motor vehicle reports in 2018. This was down 50% from 2017. All three of the theft offenses occurred while the vehicles were parked at Fernbank Park; two in March and one in May.

In August, Rangers responded to Fernbank Park for an incident involving a female who overdosed in a vehicle parked in the East parking lot. Medics from Cincinnati Fire administered several doses of Narcan to revive the patient. The female subject was in possession of a stolen vehicle from Colerain Township. She was arrested and charged with several violations.

Later in August, under regional coverage, the on-duty Ranger investigated an abandoned vehicle parked in the Timberlakes parking lot at Miami Whitewater Forest with no one around at 1:22 a.m.. After checking the area, the Ranger encountered a female at the sink in the restrooms. She refused to respond to multiple requests to search her bag. A probable cause search of the bag was performed and yielded drug pipes, two baggies of meth, one bag with an unknown substance, seven hypodermic needles and a bag of marijuana. She was arrested and charged with Possession of Drugs, Possession of Drug Abuse Instruments and Improper Handling of a Firearm after finding a loaded and cocked 380 handgun in the door of her vehicle.

In September, Embshoff Woods Pavilion restrooms were vandalized by spray paint. Unknown subjects spray painted the outside doors and inside both male and female restrooms.

In October, Rangers took a counterfeit bill report from the Shawnee Lookout Golf Course.

We learned in December the Shawnee Lookout Golf Course will be closing at the end of the 2019 golf season.

INVESTIGATIONS / ARRESTS

The investigative supervisory role eliminated in 2012 was reinstated this year when the position of Investigative Lieutenant was posted in July. Without a dedicated investigative position in the Ranger division, most investigations were handled by the reporting Ranger with a supervisor overseeing the follow-up. The purpose of this new role is to provide coordination, direction, assistance and oversight to Rangers during the course of the investigation. The types of incidents and levels of investigations we see vary with some regular reoccurring themes. Rangers have the opportunity to see an incident through from reporting to investigating to closing, which is rather unique to our department.

On **May 23rd**, Winton Woods Rangers were dispatched to a non-breather in the campground. What transpired over the next 24hrs lead to an in-depth, inter-agency investigation with Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services (HCDDS). Despite life-saving efforts by first responders and hospital staff that day, the patient passed away at the hospital. The victim had been camping all week as part of a group home trip with her care being provided by a private company. HCDDS opened an investigation into the death to determine if caregivers were at fault.

The reporting Ranger for the death investigation began closely working with HCDDS, collecting reports from the adjacent agencies on scene that day. HCDDS acquired and provided copies of the care plan in place for the individual, training verifications, written statements where needed, and copies of the autopsy report and death certificate. Staff interviews continued over the next two months. The Ranger who took the initial report assisted HCDDS every step of the investigative process. After reviewing all of the evidence, the investigating Ranger and the HCDDS Director both believed they had enough evidence to support charges. On October 1st, we submitted the case to the Hamilton County Prosecutor's office for a direct hearing request. On February 13, 2019, the Grand Jury returned an indictment for Patient Abuse (ORC 2903.34A3), a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree, for two of the care employees involved.

An anonymous female called Meadowlinks Golf Academy on **May 31st** to report a known male repeatedly stealing from the pro shop. The caller provided the most recent theft date and items take but would not reveal her identity or how she knew about the thefts. Between examining tee sheets and reviewing surveillance videos, the golf pro was able to determine the suspect had taken other golf items on multiple days. The Ranger's investigation revealed matching tattoos and an arrest record with prior theft from a golf course charge. Two warrants were obtained for our theft offenses. Following another anonymous call regarding the warrants, the suspect responded to Ranger Headquarters to turn himself in and return the stolen driver. The suspect received community control for theft, a one year stay away order from all Great Parks of Hamilton County parks and ordered to pay restitution for the items not returned through probation.

On **July 17th** a male subject, under the guise of perusing the inventory at Lake Isabella, placed two fishing reels (combined value \$386) into his shorts pocket and exited the boathouse. A review of video surveillance confirmed the theft. The boathouse manager created a still image for his employees to be on the lookout and reported the theft to Rangers. On July 30th, the male subject again, under the guise of browsing equipment, placed a reel in his pocket and exited the boathouse with a disassembled rod in his hand. An employee confronted the subject outside. The subject handed over the rod but denied taking a reel. A second employee obtained the license plate and vehicle information from the subject's vehicle in the lot. Again, video surveillance confirmed theft of the rod and reels, however, Rangers were unable to connect the suspect to the female owner of the vehicle.

On **August 7th**, Lake Isabella staff reported two suspicious males inquiring about fishing equipment. Both suspects left abruptly when Rangers arrived but were detained by employees outside the boathouse. Subjects were identified by Rangers and released. Rangers reviewed video footage from previous dates and confirmed the subject just identified was indeed the suspect from prior incidents. Theft warrants were filed and the suspect was arrested on January 3, 2019. During his interview, the suspect admitted to all three theft offenses and the missing items, stating all property had been sold on Facebook. The suspect plead guilty to theft, was placed on community control, given a one year stay away order from all Great Parks of Hamilton County parks, and was ordered to pay \$1,257 restitution through probation.

Unfortunately, parks are a prime target for thefts from motor vehicles. Visible items left in an unoccupied vehicle encourage thieves to break into the vehicle. Most often, it is a purse or other bag indicating there may be a wallet inside that tempts a thief. At times, it can be anything remotely visible. What seems invaluable to one is the complete opposite perspective to a thief with no knowledge of what is or is not inside a backpack, gym bag, etc. Hiding items in the trunk, under blankets, towels or the seat upon arrival increases chances of becoming a victim. Often times, the criminal(s) sit in their own vehicle watching a victim hide items in their vehicle.

With this in mind, the Ranger division teamed up with the Marketing department this year and created [a series of informational, fun videos](#) to educate our guests. Its understandable guests are not always in a position to take items with them when they arrive, so the idea is to encourage guests to start thinking about leaving the items at home if possible.

In 2018, we recorded 30 theft from motor vehicle reports, down from 61 reports in 2017. The incidents occurred at the following locations:

- Sharon Woods 5
- Armleder Park 4
- Mitchell Memorial Park 3
- Fernbank 3
- Mill Race Golf Course 3
- Lakeside Lodge, Sharon Woods 2
- Simmonds Dog Park, 2
- Miami Whitewater Forest 2
- Farbach Werner 1
- Glenwood Gardens 1
- Parky's Farm 1
- Fox Knoll shelter, Winton Woods 1
- Woodland Mound 1
- Bass Island 1

Rarely is no property reported stolen and equally as rare is enough evidence at the scene to identify a suspect. Rangers usually begin investigating unauthorized checks cashed and credit card purchases made. When we are fortunate enough to obtain surveillance video(s), the challenge begins with identifying the suspects. Networking services are available to law enforcement agencies allowing quick and current exchanges of information nationwide. Video can be one of the key starts to an investigation but identifying suspect(s) closes cases.

Over the weekend of August 11-12, 2018, Rangers were dispatched to four thefts from motor vehicle incidents with a total of eight victims. The incidents spanned from Armleder to Sharon Woods to Parky's Farm. In almost every instance, victims' credit cards were charged (or attempted) at an area Kroger store for an inordinate number of Visa gift cards. It was quickly determined one female was the same suspect in our offenses and [other agencies](#) in the area were also looking for the same suspect. In a random fluke, a medic for another local agency also investigating multiple theft reports from the same weekend involving the same suspect reported having contact with a suspicious vehicle/operator at 2:00 am the night before the thefts. The description and license plate provided by the medic triggered the eventual identification of the suspect who had given her real name and address on her car rental paperwork. She was positively identified as the person who rented the vehicle and positively identified by Kroger employees.

A local task force was formed to combine all investigations into one. It did not take long to determine the suspect was connected to the Felony Lane Gang organized crime group. In October, an email was received from a detective in Tennessee working a widespread auto burglary ring in the area. Two subjects had been arrested, one of which was our suspect. The FBI in Tennessee advised they would work with their local District Attorney in wrapping all charges across all states together and prosecute the suspect in Tennessee. As of this report, we are still waiting to meet the District Attorney and FBI in Tennessee to share our victim information for prosecution purposes.

The Felony Lane Gang is a term used to describe a particular group of thieves based in southern states who use rental cars to travel the country specifically targeting parks, daycares, gyms - any place likely to be frequented by women – in search of purses or wallets left in unattended vehicles. These criminals survey areas, watching when women attempt to hide items or leaving them in plain view. They quickly approach the vehicle and break the window, grab the items they are after and move on to the next vehicle or location. They specifically look for driver’s licenses, checks, debit and credit cards.



After the theft, a female is recruited to pose as the victim and attempt to cash checks belonging to multiple victims. The term Felony Lane Gang derives from the fact that this group always uses the farthest drive through lane from the bank to attempt to cash fraudulent checks. Rental vehicles often have super dark tinted windows bearing license plates issued in southern states. Wigs are worn to alter appearances to match victims as closely as possible. The initial attempt to use a stolen credit card will be to buy gas or other sustaining item to determine if the card is still active.

The Felony Lang Gang has been in operation for over a decade and has over 800 known members who have contributed to hundreds of millions of dollars in losses, across all state lines. The national [Felony Lane Gang Task Force](#) maintains a public Facebook page for sharing purposes.

CIVILIAN STAFF

Fleet Manager

The Ranger fleet is managed by Jeff Strittholt, a National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified mechanic. Rangers utilize a variety of methods to patrol the parks so they can remain accessible to visitors and provide care in emergency situations. Patrol cruisers, trucks, SUV’s, bicycles, watercraft and ATV’s are all part of our fleet.

In 2018 we introduced police SUVs to our fleet. The Ford Police Interceptor is a purpose built vehicle with all-wheel drive capability and cargo capacity to meet the needs of the Ranger division. The Interceptor also lends itself well to the installation of a Mobile Data Terminal or MDC.

Ranger Clerks and Dispatchers

Lieutenant Ali Bird began supervising the Dispatch office in October. Two full-time Ranger Clerks and four part-time Dispatchers staff the office daily from 8 am to 10 pm, Monday through Sunday during the busy season, and 8 am to 8 pm during the off season. Our new part-time Dispatcher Jacob Pfeiffer was hired in December and was ready to fly solo by the beginning of February 2019.

The Guest Experiences division extended the Guest Relations desk to include every weekend from April 2 through October 28. The impact proved positive for both park guests and the Dispatch office. With phone calls and window visits down by over 1,450 collectively, it is clear we were able to spend more time on Ranger-oriented matters and guests received the specialized service directly from Guest Relations staff.

Clerical / Dispatch Logs

	2018	2017	DIFFERENC E
Clerical Phones	4,330	4,662	-332
Clerical Window	810	1,030	-220
Clerical Duties	393	396	-3
Dispatch Phones	2,397	3,010	-613
Dispatch Window	518	808	-290
Dispatch Duties	295	299	-4
TOTAL	8,743	10,205	-1,462

As earlier mentioned, our in-house Records Management System (PAMET) crashed on October 27, creating quite a burden on our dayshift Ranger Clerk. Ultimately, all data from 2014 through October 27, 2018 vanished and we were unable to access the program for weeks. For five agencies hosting the program on an in-house server, it was business as usual. For the rest of us, the data has yet to be recovered. Fortunately, we were mid-transition, still maintaining our in-house name file, daily log and hard copies of offense reports.

TRAINING

CPT Summary

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) sets the minimum number of hours for continuing professional training (CPT) for peace officers in Ohio. The minimum number of hours is based upon funding available for reimbursement. The commission did not mandate any CPT hours in 2018 due to no available funding. Instead, it was recommended each agency continue to build towards the 40 hours of annual advanced training by focusing on specific topics suggested by the Attorney General's Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training.

Topic recommendations from the advisory group included:

- legal updates (i.e., case law, legislative changes)
- community-police relationships (e.g., implicit bias, procedural justice, community diversity, agency transparency, generational issues)
- mental health and crisis de-escalation
- refresher training for perishable skills in a reality-based training environment
- use of force policy review

In March of 2017, our agency received a 'Statutory Mandate Report' from the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission advising of the completion status of statutorily mandated training for each Ranger. Statutorily mandated training is training topics that over the years has been required by Ohio legislature through various statutes. Once required, the topics, if not already included, were added to peace officer basic training.

Most of this mandated training had already been completed by our Rangers through the Peace Officer basic training academy but a few mandated trainings such as *Human Trafficking*, (which was added to mandates list in 2012), and *Companion Animal Encounters*, (added in 2015), did need to be completed. Rangers had until December 31, 2018 to complete the mandated trainings. We ended the year in full compliance.

OPOTA Standard / Mandatory (requires 100%)

2018	OPOTA Firearms Requalification Shoot	40/40	100%
2018	OPOTA New Hire Firearms Qualifications	7/7	100%
2018	OHLEG Security Training	7/7	100%
November 5-9	OPOTA New Chief's Training	1/1	100%

GPHC In-House / Additional Training (*minimum 65%)

February 21	Ranger Meeting, Evidence Collection/Handling/Packaging Presented by Hamilton County Crime Lab, Winton Auditorium	27/36	75%
March-April	Scenario Based Training , Glenwood Gardens	26/37	70%
March 14	CPR/First Aid – NSC with GPHC Risk Manager	1/1	100%
May 2	ODNR Patrol Boat Operations (Winton, Sharon, MWF Lakes)	18/38	47%
October 10	Ranger Meeting, Great Parks Information Updates , Winton Woods Auditorium	<u>29/38</u>	<u>76%</u>
			Average = 74%

2018 GPHC IN-HOUSE / OPTIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- January 23-26 **Scenario Based Instructor Training**, Biaglow, OPOTA, London OH
- February 27-March 1 **Park Law Enforcement Association (PLEA Annual Conference ,**
Steele/Grimm/Bird/Biaglow/Williams, San Marcos TX
- March 6-7 **A.L.I.C.E. Instructor Certification**, Stephens, Butler Tech, Cincinnati OH
- March 7 **Dinkheller, Line of Duty Death Re-Visited**, Hodapp, HCPA, Harrison OH
- April 18-20 **Field Training Officer Training**, Stephens/Batts, Butler Tech, Cincinnati OH
- May 15-16 **Women in Command**, Bird, Calibre Press, Indianapolis, IN
- June 17 **National ADA Symposium**, Grimm, Pittsburgh, PA
- June 28 **Wanted/Missing Functionality**, Britton, Scarlet Oaks, Cincinnati OH
- August 24 **Tactical Leadership**, Stephens/Lake/Siry/McFadden, Calibre Press,
Hamilton Township OH Police Department
- August 24-25 **Sheepdog Seminar**, Dove, Kettering OH
- September 12 **OPRA LE Round Table**, –Sharon Woods Auditorium
- October 23-26 **Verbal Defense & Influence Instructor Training**, McFadden, Nashville TN
- November 4 **Upholding Trust in Government**, Spreckelmeier, Ohio Ethics Commission
- November 7-8 **Evidence Room Management**, Bird, OPOTA, Richfield OH
- November 7-8 **Managing the Field Training (FTO Unit ,** Williams, Atlanta GA
- November 19-20 **Evidence Room Management**, Yohey, OPOTA, London OH
- December 6 **MDC/LEADS Certification**, Pfeiffer, Scarlet Oaks, Cincinnati OH
- December 6-7 **ARIDE (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement ,** Spraul,
OPOTA, London OH
- December 20 **Adult, Child, Infant CPR & AED**, Williford, Great Oaks, Cincinnati OH
Bleeding Control Basic v. 1.0 Course, Williford, Amberley Village PD,
Cincinnati OH

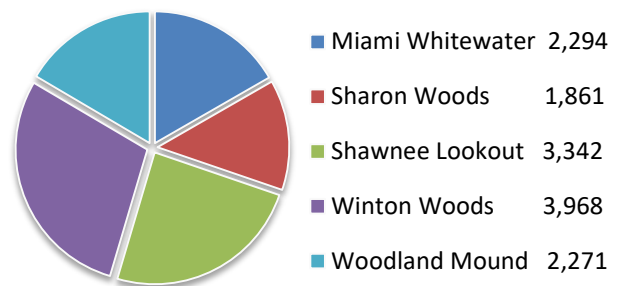
*31 Rangers completed an additional 69 non-mandatory online blocks of training offered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office for a total of **139** sessions in all.

RANGER DIVISION LOGGED ACTIVITY TOTALS
NATURE OF DETAILS FROM DAILY PATROL LOG

DESCRIPTION	2018	2017
Administrative	336	345
Aided Cases	117	125
Alarm Checks	275	343
Alarm Drop: Burglar	571	454
Alarm Drop: Fire	12	16
Alarm Drop: Severe Weather	5	2
Animal Complaint	138	155
Arrests	40	96
Assist Other Department	375	612
Assist Other Ranger	204	254
Assist Park Department	209	178
Auto Accidents	27	38
Capias Follow-Up	4	40
Citizen Complaint	59	71
Clerical Duties	393	396
Clerical Phones	4,330	4,662
Clerical Window	810	1030
Court	91	107
Criminal Offense Reports	119	181
Death Investigations	1	3
Deer Management	21	13
Dispatch Duties	295	299
Dispatch Phones	2,397	3,010
Dispatch Window	518	808
Disturbance: Fight	3	6
Disturbance: Noise	17	24
Disturbance: Other	45	32
Dog Bite Incidents	8	9
Environmental	40	15
Field Training	207	153
Fire Run	4	4
HCPA Dive Team	13	13
HCPA Honor Guard	7	10
HCPA Most Wanted	4	7
HCPA SWAT	18	25
Hunting/Trapping	7	6
Investigation: FIR	68	70
Investigation: False 911	1	1
Investigation: Minor	297	377
Investigation: Supplemental	141	98
Investigation: Susp Person	67	67
Investigation: Susp Vehicle	52	37

DESCRIPTION	2018	2017
Juvenile Complaint	7	9
Lodge Viewing	8	2
MVP Courtesy Notice	33	85
Noah Check	4	7
Non-Criminal Incident Reports	63	39
Notification	11	16
Patrol: ATV	26	11
Patrol: Bike	276	237
Patrol: Boat	50	54
Patrol: Foot	2,885	1,885
Patrol: Mitchell	973	991
Patrol: Programs	77	97
Property Damage – Park	28	14
Property Damage – Private	12	5
Property Found	83	98
Property Lost	71	40
Public Assist: Battery Jump	67	78
Public Assist: Lockout	94	110
Public Assist: Other	274	278
Public Assist: Wrecker	29	21
Security Check	3,688	3,632
Security Check: PFO	189	149
Sec Check: Unsecured Property	214	78
Special Event Detail	38	72
Traffic Control	8	28
Warnings: Criminal	1,432	1,555
Warnings: Traffic	924	1,144
TOTAL	23,909	24,927

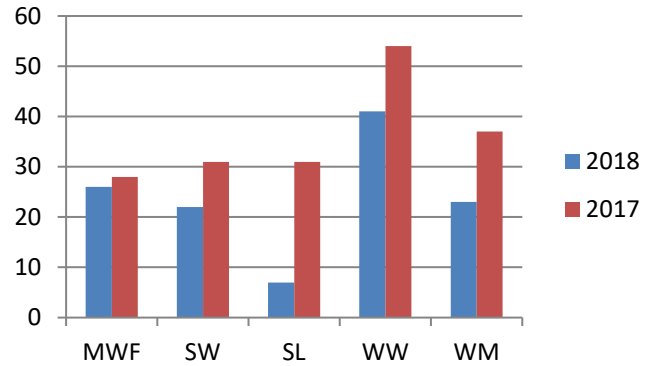
Details Per Park



*graph excludes Clerical and Dispatch logs

REGIONAL OFFENSE REPORT TOTALS

	2018	2017
Woodland Mound	23	37
Sharon Woods	22	31
EAST REGION	45	68
Winton Woods	41	54
CENTRAL REGION	41	54
Miami Whitewater Forest	26	28
Shawnee Lookout	7	31
WEST REGION	33	59
TOTAL	119	181



CLASSIFICATION OF NIBRS OFFENSE REPORTS

Breakdown of UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) Totals

PART I OFFENSES	2018	2017
Rape	1	1
Robbery	0	1
Aggravated Assault	5	2
Burglary / B&E	3	3
Larceny-Theft	7	13
Theft from Motor Vehicle	28	60
Arson	1	1
TOTAL	45	81

PART II OFFENSES	2018	2017
Bad Checks	0	1
Credit Card Fraud	0	3
Damage/Vandalism	39	88
Disorderly Conduct	14	8
Drug Abuse	18	20
Drug Equipment	8	6
Falsification	1	1
Forgery/Counterfeit	2	2
OVI	1	4
Simple Assaults <i>(Resisting, Stalking, Intimidation, Coercion)</i>	1	3
Stolen Property	12	5
Theft from Building	0	1
Weapons	5	3
All Other Offenses	7	16
Non-IBR Offense ZZZ	3	16
TOTAL	111	177

NIBRS REPORT CLASSIFICATION

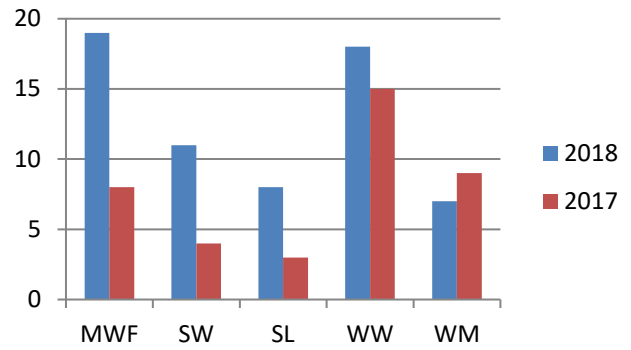
(Percentages are rounded)

TYPE	2018	%	2017	%
Part I Offenses	45	29%	81	31%
Part II Offenses	111	71%	177	69%
TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENSES	156	100%	258	100%

UCR totals are higher than total number of reports due to more than one charge being included in one report.

NON-CRIMINAL INCIDENT SUMMARY – BY DISTRICT

	2018	2017
Miami Whitewater Forest	19	8
Sharon Woods	11	4
Shawnee Lookout	8	3
Winton Woods	18	15
Woodland Mound	7	9
TOTAL	63	39



AIDED CASE SUMMARY - BY DISTRICT

	2018	2017
Miami Whitewater Forest	17	32
Sharon Woods	24	19
Shawnee Lookout	5	8
Winton Woods	45	51
Woodland Mound	13	15
TOTALS	104	125

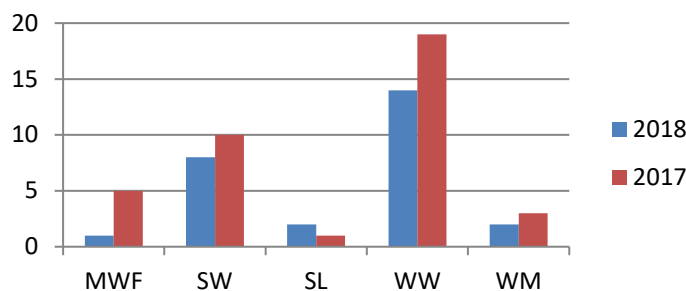


AUTO ACCIDENTS - BY DISTRICT

	2018			2018 TOTAL	2017			2017 TOTAL
	Property Damage	Injury	Fatal		Property Damage	Injury	Fatal	
Miami Whitewater Forest	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	5
Sharon Woods	8	0	0	8	10	0	0	10
Shawnee Lookout	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1
Winton Woods	14	0	0	14	17	2	0	19
Woodland Mound	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	3
TOTALS	27	0	0	27	36	2	0	38

GPHC Motor Vehicle Accidents - 0
Non-GPHC Motor Vehicle Accidents - 27

GPHC Motor Vehicle Accidents - 2
Non-GPHC Motor Vehicle Accidents - 36



CLASSIFICATION OF MINOR MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES
FROM MASTER NAME FILE

NATURE OF CITATION	2018	2017
Disorderly Conduct	5	0
Drug Abuse	65	106
Drug Abuse - attempt	2	0
Drug Abuse Instrument	3	1
Drug Paraphernalia	5	7
Fishing Violations	1	6
Hunt/Molest Wildlife	1	0
In Park After Hours	7	12
Improper Handling of Firearm	0	1
Leash Law Violation	8	2

NATURE OF CITATION	2018	2017
Littering, Dumping	2	6
No Motor Vehicle Permit	0	1
Obstruct Official Business	1	0
Open Flask	11	12
Public Indecency	11	7
Public Peace Violation	0	2
Unauthorized Camping	1	0
Weapons In Park	0	1
Wild Animal Violation	0	2
TOTAL	123	166

CLASSIFICATION OF TRAFFIC OFFENSES
FROM MASTER NAME FILE

NATURE OF CITATION	2018	2017
Child Restraints	4	3
Drive Off Roadway	5	6
Drive on Closed Roadway	1	1
Drive Under Suspension	102	130
Drive Under OVI Suspension	2	6
Expired Operators License	9	16
Fail to Register Motor Vehicle	0	1
Fail to Report Auto Accident	1	0
Fail to Stop after Auto Accident	0	1
Fictitious Tags	2	0
Follow Too Close	1	0
Improper Backing	1	3
Improper Passing	1	2
License Plate Violation	5	16
Loud Muffler	0	1
Marked Lanes	3	1
No Licensed Driver-Temp Permit	1	0
No Operator's License -new 2018	9	0

NATURE OF CITATION	2018	2017
No Tail Lights	1	0
One Way Street	1	0
OVI	0	8
OVI – Physical Control	1	0
Parking	1	2
Pass Left of Center	0	2
Reasonable Control	1	3
Reckless Operation	2	2
Red Light	2	1
Safety Restraint Violation	1	6
Speed	64	60
Stop Sign	7	4
Turn Signal Violation	1	1
Unsafe Vehicle	0	1
Window Tint Violation	0	1
TOTAL	229	278
	*193	*232

* Actual number of **Traffic Citations issued** each year due to more than one charge written on one citation.

ARRESTS AND CHARGES SUMMARY
FROM MASTER NAME FILE

	2018	2017		2018	2017
Juvenile Arrests	3	5	Adult Arrests	29	35
Juvenile Charges	3	6	Adult Charges	51	72
Recites - HCPR	9	13	Recites - OTHER	116	177

HOURS OF TRAINING

EMPLOYEE	2018	2017
Alberico, Andrea	11.25	22.50
Altman, Joel	6	218.75
Batts, Jordan	57.75	22.50
Biaglow, Tim	86.75	57.50
Bird, Ali	68.00	95.00
Britton, Victoria	5.00	2.00
Chenault, Darryn	32.00	30.00
Dove, Rick	13.75	12.50
Doyle, Thomas	0	24.50
Farmer, Michael	5.50	268.00
Foley, Michael	7.25	65.75
Gantt, Jason	23.00	0
Garner, Sherry	18.25	66.75
Gregory, Eric	100.50	83.00
Grimm, Greg	24.50	35.50
Hodapp, Dan	18.25	34.50
Kachele, Doug	10.75	17.50
Keuffer, Kendra	166.50	0
Lake, Katie	22.75	49.00
Lambing, McCoy	20.25	37.50
Long, Michael	166.00	0
McFadden, Edwin	67.25	0
Menth, Colleen	0	3.50
Mueller, Andrew	3.0	14.75
Murray, Joseph	348.75	0

EMPLOYEE	2018	2017
Nance, Craig	277.25	0
Patterson, John	11.75	28.50
Peacock, Nicole	8.00	9.50
Pringle, Sheila	2.50	1.50
Proud, Doug	1.50	25.00
Randolph, Matthew	390.00	0
Richards, Kevin	8.00	13.00
Rieskamp, Don	17.75	17.50
Shannon, Missie	9.75	33.50
Siry, Matt	33.25	57.00
Spraul, Elliott	2.00	465.75
Spreckelmeier, Rick	54.00	14.50
Spurgeon, Dave	30.75	68.50
Steele, Dale	42.50	128.00
Stephens, Alexander	51.25	0
Stoeckel, Daren	5.00	24.00
Strittholt, Jeff	43.50	24.50
Tremain, Jeff	6.25	16.50
Wetterich, Shad	0	14.25
Williams, Todd	105.25	60.50
Williford, Kelly	80.00	88.50
Yohey, Catherine	37.50	3.50
Zimmerman, Nathan	7.50	51.00
TOTAL	2508.25	2306.00

Annual Complaint/Inquiry Summary – 2018

No Complaints/Inquiries were received in 2018.

Annual Internal Investigations Summary - 2018

No Internal Investigations were conducted in 2018.

Annual Use of Force Summary (Traffic Pursuit, Display/Discharge of Firearm Incidents) – 2018

The Ranger division recorded 11 Use of Force reports in 2018. This is a 31% decrease from the 16 reports recorded in 2017. These reports are routine, agency-initiated reviews of traffic pursuits, incidents involving physical force, or display/charge of a weapon, asp or OC spray while on duty.

Four of these reports were for physical altercations, six involved Rangers who displayed a weapon, and one Ranger discharged a weapon. The weapon was discharged to eradicate a pit bull charging the Ranger during the arrest of its owner. All incidents were determined to be within the guidelines of division policy.

Chief's Approval _____ Date _____