



Ranger Department

Annual Report

2021

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."

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Colonel Scott Snow

A Message from the Chief Ranger

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to impact our community, we made many positive changes to the department which will allow us to continue to grow and improve our ability to serve the Parks and guests of Hamilton County.

On October 21, 2021 the Winton Woods Ranger Station opened its new lobby entry so that people coming to the Ranger Station no longer have to walk past park administrative offices which provides privacy for both the employees and visitors as well as creates a safer work environment for the other Park departments..

We purchased several pieces of new equipment that will allow our Rangers to further their skills and responses, including new cruisers , AED's, and training equipment for in-house trainings.

Our agency hosted two inaugural events, a Bike Rodeo and Safety Town, aimed at educating children on bike and pedestrian safety which were a huge hit. Next year we plan to host a National Night Out event. This campaign provides a fun and safe environment for communities to come together to build camaraderie among neighbors and partnerships with local Law Enforcement agencies.

The Great Parks of Hamilton County also continues to expand its footprint, increasing the areas our Rangers patrol. On the West side of Cincinnati, the 22 acre Gamble Estate Property located on Werk Road was acquired and will be patrolled by the Shawnee Lookout Rangers. On the East side, construction began on the Little Miami Scenic Trail Beechmont Bridge Connector was begun. The Park Rangers will be responsible for patrolling XXXXX miles of trails once this project is completed, from Bass Island in Newtown to Friendship Park in downtown Cincinnati.

In 2022, I hope to build upon these successes and continue to achieve the goals I have set for the Park Rangers.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SS', written in a cursive style.

Chief Scott Snow

Staff Overview

Command Staff

Chief Scott Snow
Captain Dale Steele
Lieutenant Ali Bird

Supervisors

Sergeant Tim Biaglow
Woodland Mound District

Sergeant Dan Hodapp
Miami Whitewater Forest District

Sergeant Todd Williams
Shawnee Lookout District

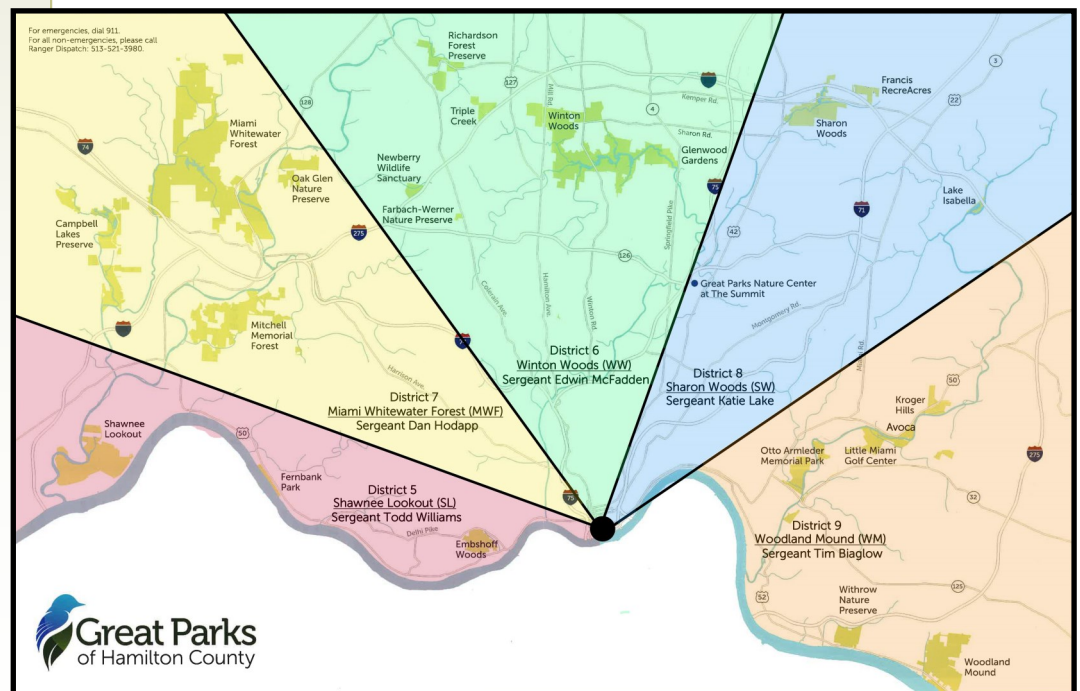
Sergeant Katie Lake
Sharon Woods District

Sergeant Edwin McFadden
Winton Woods District

The Great Parks of Hamilton County Rangers are state-certified law enforcement officers who exercise full police powers and work for both the protection and conservation of park lands and wildlife and the enforcement of state laws and park by-laws. The Rangers patrol 21 parks and over 17,700 acres of land by cruiser, ATV, boat, bike, and on foot 24 hours a day year round. The Ranger Department consists of a Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, five Sergeants, approximately 35 Patrol Rangers*, two civilian Clerks and 4 part-time civilian Dispatchers.

The Parks are divided into five Ranger Districts with a Ranger Station at each district. Ranger stations are located at each of the following parks: Miami Whitewater Forest, Sharon Woods, Shawnee Lookout, Woodland Mound and Winton Woods, which also serves as the Ranger Headquarters.

Rangers respond to traditional calls for service, such as vandalism, thefts, drug use, assault and traffic violations as well as non-traditional incidents, such as poaching, fishing violations, injured animals and illegal harvesting of natural resources. Each Park Ranger develops significant knowledge of the parks in their districts and the surrounding communities and areas while also performing park safety operations tasks such as closing roads during inclement weather, checking on buildings and late-night campground check-ins. This in-depth approach allows the Park Rangers to have a unique, district-specific insight and familiarity, enhancing the protection of the employees, guests and resources of the Great Parks of Hamilton County.



*Actual staffing ranges between 33-40

Accreditation



The Ohio Collaborative standards reflect best practices in law enforcement operations and are aimed at maintaining professionalism and increasing public trust.

The Great Parks of Hamilton County Ranger Department voluntarily participates in the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Certification program. The certification process is overseen by the Ohio Criminal Justice Services. Like other certification programs; the process consists of two major components:

1. Establishing professional standards for law enforcement to meet.
2. Administering a voluntary assessment process by which law enforcement departments can be recognized for meeting best practices.

Currently the Great Parks Ranger Division has been certified in Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 and Group 4.

Group 5 was issued in 2021 and work was begun on the certification process.

The areas of policy and operations included in group five are:

1. Response to Mass Protests and Demonstrations
2. Agency Wellness

Grants & Equipment Purchases

The Ranger Department purchased six new Ford Explorers to be used as patrol vehicles to replace some of the aging vehicles in our fleet which are more often going out of service due to maintenance issues.

The Great Parks of Hamilton County Ranger Department received a grant from the Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program (administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office) to go towards the purchase of eight sets of body armor.

For aided case responses, we were able to purchase 17 new Zoll AED's, Stop the Bleed tourniquet kits, adult and child CPR shield masks and Life Vac adult and infant CPR choking victim masks.

New equipment to help aid in the instruction of defensive tactics, including grappling dummies, punch mitts, and training batons.

Hiring & Promotions

Promotions

Ranger Edwin McFadden
was promoted to
Sergeant on 2/18/21

New Hires

Ranger Greg Lee was
sworn in on 3/3/21

Ranger Ren Nealan was
sworn in on 3/18/21

Ranger Daniel Warman
was sworn in on
4/14/21

Ranger Ron Wallace was
sworn-in on 5/12/21

Ranger McCoy Lambing
was sworn-in on
6/19/21

Dispatcher Debbie Hoerst
was hired on 7/8/21

Ranger Doug Mlynarek
was sworn-in on
8/9/21

Ranger Steve Ballinger
was sworn-in on
9/2/21

Ranger Keith Ryan was
sworn-in on 9/28/21

Ranger Donald Jordan,
Jr. was sworn-in on
11/01/2021



Sergeant Edwin McFadden



Ranger Robert Nealan



Ranger Daniel Warman



Ranger Ron Wallace



Ranger Doug Mlynarek



Ranger Steve Ballinger



Ranger Keith Ryan



Ranger Donald Jordan, Jr.

Retirements & Resignations

Ranger McCoy Lambing resigned
1/6/21

Ranger Sherry Garner retired
5/4/21

Ranger Jeff Tremain retired
5/13/21

Ranger Alecia Kammer resigned
5/19/21

Ranger Kelly Grogan resigned
6/14/21

Ranger Shawn Wight resigned
6/14/21

Lieutenant Greg Grimm retired
8/17/21

Ranger Greg Lee resigned
8/23/21

Clerk Cathy Yohey resigned
09/30/2021

Ranger Eric Gregory resigned
10/9/21

Dispatcher Tori Britton resigned
12/31/2021

Ranger Jeff Larsh resigned on
12/31/21



Ranger Sherry Garner retired in May
after 28 years with the Ranger
Department

Ranger Jeff Tremain retired in
May after 30 years with the
Ranger Department



Lieutenant Greg Grimm retired in
August after 28 years with the
Ranger Department

Service Awards & Professional Recognition

5 Year

Sgt. Edwin McFadden 2/18/21

Dispatcher Joy Stapleton 6/13/21

Ranger Michael Farmer 10/11/21

20 Year

Sgt. Dan Hodapp 3/30/21

Sgt. Tim Biaglow 3/30/21

Lt. Ali Bird 8/20/21



5 Years

Ranger
Michael
Farmer



Dispatcher
Joy
Stapleton



Sergeant
Edwin
McFadden



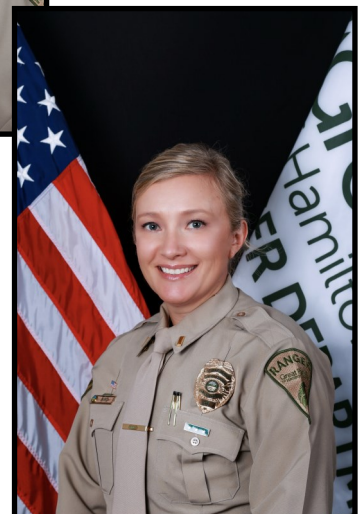
Sergeant
Dan
Hodapp

Lieutenant
Ali
Bird



Sergeant
Tim
Biaglow

20 Years



Training & Professional Development



OHIO PEACE OFFICER MANDATORY TRAINING

As state-certified police officers, Great Parks Rangers have all passed the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, as required by law, and are required to meet all annual training standards as set forth by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Council. Great Parks Rangers are trained for emergency response, investigation and reporting and are continuously receiving updated training to maintain a high level of excellence and professionalism.

All Rangers met the basic training requirements in 2021. No Continuing Professional Training was mandated by the State due to a lack of funding, however, it was recommended that 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.



LEXIPOL DAILY TRAINING BULLETINS (DTB's)

The Ranger Department uses Lexipol Online for the Ranger Manual and Policy management. Training Bulletins are also included in this software which are sent to all Rangers monthly to complete. Lexipol's Daily Training Bulletins use a proven system of solid, realistic, ongoing, and verifiable training to help our personnel learn to apply policies and improve their ability to make well-reasoned decisions. These brief, scenario-based lessons are used to enhance our members' policy understanding of required topics such as Use of Force, Bias-Free Policing, and Hate Crimes, to name a few. Each Daily Training Bulletin includes a test question to measure comprehension.



CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING (CIT)

Mental Health America provides training programs for first responders focused on safe and effective interaction with persons who are mentally ill and in crisis. We know that CIT increases safety for the first responder, the individual they are responding to, and the surrounding community. Currently, 12 Rangers are CIT certified and the goal is to have all Rangers complete CIT Training.

Total Training Hours (including Field Training)	2021	2020
	3504.50	3238.50

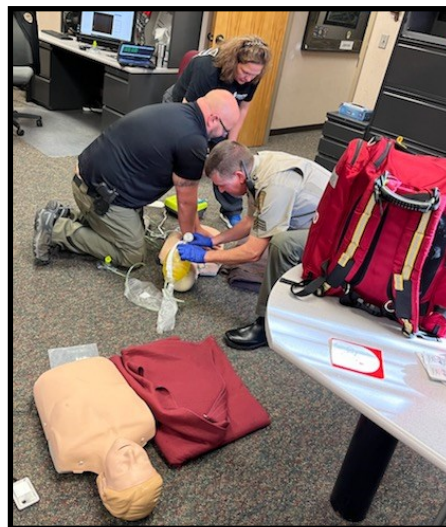
Training & Professional Development

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Several Rangers also attend optional or recommended trainings throughout the year to expand and improve upon their skills in knowledge,. These included Instructor, Supervision and Natural Resources training.



Sergeant Lake completed the Supervisors Training and Education Program (STEP) Program in May 2021. STEP provides supervisors with practical and relevant leadership training in various topics such as creating an ethical environment, developing subordinates, mentoring, dealing with problematic employees, effective listening and speaking, and more.



The Ranger department has multiple in-house Instructors; This allows the department to be more cost effective in training as well as giving the Rangers opportunities to develop professionally. The department had Instructors for the following topics:

- ◆ A.L.I.C.E (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate)
- ◆ ATV
- ◆ CPR / First Aid / Basic Life Support
- ◆ Defensive Tactics
- ◆ Firearms
- ◆ Verbal Defense & Influence / Tactical Communication

Total Training Hours (including Field Training)

2021	2020
3504.50	3238.50

Field Training Program

The Ranger Field Training Program consists of a group of officers that train new officers. Each field training officer (FTO), has completed the Field Training Officer Certification Course. The department currently has seven FTO's. All new park rangers must complete field training before working in their own. New officers are assigned to an FTO in each ranger district for training. Training can take as long as 12 weeks or as little as 6 weeks depending on the officer's experience. Training consists of not only traditional law enforcement duties but also park bylaws and wildlife issues.

New officers in training (OIT's), rotate to each of the 5 ranger districts: Sharon, Woodland, Winton, Whitewater and Shawnee.

In 2021, the Ranger Department Field Training Officers have trained nine new officers. Five were full-time and four part-time officers. The total hours for field training in 2021 was 2,431 with a total of 60 weeks.

Ranger Color Guard



The Great Parks of Hamilton County 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. Since the pandemic there are fewer events in need for Color Guard. This year there were more events than the previous year. Members of the Ranger Color Guard team are: Lt. Ali Bird, Sgt. Edwin McFadden III, Ranger Dave Spurgeon and Ranger Michael Farmer.

In 2021 the Color Guard Team presented the flags for three events:

- ◆ May 10th: Police Memorial Ceremony at Cincinnati Police Department District 1.
- ◆ September 16th: St. Joe's Charity Wiffle Ball Game at Great American Ball Park.
- ◆ December 15th: University of Xavier Basketball game.



Specialized Teams

The dedication of those within the department allows for specialized resources. While involvement with these responsibilities is ancillary and often additional voluntary commitment, they maximize the departments fiscal responsibility to the citizens of Hamilton County.

In 2021, the Ranger Department was able to assign at least one Ranger to the following organizations:

- ◆ Hamilton County Dive Team
- ◆ Hamilton County S.W.A.T Team
- ◆ Hamilton County Most Wanted Band
- ◆ Hamilton County Police Association Honor Guard



Ranger HCPA Honor Guard members Sgt. McFadden and Ranger Spurgeon attend a candlelight vigil in memory of Springdale officer Kaia Grant who died in the line of duty on March 21, 2020.

Controlled Bow Hunting

The Great Parks of Hamilton County runs a controlled bow hunting program in order to maintain a diverse habitat and sustain a balance in the ecosystem with a focus on removing deer specifically in areas of overpopulation. This program is offer to the public via an annual lottery and subject to qualification. In August, Ranger Rick Dove & Ranger Nathan Zimmerman held qualifications over a two day period where over 370 bow hunters came out to qualify for the controlled hunts.

Park Law Enforcement Association



The Great Parks of Hamilton County Ranger Department is a member of the Park Law Enforcement Association (PLEA); Captain Steele attended the annual Board Meeting held virtually on March 01, 2021 and served on the Executive Board as the PLEA Treasurer. Captain Steele and Ranger Rick Dove attended the PLEA Virtual Conference on March 02, 2021 and attended conference classes on various topics including Emotional Intelligence for Natural Resource Officers ; Archaeological Resource Crime Recognition, Investigation, Documentation, and Prosecution; Developing Patrol Strategies in a Post COVID World , and Dynamic Leadership: Be a better leader.

Job Fairs & Special Events

Due to COVID-19, the Park Rangers did not attend any special events or job fairs in 2021.

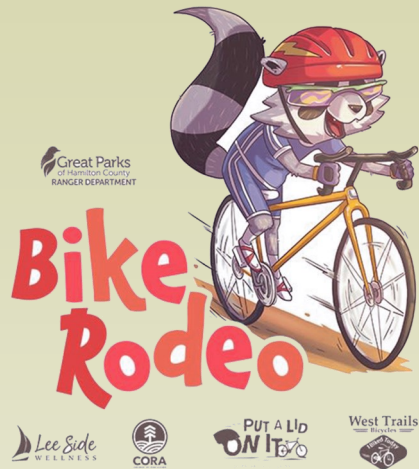
Traffic Safety Committee

Sergeant Katie Lake heads the Traffic Safety Committee. The goal of this committee is to identify ways to improve the safety of Park guests, focusing on pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles. The Great Parks' Rangers participated in two major national traffic campaigns to educate the public: Click it or Ticket, which addresses seat belt usage, and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, which targets intoxicated driving around holidays. The committee also planned educational events for youth in the community, the first Bike Rodeo and Safety Town presented by the Rangers; these were very popular and successful. They also co-hosted a Trunk-or-Treat event with the City of Sharonville and Sharon Woods to provide children a safe place to trick-or-treat away from roads and traffic. The Traffic Safety Committee identified several different areas of the parks that needed additional signage and crosswalks at pedestrian crossings by popular trails to increase visibility and caution for drivers.



Pedestrian crossing signs at installed at Sharon Woods where the popular hike/bike trail meets High Banks Drive .

Community Engagement



Community Engagement



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Sgt. Hodapp represented the agency at NNO hosted by Cincinnati PD District 3



Ranger Zimmerman represented the agency at NNO hosted by Pierce Township



Community Engagement



Off-Duty Details

Total number of details: 52

Protection/Event Security: 8

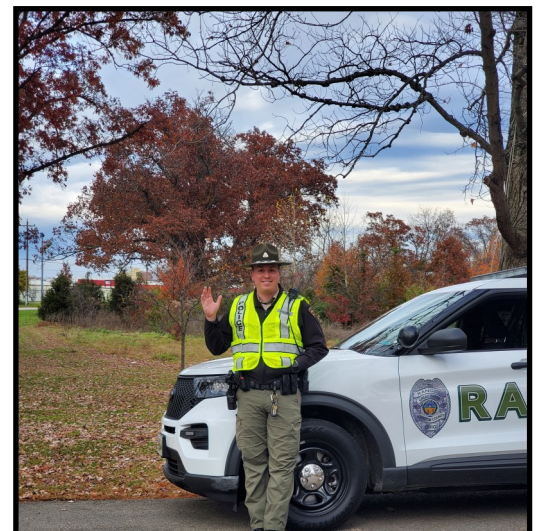
Traffic: 44

Significant Events:

Holiday in Lights

Car Show at Fernbank

Hispanic Heritage Festival



Investigations & Highlights

On February 25, Ranger Nance responded to the hike/bike trail at Sharon Woods for an injured person that was struck by a large fallen tree. The person was conscious but needed immediate medical care. Medics transported the patient to the sports complex on E. Kemper where she was airlifted to University Hospital. The person suffered severe injuries but survived and is recovering. After a close examination of the tree it was determined that heavy rain fall during the days prior caused the ground became very saturated which led to the tree becoming uprooted.



On March 5, Colerain Fire Department along with Ranger Sergeant McFadden responded to Triple Creek for a report of a field fire. The fire department was able to quickly put out the fire, preventing it from spreading and potentially causing injuries to people or damage to structures. It was determined the fire was began from a cigarette being improperly disposed of.

On April 04, Ranger Grogan was dispatched to Lake Isabella for a report of a theft. The vehicle owner had initially reported that her purse was stolen off a picnic table while she was fishing, however, the suspect that stole her purse also stole her vehicle. After much investigation and several sightings of the vehicle in the downtown area officers from Cincinnati Police were able to recovered it and charge the driver with receiving stolen property.

On May 17, a Winton Woods Ranger observed an occupied vehicle in the park just before 2:00 AM. Although these stops generally result in the subjects being warned for Park Hours and told to leave, the Ranger's careful observation and investigation led him to determine he had interrupted an active sexual assault. The suspect was taken into custody without incident and charges were filed against him.

On July 9, Ranger Lambing observed a woman sitting in her car loudly playing music at dusk at Miami Whitewater Forest; as he went to adviser her of this, he noticed that she appeared intoxicated and had an open container in her vehicle and empty ones around it. During his interaction with her, she became uncooperative and belligerent and kicked Ranger Lambing. She was arrested and charges for Obstruction and Assault on a Police Officer were filed.

Investigations & Highlights

On October 2, Ranger Faulkner responded to Lake Isabella boat-house for a report of the theft of several very expensive fishing poles. Ranger Williford was able to obtain images of the suspect from surveillance video inside the boathouse and then distribute them to other local pay lakes in the area. Shortly after distributing the suspect's photos, Ranger Williford received a possible name of the suspect from an anonymous source. After further investigation it was confirmed the individual was in fact our suspect and warrants were filed. Ranger Williford interviewed the suspect at the Clermont County Court House after the suspect left a court room for other unrelated charges. During the interview the suspect was cooperative and mentioned he may be able to retrieve the poles and return them in exchange for a lesser charge. Ranger Williford gave the suspect ample time to return the poles, however, he did not do so. As a result, Ranger Williford filed felony warrants on the subject for theft.

On December 12, a park guest at Sharon Woods called to report that her vehicle had been broken into and her purse stolen. While taking the report, Ranger Williford was approached by a witness who provided a photo of the vehicle that fled the area after the theft. Ranger Williford investigated further and learned that it was a rental vehicle; he was able to get the name of the person who rented it from the company, the rental agreement and also GPS tracking information from the vehicle. Ranger Williford was able to narrow possible persons involved and their whereabouts. The vehicle was not returned on time and having been repossessed by the rental company, taken to their local branch at the Cincinnati Northern Kentucky Airport. Airport police inventoried the vehicle and Ranger Williford was able to link receipts in the car with fraudulent purchases and selling of items that matched the description of items taken during the theft. Ranger Williford responded to the store location of where these items had been sold and was able to retrieve video footage and images of the suspect in which he thought was involved. With the images, signature on the store transaction, and identification given to the store clerk Ranger Williford was able to confirm that the subject was indeed our suspect. Ranger Williford filed warrants on the subject for receiving stolen property. Solving this case was a big accomplishment since solving theft from motor vehicle cases have become even more difficult over the last couple of years due to involved suspects usually wearing a mask when using stolen credit cards, pawning items, and cashing checks.

STATS

A directive from Chief Snow to limit non-essential interactions due to Covid-19 and the agency changing records management software and how different types of incidents are reported, some of the numbers from 2020 to 2021 may seem unusually high or low; these should average over time.

Calls For Service by Type	2020	2021
Traffic-Related	693	471
Animal Complaints	680	297
Aided Cases	921	996
Property Damage	93	83
Alarm Drops / Checks	1,234	1,000
Other	2,130	2,498
Total	5,451	5,345

Traffic Incidents by Type	2020	2021
OVI	6	5
Auto Accident	29	35
Speeding	54	131
Driving Under Suspension / No License	82	53
Driving Off Road / Closed Road	5	6
Other	517	239
Total	693	471

Animal Complaints by Type	2020	2021
Dog Bite	8	9
Leash law	140	133
Hunting /Trapping / Fishing	76	48
Other	156	107
Total	380	297

Aided Cases by Type	2020	2021
Illness / Injury	111	86
Other Park Employee	17	141
Other Law Enforcement Agency	379	352
Assist Motorist	251	202
Assist Citizen	130	144
Assist Campground	24	28
Other	9	43
Total	921	996

Property Damage by Type	2020	2021
Non-Criminal	16	8
Criminal Mischief / Criminal Damaging / Vandalism	77	75
Total	93	83

STATS

Number of Arrests by Type	2020	2021
Felony	19	3
Misdemeanor	39	14
Minor Misdemeanor	130	144
Traffic and Parking Citations	171	218
Recites	125	161
Total	484	540

Felony Incident Reports by Type	2020	2021
Homicide	0	0
Robbery	0	1
Drugs	7	3
Sex Offenses	1	3
Other	7	7
Total	15	14

Misdemeanor Incident Reports by Type	2020	2021
Assault	5	3
Theft from Motor Vehicles	56	56
Domestic Violence	2	3
Child Abuse / Endangerment	2	1
Stalking / Harassing	3	1
Other	392	217
Total	460	257

Minor Misdemeanor Incident Reports by Type	2020	2021
Drug Related	67	52
Peace Disturbance	95	106
Park Hours	493	498
Liquor Violation	52	23
Littering / Dumping	89	52
Public Indecency	20	28
Other	171	323
Total	987	1,082

Allegations Inquiries Recognition Commendation

Unfounded - When the investigation discloses that the alleged acts did not occur or did not involve ranger division members. Complaints that are determined to be frivolous will fall within the classification of unfounded.

Exonerated - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.

Not sustained - When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the member.

Sustained - When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

Contact by Type	2020	2021
Allegations of Misconduct	1	4
Commendations	5	1
Recognition	n/a	22
Inquiries	3	5

Two of our rangers received letters of appreciation from Harrison's Police Chief for their actions in helping with a SWAT standoff at a local hotel.