



# Great Parks of Hamilton County RANGER DEPARTMENT



## 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

# 2019



# RANGER TEAM



# YEAR IN REVIEW



## 2019 in Review

The **Great Parks of Hamilton County (GPHC) Ranger Division** patrolled 17,733 acres, including three of the area's largest lakes, and over 78 miles of trails in 2019. Rangers logged 4,721 foot, bike, boat, ATV, and cruiser patrol logs. Our department also completed over 2,900 hours of training, represented Great Parks at 27 community events, and hired and trained eight new Rangers.

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**In January, our IT department** began the process of setting up our own server to host Pamet, our records management data system. Our Ranger Clerical staff had been using Pamet for report entry only since July of 2014 with the plan to eventually train all Ranger personnel on the use of Pamet and replace our daily log Access database. We were part of several Hamilton County law enforcement agencies that were using Pamet through a hosted server. In October of 2018 that server suffered a major crash and it took well into 2019 for all of our data lost during the crash to be recovered. This crash reinforced Chief Spreckelmeier's desire to host Pamet on our own server and to move forward with training all Ranger staff on its use.

Lieutenant Bird was placed in charge of this project and oversaw the installation of our own Pamet server and the training of all Ranger personnel. A training database was set up for Rangers to log into and familiarize themselves with all of the modules of Pamet and then small group trainings for all Ranger Division staff were held the month of April. The "go live" date was May 1st. Even though it took several months for Ranger staff to become comfortable with Pamet, from May 1 through December 31, Rangers entered a total of 4,303 incidents, 773 property records, 7,750 daily detail logs, 393 citation records and 2,279 master card records (names of individuals we've had contact with.) We saved a lot of trees moving to department wide use of Pamet since all offense reports, non-criminal incident reports, and aided case reports are no longer printed but kept electronically in Pamet - on our own server.

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**Chief Spreckelmeier** announced in March that the Ranger Division designed a GPHC Ranger challenge coin with the intent to purchase one for each member. Rangers were also given the opportunity to buy additional challenge coins if wanted. The challenge coins, a popular item collected by law enforcement personnel, proved to be very popular with the Ranger Department. An order for 500 coins was placed in July with requests to purchase even more coins coming in by the end of 2019.



**Our Chief Ranger, Colonel Richard Spreckelmeier**, announced in August that he would be retiring at the end of February in 2020 after 32 years of service. This announcement prompted a search and hiring process for a new Chief. Our department was notified in December that Colonel Scott Snow would be our next Great Parks Ranger Chief and would be sworn in on January 6, 2020. Colonel Snow is coming to us from Reading Police Department after 26 years, serving as their Chief of Police since 2008.

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**Part-time Ranger Joel Altman**, a member of the Coast Guard Reserve, nominated **Sergeant Katie Lake** for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award and nominated Great Parks for the ESGR Above and Beyond Award. The Patriot Awards through ESGR, a Department of Defense program, are given to individual supervisors for support provided directly to the nominating Service member and his or her family. The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed. The Above and Beyond Award is given in limited numbers by State Committees to employers who have had at least one of their supervisors recognized with a Patriot Award, and who have signed or agree to sign an ESGR Statement of Support.

**Captain Dale Steele and Lieutenant Greg Grimm** traveled to Columbus along with Great Parks CFO Rebecca McDonough to accept the employer award at ESGR's annual awards banquet in June. Sergeant Lake, unable to attend the banquet, was presented the supervisor award from ESGR committee members and Ranger Altman at Ranger Headquarters.

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**The Ranger Division replaced** three cruiser sedans with three new SUV cruisers in 2019. The SUV, a Ford Police Interceptor model, is more versatile than the sedan when it comes to what we need as Park Rangers. They are all-wheel drive for inclement weather, have a higher ground clearance if we need to leave the pavement and are more spacious inside for equipment and occupants. The Interceptor also lends itself well to the installation of a Mobile Data Terminal or MDC. One new cruiser went to Shawnee Lookout, one to Woodland Mound and one went to Miami Whitewater Forest.

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**The new IP (server based) surveillance camera system** for the Winton Centre was installed in December. This was the first phase of installation of a new Park District wide camera system. These higher resolution cameras have better quality and provide easier access for investigative purposes.

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**It is nationally recognized that audio and video data** is valuable recorded evidence that may provide a means of accountability for both officers and the public. In September, the Ranger Division went to the GPHC Board of Commissioners with a request for funding to purchase and replace our current body worn cameras and cruiser in-car camera systems. The new body worn cameras will replace cameras purchased in 2009. These old cameras were continuously in need of repair and had exceeded the expected useful life. The in-car cameras will replace cameras purchased from 2006 through 2010 which had all been removed from cruisers already due to the volume of repairs needed and discontinued software support for video upload. The Board approved the purchase of 21 WatchGuard 4RE In-Car cameras and 45 VISTA HD Extended Wearable Cameras along with the accessories, software support, extended warranties and installation needed for this project.

After realizing the current server would not support the amount of data storage needed for these new camera systems, we went back to the board in November with the request to purchase an additional server and storage space. Rollout of these new systems will take place in early 2020.

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**The organization Police Wives of Ohio donated** 42 Combat Application Tourniquets (CAT) to be carried by our Rangers while on patrol. The donation valued at \$850 was facilitated by our liaison from the Cincinnati Chapter of Police Wives of Ohio, Tara McFadden, the wife of **Ranger Edwin McFadden**. Tourniquets are currently stored in every Ranger patrol vehicle's first-aid kit but these additional tourniquets will be carried on the duty belts of each individual Ranger.

NEW HIRES AND PROMOTIONS



Ranger Jocelyn Binkley was hired part-time on February 7 and promoted to full-time on March 9.

Ranger Andrew Nealan was hired into a full-time position on September 4.



Ranger Kelly Grogan was hired into a full-time position on September 12.



**Ranger Ryland Reed** was hired part-time February 7.



**Ranger Chris Weed** was hired part-time February 7.



**Ranger Anthony Batts** was hired part-time on February 7 and resigned on August 24.



**Ranger Cody Faulkner** was hired part-time September 12.



**Ranger Craig Smith** was hired part-time December 11.

## RETIREMENT / RESIGNATIONS



Clerk **Sheila Pringle** retired from Great Parks on September 29 after **27 years** of full-time service.



Dispatcher **Gordon Rahschulte** retired on December 8 after **25 years** of part-time service.

In May, Rangers Nicole Peacock and Elliott Spraul both tendered their resignations. Ranger Peacock accepted a position with Cheviot Police Department and Ranger Spraul with Loveland Police Department. Ranger Jason Gantt resigned in June before completion of field training. Ranger Doug Kachele resigned from Great Parks in November. We wish them all the best!

## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 Years** – Ranger Daren Stoeckel
- 15 Years** – Ranger Andrea Alberico, Ranger Matt Siry
- 10 Years** – Captain Dale Steele

## PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

### Commendation



**Ranger Jordan Batts** received a Letter of Commendation from Chief Spreckelmeier for the successful water rescue operation he undertook on Friday evening, June 7, on the Little Miami River. Two kayakers had capsized on the river and left the occupants, a father and his teenage son, stranded. The father was left holding onto a log jam in the fast current in the middle of the river while also holding onto their golden retriever. The son had made it to the riverbank.

Ranger Batts' knowledge of the river and region proved to be invaluable that evening as he was able to direct the other emergency units responding to the scene. A half hour after the dispatch came out, Ranger Batts pulled the fatigued kayaker and his golden retriever to the banks of the river with a throw rope. His knowledge of the area and swift action prevented what could have easily turned into a tragic situation that evening.

### Letter of Appreciation

**Ranger Michael Farmer** received a Letter of Appreciation for his assistance given to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office the evening of June 29 in Crosby Township. A shooting had occurred during a custody exchange and Ranger Farmer was close enough to respond quickly. Once on scene, he assisted with handcuffing the shooter and guarding him while his weapon was located. Farmer then watched the three year old child who had witnessed the shooting until the little boy's Grandpa arrived and he could be released to his custody. Ranger Farmer represented Great Parks in a professional and exemplary manner that evening.



### Compliments Received

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



**Ranger Eric Gregory** received a thank you from a guest who had fallen while walking her dog at the Winton Woods Campground in January. She suffered a head laceration and arm fracture during the fall. She was very appreciative of Ranger Gregory's assistance he provided to her and her dog until EMS arrived.

A park patron who was very apologetic for an incident his dog caused sent a thank you to **Rangers Sherry Garner and Rick Dove** for their professional and courteous treatment. He was very thankful for the way they handled the September incident with concern and compassion.

**Winton Woods Rangers, Ranger Missie Shannon and Ranger Craig Nance** all received shout outs via social media for various good deeds ranging from supplying gas to passing out candy during Creepy Campouts to educating a school group on what the Rangers do!

Sgt. Hodapp received a phone call from a Miami Whitewater Forest campground guest who had observed **Ranger Rick Dove** give an impromptu Ranger program to a group of kids. This guest was impressed with this kind act and Ranger Dove's professionalism.

## Rangers' participation in Hamilton County Police Association (HCPA) Specialized Assignments:

Ranger Kelly Williford is a member of the HCPA Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU). This 20 member 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. 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.



Vehicle Recovery in Springfield Township



Search of Pond in Pike County

The HCPA USRU/Dive Team conducted twelve trainings, eight critical service calls and sixteen non-critical calls for service in 2019. Two of the trainings were held in Great Parks, the February Ice/Cold Water Training was at Campbell Lakes Preserve and the September Operations and Equipment training was conducted at Fernbank Park. One of the critical calls for service was for an October 18<sup>th</sup> incident that Greenhills Police initiated and which culminated in Winton Woods Park with the dive team conducting a search of the lake for a runaway juvenile that was feared had drowned. Thankfully, the juvenile was found safe in the Bond Hill area shortly after the search began.

Ranger Williford participated in 4 of the critical service calls, one being a vehicle recovery in a cemetery pond in Springfield Township after a car accident, and another assisting the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) in an ongoing criminal investigation in Pike County. Ranger Williford also participated in 10 of the twelve trainings and participated in an event for Cincinnati Police Week.

Ranger Eric Gregory has been a tactical member of the HCPA Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) team for the past nine years. As tactical members of the team, they make entry on warrant service, provide dignitary protection, secure wanted subjects and are responsible for hostages and innocent bystanders of active scenes. Some of their specialized training is in the use of 40 mm less lethal munitions, distractionary devices, breaching tools, pepper ball and chemical munitions.

The SWAT team is comprised of a group of 50 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 every year. Those events include programs for schools, parades, and visits to orphanages. Each year, Ranger Gregory and other HCPA SWAT members participate in the Greater Cincinnati Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics. In February, Gregory braved the cold water and took the plunge with hundreds of others at Joe's Crab Shack in Bellevue, Kentucky. His team raised over \$4,000 for Special Olympics in 2019.

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. **Ranger Edwin McFadden** joined the HCPA Honor Guard in June.

The unit participated in 63 events in 2019. Ranger Spurgeon participated in 16 of the 32 funeral details which included visitation vigils and memorial services for fallen officers. Spurgeon was also able to participate in 4 of the 15 details for Color Guards, parades and other fire teams not funeral related, and participated in 10 of the 11 trainings

Ranger McFadden participated in 7 of the monthly trainings and one of the funeral details.

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



The HCPA *Most Wanted Band* experienced another exciting year of providing “Music with a Message” to groups throughout the tristate area. **Ranger Missie Shannon** is a proud member of *Most Wanted* and participated in the following events:



- January 28 Cardinal Pachelli School Assembly – Hyde Park
- January 29 Officer’s Appreciation at St. Clements
- March 12 Fairfield East Elementary School Assembly
- July 2 Tuesday Night in the Park – Madisonville
- July 4 Independence Day Celebration – Indian Hill
- August 7 Concert on the Commons – Greenhills

## Great Parks of Hamilton County Ranger Division (GPHC) Specialized Assignments:

### ALICE

Ranger Matt Randolph joined Captain Dale Steele and Sergeant Alex Stephens as a certified instructor of the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) program.

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. One training session was held in September for 40 members of Greater Cincinnati Northern Kentucky Chapter of the APA (American Payroll Association). The training was facilitated and attended by Great Parks Payroll Coordinator Rich Sonnenberg.

### All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)

Sergeant Alex Stephens and Ranger Sherry Garner are certified instructors for the ASI (American Safety Institute) ATV Rider Course training. ATV training is designed to teach Rangers how to safely operate the ATV, perform inspections, load the ATV onto a trailer and safely transport it to another location. Once certified, the Rangers can use the ATV for patrol and get access to areas of the parks that a cruiser may not be able to go. Sergeant Stephens and Ranger Garner held a training at Shawnee Lookout Park in November and certified five Rangers; Missie Shannon, Andrea Alberico, Shawn Wright, Kendra Keuffer and Kelly Grogan.

### CPR / First Aid

CPR/First Aid Instructors for the Ranger division are Rangers Missie Shannon, Sherry Garner and Mike Foley. The American Heart Association (AHA) made changes to their training guidelines effective January 31, 2019. They now require instrumented directive feedback devices for practice and testing in all AHA courses that teach the skills of adult CPR. The device required must measure and provide real-time audio and video feedback on compression rate and depth. Since our Ranger department uses the AHA Basic Life Support and Heartsaver courses, we purchased the Little Anne QCPR Upgrade Kits. Two kits were purchased and installed in the existing Little Anne and Little Junior mannequins. Ranger instructors Shannon and Garner tested the QCPR kit that was installed into one of the mannequins. They were able to connect the feedback from the QCPR kit to their iPhones. The feedback showed aspects such as chest compression rate, depth, and recoil. This information will be a valuable tool for understanding and perfecting skills and beneficial aid to the instructors. BLS and Heartsaver 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training will begin in the spring of 2020 and we are excited to see how it improves the Rangers’ CPR skills.

“Stop the Bleed” tourniquet training was held during the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger meeting with more extensive training to be held during First Aid training in 2020.

### Verbal Defense and Influence (VDI)



**Verbal Defense & Influence (AKA Verbal Judo or Tactical Communications)** is focused on **addressing the entire spectrum of human conflict at the point of impact**. Our vision and training methods are created in such a way as to make people safer by teaching everyone HOW to treat each other with dignity by showing them respect. It is a way to verbally defuse a situation without use of force, and to gain voluntary compliance. Great Parks of Hamilton County Rangers have been utilizing this mindset for over two decades. “We treat everyone like ladies and gentlemen not because they are, but because we are.”

At the January 2019 Ranger meeting, **VDI Instructors, Rangers Edwin McFadden and Matt Siry** taught these skills to the Ranger Department. It was a nice refresher for most of our agency, but a brand new concept to some of the new Rangers. We went over our Universal Greeting, treating everyone with respect, deflector phrases to help calm people down and get them back on track to the important issue at hand.

### 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.

**Sergeant Todd Williams** is the FTO Program Supervisor for Great Parks Rangers. Field Training **Officers Don Rieskamp, Edwin McFadden, Jordan Batts, Eric Gregory, Kelly Williford, and Matt Randolph** logged a total of 2,395 training hours in 2019. These hours were spent training eight new Rangers: Jocelyn Binkley, Ryland Reed, Chris Weed, Anthony Batts, Jason Gantt, Andrew Nealan, Kelly Grogan, and Cody Faulkner. Anthony Batts and Jason Gantt both resigned before completion of field training.

### Firearms

The firearms instructors for the Ranger Department include **Sergeant Tim Biaglow, Ranger Kelly Williford, Ranger Eric Gregory and retired Ranger Dave Spurgeon**. Annually, the instructors run a requalification course for sworn ranger personnel. Each officer must demonstrate their ability to use their handgun, shotgun and patrol rifle by qualifying with a passing score as mandated by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. The Firearms Instructors also conduct a weapons familiarization class for each new Ranger that is hired. It was a busy year as six new Rangers were put through the eight-hour class.

While the state only mandates one requalification shoot a year, the Rangers also attend two additional firearms training sessions each year. These shoots are designed to improve the Rangers abilities and increase their marksmanship skills. This year the focus was on the basic fundamentals of shooting. Training included shooting from barricades, moving while shooting and weapon transition drills. Shooting is a perishable skill and we are very fortunate to have the ability to train three times a year.



Sergeant Tim Biaglow and Officer Kelly Williford attended a pistol marksmanship class hosted by the Hamilton County Police Association. The HCPA Swat provided some outstanding training that we were able to bring back to the department. Sergeant Biaglow and Officer Williford also attended a Glock troubleshooting class hosted by Vance's Law Enforcement Training. The class covered common mistakes to look for while training officers. The day of instruction also included a demonstration put on by Winchester with their new line of ammunition called "Ranger".

## 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.

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

Along with their annual local events, our Ranger Color Guard Unit traveled to Washington D.C. in May for National Police Week. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. It has become better known as National Police Week and draws tens of thousands of law enforcement officers and the surviving families of the fallen to the D.C. area for a week of planned events. Our Color Guard team packed a lot of activities in the four short days they were there but had the opportunity to witness the Police Unity Tour arrive at the Police Memorial <http://policeunitytour.com/>, and tour the FBI building, National Museum of the Marine Corps, the Whitehouse, the Capitol building and take a Moonlight Monument Tour. They also attended the Annual Candlelight Vigil ceremony and the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on the front lawn of the Capitol. Both were very emotional ceremonies.

They arrived home on May 16 and came right back in the next morning to participate in the local Police Memorial event. This event begins at Fountain Square with a speaker and then all participating officers from Hamilton County agencies march, walk, or ride in a parade led by all Honor Guard units. The parade ends at Cincinnati Police District One where they participate in the actual ceremony.

The Color Guard Team presented the flags at five events this year:

- March 28 Reds' Opening Day Parade, Findlay Market
- March 31 Cincinnati Reds Game, Great American Ball Park
- May 17 Police Memorial, Cincinnati Police Department
- June 21 St. Joe's Charity Wiffle Ball Game, Great American Ball Park
- August 17 Special Olympics Opening Ceremony, Winton Woods Riding Center



## GPHC Committees

### Kick-Off Team – Sergeant Katie Lake



**Sergeant Katie Lake and Ranger Eric Gregory** were both members of the 2019 Kick-Off Team. After months of meetings and preparation, the travel themed kick-off event, *Make the Connection*, was held January 22 and 23 at The Grove of Springfield Township with over a hundred employees in attendance each day.

Being named a co-chair for the 2020 Kick-Off, Sergeant Lake continued her involvement with the committee. In mid-March, a team of 12 employees began brainstorming ideas for the 2020 annual Kick-Off event. Several theme ideas were discussed before the team landed on, 'Treasure our Parks', with a plan to bring everyone together to discuss how Great Parks' employees create, protect, and maintain our agency treasures for fellow staff and visiting guests. Additional goals for the event include hearing from other organizational committees such as the Diversity & Inclusion and Health & Wellness teams; updates from our Chief of Planning about the ongoing Park & Facilities Master Plan, land acquisition, and upcoming capital projects, and lastly a reveal from PEET of our new Core Values.... along with some added FUN! The event is scheduled to be held at the Sharonville Recreation Center on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Chief Richard Spreckelmeier served also as a valued team member on the 2020 committee.

### PEET (Park Employment Engagement Team) – Sergeant Katie Lake

In 2019, PEET was hard at work trying to achieve goals the group set forth at the end of the previous year. The first of which being to help provide staff Networking/Volunteering opportunities. A list of possible opportunities was composed with one selected to be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The project was with Habitat for Humanity and employees were given the opportunity to volunteer at one of three building worksites throughout the city of Cincinnati. It was a great way for staff to engage with one another and the community. The event was such a success that it was determined similar ones will be offered in the future.

The next goal on PEET's list was to develop a Training & Education program for staff. This was achieved through interdepartmental and outside agency Lunch & Learns. Several Lunch & Learns were scheduled throughout the year and they were very popular amongst staff. There were 10 total programs conducted some of which included topics such as: Perceptions of Prescribed Fire on Public Lands, Mindfulness, Co-Existing with Coyotes, The American Conservation Movement, and Simplifying Your Spending and Saving Strategies. Lastly, PEET's final goal of 2019 was to introduce the new Core Values to staff. In order to accomplish this goal PEET chose to team up with the 2020 Kick-Off committee. For the 2020 Kick-Off event, PEET has planned an activity which will reveal the new Core Values and also incorporate a FUN giveaway! As we enter into a new year, PEET will reflect on what we have accomplished so far and continue to set more goals for the future.



## Health & Wellness – Ranger Sherry Garner

The goal of the Great Parks Health & Wellness committee is to make health and wellness less intimidating. This Committee works closely with Employee Services and our health insurance. Quarterly meetings are held throughout the year. In 2019, the Health & Wellness Committee sponsored several activities for Great Parks employees:

- 30 Day Pack your Lunch Challenge
- Hold it for the Holidays
- Lunch and Learn

And the team upgraded the fitness room at the Winton Center, created a Health & Wellness employee Facebook page, assisted with the Kid's Expo and the Walk with a Doc program.

The committee lived up to its 2019 Motto....LIT...Learn...Inspire...Transform "It's Our Year."

## Controlled Bow Hunt Program – Lieutenant Greg Grimm

The Great Parks of Hamilton County continues to run a controlled bow hunting program to manage the deer herd in our parks. The program is an ecological management tool used to promote the growth of healthy plant and animal populations. In order to maintain a diverse habitat and sustain a balance in the ecosystem, the controlled bow hunting program is for white-tailed deer only with a focus on removing deer specifically in areas of overpopulation. **Lieutenant Greg Grimm and Ranger Rick Dove** continued as the department liaisons for this program.



Hunters in the program must comply with rules set forth by the Great Parks of Hamilton County and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. In early summer, hunters are drawn by lottery and required to attend an outdoor proficiency shooting test. Lt. Grimm and Ranger 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 2019, over 250 hunters participated in the qualifications. Hunters who passed then met with bow hunting volunteer coordinators to

physically walk the assigned hunting locations before being allowed to hunt an area.

## Special Parks District Forum – Sergeant Todd Williams

The Great Parks of Hamilton County was designated to host the Special Parks District Forum in May of 2020. Great Parks will welcome nearly 100 park professionals from a network of Special Park Districts from across the county to our region for a three day conference that includes tours, presentations, trainings and of course a few hikes. **Sgt. Williams** is the Ranger Division member of this committee which has been meeting monthly since 2018 to plan this major event.

### 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 Matt Siry and Daren Stoeckel** attended the annual OPRA Conference and Trade Show in Sandusky, Ohio in February. The conference focused on developing leadership skills, creating diversity in the workplace, sustainable growth, and crisis communications.

Ranger Staff also attended two trainings given by OPRA-Law Enforcement. The first training held on April 17 included a Section Meeting and a presentation on "Criminal Patrol and Human Behaviors". This meeting/training at Scioto Grove Metro Park in Grove City, Ohio was attended by **Captain Steele, Lt. Bird, Lt. Grimm and Ranger McFadden**. On August 27, **Captain Steele, Lt. Bird, Lt. Grimm, Sgt. Stephens, and Ranger Garner** attended "Basic Vehicle Fire Investigation Techniques" given by Sgt. Ranger Steve Southard with Clark County Park District. The 4 hour training went over fire chemistry, how to determine if a fire is accidental or fraud, and how to locate a hidden VIN on a vehicle.

### Park Law Enforcement Association (PLEA) – Captain Dale Steele

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**, Treasurer on the PLEA Executive Board attended the annual PLEA conference in Ventura Beach, California, January 15-18. Capt. Steele also attended the Board of Director's Meeting held prior to the PLEA conference.

## Community Involvement

Our Ranger Team is dedicated to having a presence in the communities that use our Great Parks. We participate in numerous community events each year promoting safety AND the Great Parks of Hamilton County. In 2019, our Rangers participated in the following events outside of our parks:

- 3/31/19 Cincinnati Reds Game, GPHC Color Guard
- 4/02/19 UC Police Demo Day – Lt. Grimm, Sgt. Williams
- 4/12/19 Children’s Learning Center Preschool - Gregory
- 5/17/19 Police Memorial Day, Cincinnati – GPHC Color Guard, Sgt. Lake, Foley
- 5/26/19 Crosby Twp. Memorial Day Parade – Sgt. Williams
- 6/02/19 Tri-County Mall Law Enforcement Expo – Sgt. Williams
- 6/10/19 Sharonville Touch-A-Truck Event – Lt. Bird
- 6/11/19 Junior Ranger Summer Camp - Alberico
- 6/21/19 Springfield Township Touch-A-Truck Event – Foley
- 6/21/19 St. Joe’s Charity Wiffle Ball, Great American Ball Park – GPHC Color Guard
- 7/04/19 Golf Manor Parade – McFadden
- 8/06/19 National Night Out, Pierce Twp., - Zimmerman
- 8/23/19 Taylor High School Safety Day Program – Tremain
- 9/14/19 Pioneer Program, Beautiful Savior Church - Shannon
- 9/19/19 Brent Elementary School Heroes Program – Sgt. Lake
- 9/20/19 Mystery Reader at Montgomery Community Church Preschool - Nance
- 10/5/19 Peterloon Scout Program – Lambing
- 10/10/19 Colonial School Program – Lt. Bird, Sgt. Lake
- 10/22/19 Sharonville Trunk or Treat – Altman
- 11/5/19 Stonebridge Senior Living Program – Altman



## Career Days / Jobs Fairs

- 3/5/19 UC Jobs Fair – Lt. Grimm, Lt. Bird
- 3/8/19 Winton Woods, Meadowlinks Golf Course Junior Achievement - Lambing
- 3/20/19 Career Day, Roger Bacon High School – McFadden
- 4/28/19 Girl Scout Career Day, Cintas Center – Lt. Bird
- 10/16/19 Finneytown Schools Career Day - Garner
- 10/31/19 Cincinnati Public Schools Career Day - Binkley
- 11/7/19 Career Program, Cincinnati Zoo Academy – Shannon



## Ranger In-Park Youth Programs

- 5/6/19 Triple Creek - Spraul
- 5/11/19 Miami Whitewater Forest Harbor – Dove
- 6/2/19 Miami Whitewater Forest Campground – Dove
- 6/15/19 Miami Whitewater Forest Tanager Meadow – Dove
- 7/6/19 Miami Whitewater Forest Campground – Dove
- 7/25/19 Otto Armleder Hub Building – CRC River Trek youth group - Batts
- 7/26/19 Woodland Mound Juneberry Pond – Batts
- 9/6/19 Miami Whitewater Forest Campground – Dove
- 9/8/19 Miami Whitewater Forest Campground – Dove
- 10/10/19 Winton Woods Possum Run Scout Camp - Foley

## Ranger Park Employee Programs

- 5/4/19 Williford - Getting Started
- 5/15/19 Zimmerman – How to Contact the Rangers
- 6/8/19 Gregory - Getting Started
- 6/15/19 Nance - Getting Started
- 11/9/19 Nance - Getting Started
- 12/7/19 Williford - Getting Started

## Special Events – Lieutenant Greg Grimm

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

Summer concerts sizzled with bands playing in various parks throughout the season with sounds ranging from jazz, Motown, rock to classical music. The Shakespeare in the Park performances were held at Glenwood Gardens with mild summer temperatures creating a favorable atmosphere for those taking in the performance.

The ever popular Cincinnati Pops Summer Concert returned to Woodland Mound Park this year, the dry conditions were welcomed by rangers as we depend heavily on dry turf conditions to park vehicles in non-paved areas. A new pedestrian traffic pattern was implemented this year at Woodland to improve safety and visibility for guests crossing the Kellogg entrance and parking in the overflow field.

The Holiday in Lights 5k Walk again kicked off the Holiday in Lights Festival at Sharon Woods. 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 racers along with family and cheering groups. Rangers utilize a local business complex and all paved areas of Sharon Woods to accommodate the parking needs. This year the weather was favorable and we avoided the sloppy conditions on the foot crossings we experienced last year.

Events geared towards introducing visitors to outdoor activities included the YMCA 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, kayaking, outdoor skills demonstrations, mountain biking, fly fishing, archery, and loads of outdoor fun for children and adults alike.



As an organization with parks spread over the entire county, Great Parks has become a popular venue for benefit walks and 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.

## CENTRAL REGION HIGHLIGHTS

### **Winton Woods District** – submitted by Sergeant Alex Stephens

Winton Woods Rangers operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and consist of one Sergeant, five full-time officers and multiple part-time officers. Rangers patrol Winton Woods, Farbach-Werner, Richardson Forest Preserve, Glenwood Gardens, Triple Creek and Newberry Wildlife Sanctuary.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Rangers were dispatched to the Sycamore Valley picnic area for a report of a suspicious person carrying a gun. When Rangers arrived on scene they were able to quickly locate the subject. While attempting to approach the subject he turned around and began walking away. After several times of ordering the subject to stop, he finally complied but placed his hands in his pockets. Rangers ordered him to place his hands on his head which he complied but threw an object into the woods while doing so. The subject was detained and the surrounding area was searched. Rangers were able to recover a hypodermic needle, syringe and a black sock that contained a white crystal powder that was later confirmed as methamphetamine. The subject was arrested for drug possession and possessing drug abuse instruments.

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Rangers were conducting traffic enforcement on Valleyview Drive in Winton Woods Park. A license plate was ran and it came back with a warrant. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver immediately jumped out of the vehicle and started screaming at the Ranger. The driver then got back into his vehicle and refused to roll down his window or speak. The Ranger opened the door to the subject's car and he began screaming again and refused to give any of the required information. The subject was informed that he was then under arrest and to step out of the vehicle. While attempting to place the subject in handcuffs he pulled away and would no longer comply with the orders of the Ranger. An officer needs assistance call was put out through the Hamilton County Communications Center and it took several officers to get the subject into custody. While in the back seat of the cruiser the subject began kicking the divider and door causing the bars to bend and the door lock to not function properly. The Ranger did sustain an injury while taking the subject into custody. The subject was charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and criminal damaging. The subject was later convicted and ordered to pay restitution for the damage caused to the cruiser.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Parky's Farm in Winton Woods hosted the YMCA Healthy Kids Day. This is a free event and is one of the largest health events for children in the nation. Nearly 5,000 children from around Hamilton County attended. Events included a Cincinnati Bengals obstacle course, climbing wall, bounce houses, Parky's Farm animals and a touch-a-truck with local first responders. Rangers ensured this event was a safe environment for all that attended and assisted with traffic control and parking nearly 1,000 vehicles. Great Parks was selected as a special YMCA of Greater Cincinnati Community Award winner for hosting this event and helping to make it a great success.

Rangers were dispatched to Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve on July 5<sup>th</sup> for a report of a suspicious person in the restroom. When Rangers arrived on scene they entered the women's restroom and saw a female laying on the floor with a syringe next to her. The subject was immediately detained and a search of her purse resulted in the recovery of two bags of heroin, a spoon, a second syringe and a digital scale with a white powdery substance. The subject was taken to the Hamilton County Justice Center and charged with felony drug possession and possession of drug abuse instruments. She was convicted on possession of a fentanyl-related compound and sentenced to 11 months with the Department of Corrections.

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, Rangers conducted a traffic stop on Lakeview Drive for a white Ford Fusion that had no visible license plate. The driver handed the Ranger an expired ID and also stated that the car will come back stolen. The subject was then detained while more information was gathered. After finding a plate in the rear window it came back to a stolen Dodge that the subject had reported as stolen with the Cincinnati Police Department. The subject stated that he had an extra license plate so he put it in the Ford so he

could drive around. The Ranger then asked about the odor of marijuana. The subject stated that he had smoked earlier but that nothing was in the car. A search of the vehicle was conducted and a firearm with a loaded magazine was found in the trunk of the car along with a small bag of marijuana. The subject was arrested for weapons under disability, no driver's license and improper display. He was then transported to the Hamilton County Justice Center where Corrections Deputies found a small baggie with a white powdery substance in his underwear. The substance was later confirmed as cocaine. An additional charge of felony drug possession was added. The subject was later convicted for drug possession and sentenced to community control.

Every weekend in October the Winton Woods Campground hosts Creepy Campouts. This event allows campers to setup Halloween displays and enter contests. Later in the night, children are able to walk around to each campsite and trick-or-treat! This is a great community policing event for the Ranger Department. Rangers escorted Parky from the campground office to the shelter while displaying overhead lights. When the fun of trick-or-treating started, Rangers setup with their cruisers, passed out candy, and opened all the doors so that the children could climb in and take pictures. This event is as much fun for our Rangers as it is for all the campers.



## EAST REGION HIGHLIGHTS

**Sharon Woods District** – submitted by Sergeant Katie Lake

There are 4 full-time Rangers, 2 part-time Rangers, and 1 Ranger Sergeant assigned to Sharon Woods. The parks in which these officers patrol are Sharon Woods, Francis RecreAcres, and Lake Isabella. They also assist, when necessary, in patrolling Woodland Mound, Withrow Nature Preserve, Otto Armleder, Little Miami Golf Center, Bass Island, Avoca Park and Kroger Hills Nature Preserve. While visiting our parks guests can expect to see Rangers out performing any of their many job duties/responsibilities. Rangers can often be seen interacting with visitors, checking our facilities, conducting foot/bike/boat/atv patrols, and many other things. We provide 24-hour coverage year-round so guests can have an enjoyable and safe experience.

Throughout the year Sharon Woods is visited by countless guests and is home to many popular events. This year alone Ranger's participated in such events as Wags, Waffles & Wine, Civil War Days, the Haunted Village, Walk & Wine, Holiday in Lights 5K, Holiday in Lights, Santaland and many more. We assisted with traffic control and parking during all major functions and responded to any calls for service. Since Sharon Woods is our most visited park of the three we do our best to stay visible and educate guests to deter criminal activity. There were 9 theft from motor vehicle cases that occurred this year at Sharon Woods. Lastly, Sharon Woods had two new and notable changes occur during 2019. The Sharon Centre received a complete renovation of its auditorium and the initial steps of the Sharon Lake dredging project kicked off. Rangers have been and will continue to be involved in team meetings regarding the lake dredging and guests frequently show interest in how Great Parks will take on this exciting yet momentous endeavor. Sharon Lake was last dredged in 1988.

Francis RecReacres saw some changes this year. The soccer fields and main concession area were rented almost every week from April through November. The fields saw many games and events like SPCA's annual Tails on the Trails. Rangers were on hand every weekend to assist with any issues or traffic concerns. On 06/25/19 Rangers responded for a report of a fire alarm going off in the concessions building. Upon arrival it was determined the building had been vandalized. Several fire extinguishers were expelled within the Men's' restroom and food service area. Damage to two windows and a door was also

present. Video footage was obtained from surrounding businesses and the suspects were seen on camera but no arrests were made.

Lake Isabella was one of the many stops on this year's board tour. There were 2 adults arrest made, 3 citations and 110 minor violations/calls for service. Lake Isabella hosted events like Burgers & Brews, Rod Busting Fishing tournaments, and several company picnics at the campground. The campground had an increase in visitation this year and will be expanding rental availability in 2020.

### Woodland Mound District – submitted by Sergeant Tim Biaglow

The park district has gone through some changes in 2019 and the Ranger Department has changed as well. Sergeant Tim Biaglow took over the responsibilities as District Sergeant at Woodland Mound with the promotion of Captain Dale Steele. New changes to the district include Rangers Kelly Williford and newly hired Kendra Keuffer. Nathan Zimmerman, Matt Siry, Jordan Batts and part-time Ranger Craig Nance make up the remaining team of Rangers that work out of the Woodland Mound Ranger station and patrol the following parks; Woodland Mound, Withrow Nature Preserve, Otto Armleder, Little Miami Golf Center, Bass Island, Avoca Park and Kroger Hills Nature Preserve.



The Ranger department works very diligently in trying to prevent crime inside the park. Theft from motor vehicles proved to be the biggest challenge in 2019. There was a concentrated effort to teach the public not to be a victim of crime. We continue to try and educate the public on how to be safe in the parks. Our "Take it with you or leave it at home campaign" was put into effect this year. The Park district took advantage of social media to release a series of public safety messages. Signage was installed in the areas most affected. The Rangers also took every opportunity to make

contacts with potential victims and educate them about being safe in our parks. While these crimes can be difficult to stop, the Ranger Department was successful in making an arrest this year related to one of the vehicle breaks-ins at Otto Armleder Park.

One of the biggest changes to the Woodland Mound Park district was the closing of Steamboat Bend campground. While it was sad to see the campground close, it is reassuring that the area will be returned to its natural state. The Great Parks of Hamilton County have already begun the transition.



Notable moment of the year includes Ranger Jordan Batts quick action with his assistance in a water rescue on the Little Miami River. Because of Ranger Batts' extensive knowledge of the Little Miami River and the lower Kroger Hills area he was able to quickly locate a kayaker and his dog that were in distress after their kayak capsized near a log jam. Ranger Batts safely and successfully rescued both the kayaker and his dog from the river.

While the Park district continues to change, the Ranger Department does its best to support the mission of the Great parks of Hamilton County by providing a safe and pleasant atmosphere for families to enjoy whichever park they decide to visit.

## WEST REGION HIGHLIGHTS

### **Miami Whitewater Forest District** – submitted by Sergeant Dan Hodapp

In 2019, there were four full-time rangers, one part-time, and one District Sergeant at Miami Whitewater Forest. At two different times, we did have five full-time officers, however with transfers, they were not here long. Two full-time officers did transfer to Miami Whitewater Forest from other districts. This was a big challenge with short-staffing and a lot of overtime. However, through being visible and making contacts, we were able to deter a lot of criminal activity.

We acquired an additional two parcels of land putting us close to 5,000 total acres at Miami Whitewater Forest. We also patrol Mitchell Memorial Forest where the Park District acquired two additional parcels of land in 2019 and Campbell Lakes Preserve.

This year saw the permanent closure of Parky's Pirate Cove Wet Playground. The wet play had been open since 1996 and was one of the region's first wet playgrounds. During the winter/spring inspection of the wet playground, it was found that the pumping and filtration system needed significant repair and/or replacement. There were a lot of disappointed park visitors, but most of the public voiced their disappointment via social media. There were not any issues at the park itself.

Criminal reports were mainly vehicles being broken into with personal items stolen. Most cases we had little-to-no leads on. On a few, we were able to investigate and pull surveillance video and pictures. Information was shared with local agencies, however, suspects were never identified. There are leads on a few of the cases that occurred towards the end of the year. Information is being shared with multiple agencies and the suspects will hopefully be identified soon. Those cases are part of the felony lane gang, where checkbooks and identification cards from victims are being used by multiple suspects in the tristate area.

This was also a year for encroachments. Rangers took reports and investigated multiple cases of encroachments. All reports were turned over to the Great Parks Planning Division. From there, they handle these reports with certified letters seeking restitution.

### **Shawnee Lookout District** – submitted by Sergeant Todd Williams

Four full-time Rangers and one part-time Ranger were assigned to patrol the Shawnee Lookout District in 2019. These Rangers patrol Shawnee Lookout, Embshoff Woods Nature Preserve, and Fernbank Park. Primary patrol duties of Mitchell Memorial Forest and Kilby Road properties were reassigned to Miami Whitewater Forest.

Some of the more notable incidents in 2019 include the following:

- 3/13/19 A patron discovered a body along the riverbank off the Sycamore Trail at Fernbank Park. The deceased male had been reported missing in February by family members.
- 7/28/19 *Rolling on the River Car Show* at Fernbank Park had a record attendance and vehicle entries.
- 8/6/19 Ranger Tremain and Sgt. Williams received a thank you from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for assisting with traffic for several hours at the scene of a fatal auto accident on St. Rt. 128.
- 8/23/19 Ranger Tremain participated in a multi-agency Safety Day Program at Taylor School in Cleves.
- 9/29/19 After forty years in operation, the Shawnee Lookout Golf Course closed permanently.
- 9/30/19 Four golf carts were stolen from the Shawnee Golf Course cart corral. Unknown subjects cut off a lock and drove the carts to a maintenance access driveway off Lawrenceburg Rd. The carts were then loaded onto an unknown type of vehicle.

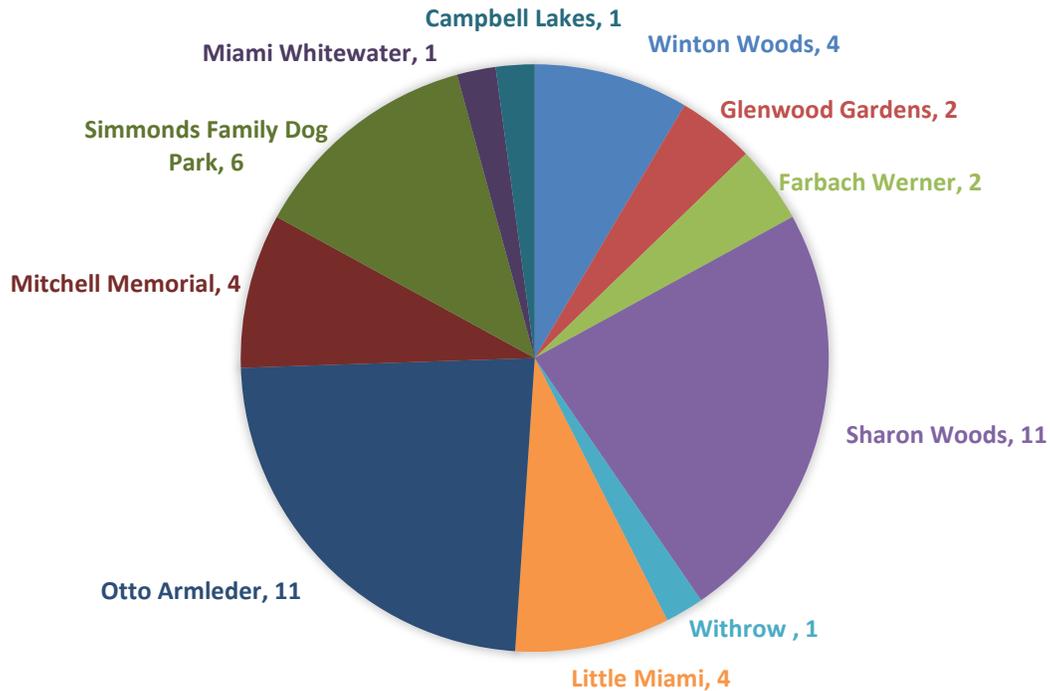
**Note:** No thefts from motor vehicles were reported in 2019 in Shawnee Lookout District.

## INVESTIGATIONS / ARRESTS

2019 Investigations – submitted by Lieutenant Ali Bird

A theft from a motor vehicle offense is one of our most common reports. It is an offense that is, unfortunately, well suited for the park environment. In 2019, we took 47 offense reports where park visitors had personal items stolen from their parked vehicles. Below is a breakdown of where these particular offenses occurred...

### VEHICLE BREAK-INS BY PARK



In some instances, stolen credit cards are used at retailers to purchase anything from small dollar items to high priced electronics to large dollar gift cards. Stolen checks are used to be cashed against another victim's account. Retailers with video provide us some almost immediate information as we can view the video and hopefully catch an image of our suspect(s). We can then use those images and post them to local law enforcement information sharing sites in the hopes that someone else might be able to identify the individual(s). Banks however, while most do have video capabilities, require a subpoena request before releasing the footage. That process causes a delay in the investigation but once gained, the images are also posted in the hopes of making a possible positive identification. Oftentimes what we discover is that multiple law enforcement agencies are looking for the same suspect(s). Unfortunately, unless the subject(s) are local individuals recognized and identified by another agency, our true challenge is in the identification and location of the subject(s) usually based only on a photo. We've discovered that more often than not the suspects are not local, they are in town for a theft spree, hit as many locations in a short period of time as they can and then leave town again making it almost impossible to identify, locate and detain.

The Felony Lane Gang is a term used to describe those loosely knit thieves who are based in southern states and using rental cars, travel the country specifically targeting parks, daycares, gyms, any place that is likely to be frequented by women thus increasing the chances of finding purses/wallets left in vehicles. These criminals often conduct surveillance in the areas, watching when women attempt to hide or even just leave items in plain view. They quickly approach the vehicle and break the window, grabbing the items they are after and moving on to the next vehicle and/or location. They are specifically looking for driver's licenses, checks, debit & credit cards. Often it is a team of at least one male and one female, the female being recruited to pose as the victim and attempt to cash checks belonging to other victims. They wear

wigs to alter their appearance to match the victim as closely as possible. The term Felony Lane Gang derives from the fact that this group always uses the farthest drive through lane from the bank building to conduct this fraudulent check cashing activity. Additional information related to these groups (provided by the Felony Lane Gang Working Group) - the rental vehicles often have super dark tinted windows, the initial hit will be to use the credit cards to buy gas and/or other sustaining items. These teams are often headed up by black males, with a few black females and the check cashers are almost always white females who are drug addicts, prostitutes and/or homeless. They have been in operation for over a decade and have over 800 known members that have contributed to hundreds of millions of dollars in losses, across all state lines. One Facebook group that is open to the public for additional FLG resources is <https://www.facebook.com/FelonyLaneGang/>.

The best advice we can give our guests is to be smart- leave items at home or take them with you when you arrive here at the parks. Don't leave anything (even something that has no value but could be construed as such) out in plain view but hiding items doesn't protect you either. **Take it with you or leave it at home!!!** But also, be vigilant- be aware of your surroundings, pay attention and report anything suspicious to your local law enforcement agency.

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On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Rangers were dispatched to Fernbank Park for a report of a patron discovering a deceased subject along the river bank. Upon arrival, CPD was already on scene, taking the report. The individual was, at that time, unable to be identified and was transported by the Coroner's office. A few days later identification was determined and the individual was found to have been recently reported missing from Springfield Township. The coroner's office determined no foul play had been involved in the death of the individual.

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On August 31<sup>st</sup>, we took a theft from motor vehicle report at Armleder park in which the victim had her vehicle broken into and her purse stolen from inside. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, we were notified by Sycamore Township deputies that they had detained an individual caught at Macy's in Kenwood Mall for attempting to use a stolen credit card belonging to our victim from 8/31. The subject detained was arrested and charged with Receiving Stolen Property, a felony charge. We gathered copies of video surveillance from the multiple retailers at which this individual had used the stolen credit cards along with copies of transactions. This individual was sentenced to a prison term of 2 years and then placed on 2 years of supervised probation in her home state of Florida. She was ordered to pay court costs and restitution to our victim.

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On Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, we had two separate things occur simultaneously that ended up being related. Our conservation and parks division called to report a dumping of personal items at one of our picnic areas. The Ranger responded to investigate the items and found it be miscellaneous personal items that appeared to have been dumped out of a vehicle as they were wrapped up in a seat cover. We were able to get a name off one of the items to determine who might be the owner. At the same time, we received a call from an individual who stated that her vehicle had been borrowed the day before and had yet to be returned. The GPS on the vehicle showed it being at Winton Woods. We were able to connect that the caller was also the owner of the dumped items and give the property back but were unable to locate the vehicle in the park at that time. The owner of the vehicle returned to the park and continued to search the area of the dumping and later that day recovered additional items. At this point in time we assisted in searching the area for anything additional that might be related. A stolen vehicle report had been filed with Colerain Township as both the vehicle and the driver had yet to be located.

On Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, Greenhills Police Department requested assistance with a stolen vehicle they had discovered in their jurisdiction. It was the vehicle our subject had been looking for the day before and had reported stolen. It was unoccupied at the time of discovery so multiple units were called to assist in canvassing the area on foot as well as utilizing the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office helicopter. Nothing

was found, yet Rangers continued to canvass the adjacent park property for the driver, who was now listed as a missing subject, with no success.

The family of the missing subject had reached out to the Ohio/Midwest Chapter of Texas Equusearch for assistance. On Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, this organization showed up to Winton Woods to assess the area they would be searching before beginning the actual search process. Unfortunately, it was during this recon that they discovered the body of the missing individual, in the wooded area, off of the Great Oaks trail and adjacent to where the vehicle was located in Greenhills. The coroner's office determined no foul play had been involved in the death of the individual.

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On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Shawnee Lookout Golf Course closed permanently. It was also on September 30<sup>th</sup> that golf employees reported a theft of four golf carts from this location in the overnight hours. Unknown subject(s) cut the locks on the cart corral at the club house and removed the carts. Shortly afterwards Rangers discovered the gate to the golf course from Lawrenceburg Road was open when normally it is secured. At this point, due to tire tracks in the area, it was believed that a vehicle of some kind had driven onto the course and up to tee #15 where we are assuming the carts were loaded onto a trailer of some kind and removed from the park. Surveillance videos were checked with no good results, the cameras did not clearly show the areas needed for investigation of this incident. We continued to follow-up on any available leads with no outcomes. TO BE CONTINUED... (insert suspenseful music!)

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## **CIVILIAN STAFF**

### **Fleet Manager**

The Ranger fleet is managed by Jeff Stritholt, 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 and Jeff maintains them all.

Along with maintaining our fleet, Jeff oversaw any body work that needed completed by outside vendors due to fender benders, the annual radar calibration, installation of equipment needed to make our new vehicles cruiser ready, and any maintenance needed on our Mobile Data Computers (MDCs). Jeff also helps keep us sustainable by using our old outworn uniform items as shop rags.

### **Ranger Clerks and Dispatchers**

Lt. Bird supervised two full-time Ranger Clerks and four part-time Dispatchers who staffed the dispatch 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. In the spring of 2019, full-time Clerk Sheila Pringle announced her retirement effective September 29. Clerk Pringle retired from Great Parks after 27 years of service and left some big shoes to fill. A hiring process for her replacement began in late August but after an extensive search and several interviews, no suitable replacement was found. At that point, Lt. Bird decided to postpone the search until the beginning of 2020.

As earlier mentioned, our department transitioned in the spring of 2019 from using our Daily Log Access database to using Pamet for all reports and daily log entry. Prior to this, only clerical staff had been using Pamet for report entry since July of 2014. Because of the experience with Pamet, Clerk Cathy Yohey was asked to assist Lt. Bird with adapting Pamet to meet our needs and assist with training the rest of the Ranger Department.

## TRAINING

### CPT Summary

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) each year 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 2019 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

### **OPOTA Standard / Mandatory** (requires 100%)

Attendees / Ranger Staff

2019	OPOTA Firearms Requalification Shoot	41/41	100%
2019	OPOTA New Hire Firearms Qualifications	7/7	100%
2019	OHLEG Security Training	6/6	100%
2019	OPOTA Firearms Instructor Requalification	2/2	100%
2019	Police Rifle-Carbine Instructor Training	1/1	100%
2019	Semi-Auto Pistol Instructor Training	1/1	100%

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

Attendees / Ranger Staff

January 30	Ranger Meeting, Verbal Defense & Influence	28/38	74%
March-April	Scenario Based Training, Glenwood Gardens	28/42	67%
May 22	Adventure Outpost Teambuilding	29/42	69%
August	HCPR Training Shoot	32/38	84%
October 2	Ranger Meeting, Diversity & Inclusion Training, Great Parks Division Updates, Master Plan, Stop the Bleed	34/41	83%
November	HCPR Training Shoot	28/41	68%

### **GPHC Bridge\* Training – Ranger Division**

2019	Bias Free Policing	36/36	100%
2019	Use of Force Review	36/36	100%
2019	Contacting a Ranger	37/37	100%
2019	E-Works Requester	28/36	78%
2019	Harassment Prevention	36/36	100%

\*Bridge is the GPHC computer based training/learning application

## 2019 GPHC Optional Training Opportunities

Date	Training	Attendee(s)	Location
January 10	eCLEAR/LEADS Certification	Dispatcher Pfeiffer	Scarlet Oaks
March 5-7	PLEA Annual Conference	Capt. Steele	Ventura Beach, CA
March 1 & 15	BLS Instructor – American Heart Association	Rangers Shannon and Garner	Butler Tech
March 22	MDC/LEADS Certification	Ranger Anthony Batts	Scarlet Oaks
April 2-3	Evidence Management Professional Certification	Lt. Bird	
April 8-12 & 22-26	Subject Control Instructor	Sgt. Stephens	OPOTA – London, OH
April 17	Criminal Interdiction and Human Behaviors	Capt. Steele, Lt. Bird, Lt. Grimm & Rgr. McFadden	OPRA-LE – Columbus, OH
April 30-May 3	The Reid Technique of Investigative Interviewing & Advanced Interrogation	Lt. Bird & Rgr. McFadden	
May 9-10	OHLEAP Conference	Clerk Yohey	Gahanna, OH
May 13-16	Certified Police Mountain Bike Officer Training	Rangers Wright & Spraul	Cincinnati Police Dept. – at Sharon Woods
May 20-24	OPOTA Semi-Auto Pistol Instructor	Rgr. Gregory	OPOTA – London, OH
May 23	BCI/III Certification	Disp. Pfeiffer	Scarlet Oaks
May 30	MADD Death Notification	Sgt. Stephens & Sgt. Lake	Blue Ash
August 26-30	OPOTA Police Rifle-Carbine Instructor Training	Rgr. Gregory	OPOTA – London, OH
August 27	Basic Vehicle Fire Investigation Techniques	Cpt. Steele, Lt. Grimm, Lt. Bird, Sgt. Stephens and Rgr. Garner	OPRA-LE – Springfield Township
September 27	OC Instructor Certification	Sgt. Stephens	
October 7	Pistol Diagnostics	Sgt. Biaglow & Rgr. Williford	HCPA – SWAT
October 10	MDC/LEADS Certification	Rgrs. Nealan & Grogan	Scarlet Oaks
October 15	BCI/III Certification	Lt. Bird	Scarlet Oaks
November 1	Diversity Leadership Symposium	Cpt. Steele	Cincinnati
November 1	Street Survival Seminar	Rangers Binkley, Keuffer and Wright	Cincinnati
November 5-7	Evidence Collection & Processing	Lt. Bird	Wood County Park District
November 13	Difficult Conversations – TriHealth EAP Supervisory	Lt. Bird, Sgts. Lake, Williams, Stephens & Biaglow	
November 19-20	OPRA Leadership Summit	Cpt. Steele & Lt. Bird	Columbus, OH
December 9-13	Gracie Survival Tactics Level 1 Instructor	Sgt. Stephens & Ranger Zimmerman	
December 11-12	Advanced Legal Issues Affecting Local Governments	Cpt. Steele	Cincinnati, OH
December 19	Ranger ATV Training	Rgrs. Alberico, Shannon, Grogan, Keuffer & Wright	Shawnee Lookout

Rangers also completed an additional 31 non-mandatory online blocks of training offered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office through their online training program.

## Hours of Training

EMPLOYEE	2019	2018
Alberico, Andrea	24.50	11.25
Altman, Joel	6.00	6.00
Batts, Anthony	*402.00	
Batts, Jordan	9.50	57.75
Biaglow, Tim	17.50	57.50
Binkley, Jocelyn	*567.00	
Bird, Ali	100.50	68.00
Britton, Victoria	0.00	5.00
Chenault		32.00
Dove, Rick	10.00	13.75
Farmer, Michael	5.00	5.50
Faulkner, Cody	*123.00	
Foley, Michael	12.00	7.25
Gantt, Jason	*129.00	23.00
Garner, Sherry	23.00	18.25
Gregory, Eric	124.00	100.50
Grimm, Greg	16.50	24.50
Grogan, Kelly	*458.00	
Hodapp, Dan	8.50	18.25
Kachele, Doug	8.50	10.75
Keuffer, Kendra	*235.50	*166.50
Lake, Katie	21.50	22.75
Lambing, McCoy	9.50	20.25
Long, Michael	*131.50	*166.00
McFadden, Edwin	33.0	67.25
Mueller, Andrew	7.50	3.0
Murray, Joseph		*348.75

EMPLOYEE	2019	2018
Nance, Craig	11.00	*277.25
Nealan, Andrew	*367.00	
Patterson, John	9.00	11.75
Peacock, Nicole	7.00	8.00
Pfeiffer, Jacob	26.50	
Pringle, Sheila	0.00	2.50
Proud, Doug		1.50
Randolph, Matthew	10.50	*390.00
Reed, Ryland	*216.00	0.00
Richards, Kevin		8.00
Rieskamp, Don	12.00	17.75
Shannon, Missie	25.50	9.75
Siry, Matt	11.00	33.25
Spraul, Elliott	39.00	2.00
Spreckelmeier, Rick	7.50	54.00
Spurgeon, Dave	9.50	30.75
Steele, Dale	67.50	42.50
Stephens, Alexander	150.50	51.25
Stoeckel, Daren	9.00	5.00
Strittholt, Jeff	38.00	43.50
Tremain, Jeff	8.50	6.25
Weed, Chris	*279.00	
Wright, Shawn	*279.50	*166.00
Williams, Todd	12.00	105.25
Williford, Kelly	20.50	80.00
Yohey, Catherine	12.00	37.50
Zimmerman, Nathan	45.00	7.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2968.50</b>	<b>2508.25</b>

\*Includes Field Training Hours

## RANGER DIVISION DISPATCH TOTALS

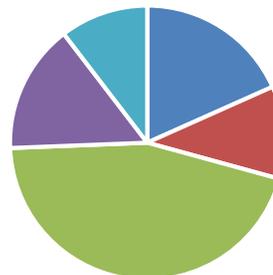
### NATURE OF DETAILS

DESCRIPTION	2019
911 Call	19
After Hours in Park	402
Aided Cases	100
Alarm Checks/Drops	1184
Animal Bite Case	7
Animal Complaint	338
Assault	5
Assist Citizen	160
Assist GPHC Bow Hunter	28
Assist Motorist – All Other	201
Assist Motorist - Lockout	118
Assist Other NON-LE Agency	26
Assist Other Police Department	339
Attempt to Locate	16
Auto Accidents	43
Bad Checks	2
BOLO	5
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	1
Campground Check In	66
Capias Follow-Up	1
Check Well Being	22
Citizen Complaint	36
Counterfeit	2
Custody Dispute	1
Disturbance	30
Domestic	8
Drug Offense - Felony	7
Drug Offense - Misdemeanor	91
Escort	1
Failure to Pay Fees	26
Field Interview	3
Fight	2
Fire	13
Fireworks	3
Follow-Up	39
Harassment	2
Hunting/Trapping	7
Information	74

DESCRIPTION	2019
Investigative	107
Juvenile Complaint	34
Liquor Violation	33
Littering/Dumping	55
Minor Violation Patrol	186
Missing Person	11
MVP Check	43
Neighbor Complaint	5
Obstructing Official Business	1
OVI	1
Peace Disturbance	69
Place Found Open	107
Power Outage	11
Prisoner Transport	1
Property Damage (Non-Criminal)	34
Public Indecency	37
Rape	1
Signal 30	60
Soliciting	1
Street or Path Hazard	26
Sudden Death	2
Suicide-Attempt	3
Suspicious Circumstances	18
Suspicious Person	138
Suspicious Vehicle	91
Theft	57
Towed Vehicle	15
Traffic Observation	1
Traffic Stop	534
Traffic Violation	427
Trespassing	10
Trouble Run	20
Vandalism	72
Warrant Arrest	9
Water Rescue	6
Weapons Violation	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,999</b>

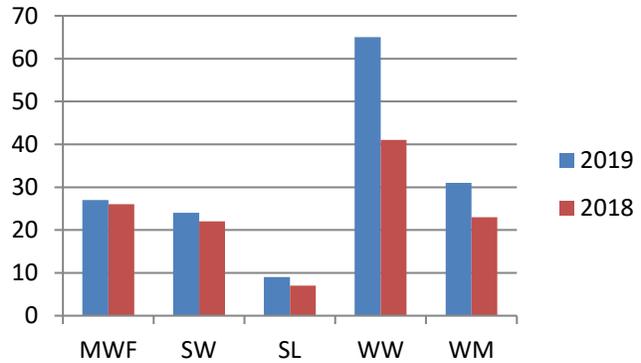
### Details by District

- Miami Whitewater 1,099    ■ Shawnee Lookout 656
- Winton Woods 2,707        ■ Sharon Woods 913
- Woodland Mound 624



## REGIONAL OFFENSE REPORT TOTALS

	2019	2018
Woodland Mound	30	23
Sharon Woods	24	22
<b>EAST REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>
Winton Woods	64	41
<b>CENTRAL REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>41</b>
Miami Whitewater Forest	28	26
Shawnee Lookout	8	7
<b>WEST REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>119</b>



## CLASSIFICATION OF NIBRS OFFENSE REPORTS

Breakdown of UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) Totals

PART I OFFENSES	2019	2018
Rape	1	1
Aggravated Assault	0	5
Theft	16	7
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	43	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>45</b>

PART II OFFENSES	2019	2018
Bad Checks	1	0
Credit Card Fraud	2	0
Damage/Vandalism	71	39
Disorderly Conduct	4	14
Drug Abuse	10	18
Drug Equipment	5	8
Falsification	0	1
Forgery/Counterfeit	1	2
OVI	1	1
Simple Assaults <i>(Resisting, Stalking, Intimidation, Coercion)</i>	4	1
Stolen Property	1	0
Weapons	2	5
All Other Offenses	39	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>111</b>

### NIBRS REPORT CLASSIFICATION

(Percentages are rounded)

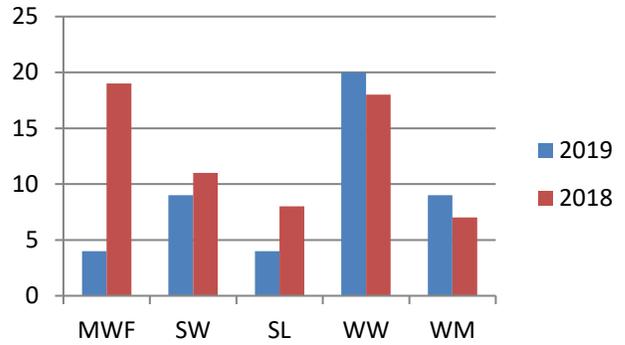
TYPE	2019	%	2018	%
Part I Offenses	61	30%	45	29%
Part II Offenses	141	70%	111	71%
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENSES</b>	<b>202</b>	100%	<b>156</b>	100%

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

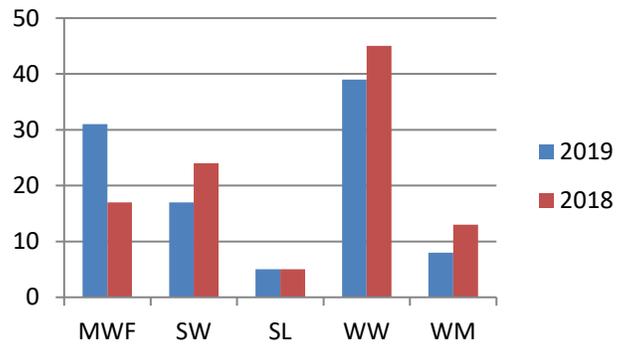
\*These include reports for Suicide Attempts, Water Rescues, Animal Bites, Property Damage and Non-criminal Death Investigations

	2019	2018
Miami Whitewater Forest	4	19
Sharon Woods	9	11
Shawnee Lookout	4	8
Winton Woods	20	18
Woodland Mound	9	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>63</b>



## AIDED CASE SUMMARY - BY DISTRICT

	2019	2018
Miami Whitewater Forest	31	17
Sharon Woods	17	24
Shawnee Lookout	5	5
Winton Woods	39	45
Woodland Mound	8	13
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>104</b>

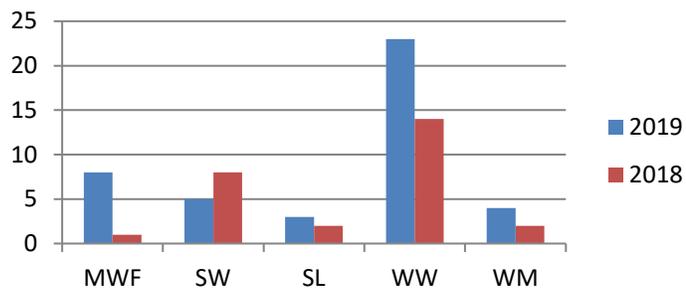


## AUTO ACCIDENTS - BY DISTRICT

	2019			2019 TOTAL	2018			2018 TOTAL
	Property Damage	Injury	Fatal		Property Damage	Injury	Fatal	
Miami Whitewater Forest	8	0	0	8	1	0	0	1
Sharon Woods	5	0	0	5	8	0	0	8
Shawnee Lookout	3	0	0	3	2	0	0	2
Winton Woods	18	5	0	23	14	0	0	14
Woodland Mound	4	0	0	4	2	0	0	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>

GPHC Motor Vehicle Accidents - 6  
Non-GPHC Motor Vehicle Accidents - 37

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



## CITATIONS ISSUED

### CLASSIFICATION OF MINOR MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES

NATURE OF CITATION	2019	2018
Burning Material	1	0
Criminal Trespass	3	0
Disorderly Conduct	4	5
Drug Abuse	65	65
Drug Abuse - attempt	0	2
Drug Abuse Instrument	1	3
Drug Paraphernalia	8	5
Failure to Register a Dog	1	0
Fishing Violations	4	1
Hunt/Molest Wildlife	0	1
In Park After Hours	7	7
Leash Law Violation	2	8

NATURE OF CITATION	2019	2018
Littering, Dumping	2	2
Nuisance Animal	2	0
Obstruct Official Business	0	1
Open Container	16	11
Public Indecency	6	11
Recites - HCPR	16	9
Recites - Other	143	116
Theft	1	0
Unauthorized Camping	0	1
Weapons In Park	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>248</b>

### CLASSIFICATION OF TRAFFIC OFFENSES

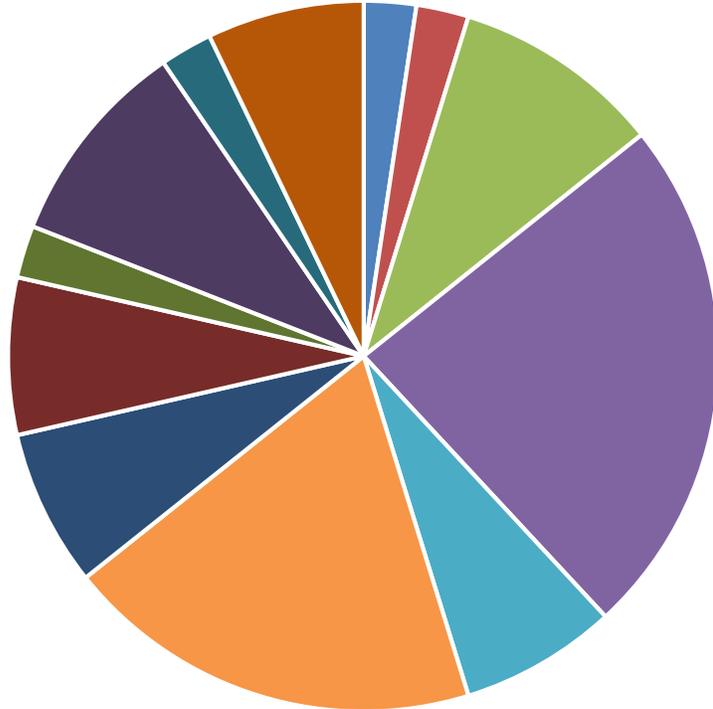
NATURE OF CITATION	2019	2018
Child Restraints	6	4
Drive Off Roadway	7	5
Drive on Closed Roadway	0	1
Drive Under Suspension	119	102
Drive Under OVI Suspension	3	2
Expired License Plates	6	0
Expired Operators License	0	9
Failure to Reinstate	18	0
Fail to Report Auto Accident	0	1
Fictitious Tags	4	2
Follow Too Close	0	1
Handicap Parking	1	0
Improper Backing	0	1
Improper Passing	0	1
License Plate Violation	4	5
Marked Lanes	2	3
No Licensed Driver-Temp Permit	1	1

NATURE OF CITATION	2019	2018
No Operator's License	22	9
No Passing	1	0
No Tail Lights	0	1
One Way Street	0	1
Operation of Low Speed	1	0
OVI	1	0
OVI – Physical Control	1	1
Parking	0	1
Reasonable Control	6	1
Reckless Operation	3	2
Red Light	1	2
Right of Way at Intersection	1	0
Safety Restraint Violation	1	1
Speed	86	64
Stop Sign	0	7
Turn Signal Violation	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>229</b>

## ARRESTS AND CHARGES SUMMARY

	2019	2018		2019	2018
Juvenile Arrests	1	3	Adult Arrests	25	29
Juvenile Charges	1	3	Adult Charges	41	51

### Arrest Charges - Juvenile and Adult



- Assault - 1
- Drug Possession - 10
- Weapons Violations - 3
- Drug Paraphernalia - 4
- Criminal Damaging - 1
- Failure to Comply - 3
- Obstruction - 3
- Receiving Stolen Property - 1
- Disorderly Conduct - 4
- Warrant Arrests - 8
- Passing Bad Checks - 1
- Resisting Arrest - 3

## Annual Complaint/Inquiry Summary – 2019

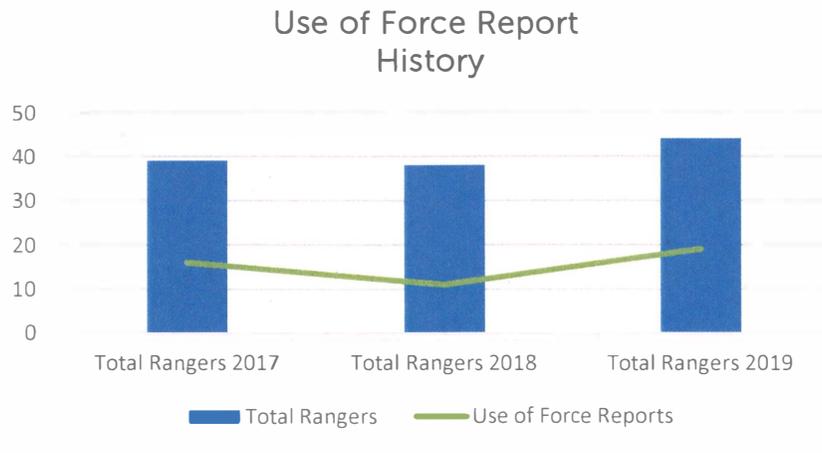
Two complaints/inquiries were filed with the agency in 2019. In both instances, the Rangers' actions were found to be in compliance with department policy. Both complaints were resolved with no further action required of the complaint.

## Annual Internal Investigations Summary - 2019

No Internal Investigations were conducted in 2019.

## Annual Use of Force Summary (Traffic Pursuit, Display/Discharge of Firearm Incidents) - 2019

The Ranger division recorded 19 Use of Force reports in 2019. These reports are routine, agency-initiated reviews of traffic pursuits, incidents involving physical force, or incidents involving a display or discharge of a weapon, asp or OC spray while on duty. This number is an increase from 11 reports in 2018 and 16 reports in 2017.



Four of these reports were for physical altercations, thirteen involved Rangers who displayed a weapon, one involved a Ranger who displayed their weapon during a physical altercation and

one was for a traffic pursuit. A Ranger sustained minor injuries during one of the physical altercations. All incidents were determined to be within the guidelines of division policy.

Chief's Approval \_\_\_\_\_ 

Date 11/19/2020