

JOHANNESBURG VOLUNTARY MOUNTED RIVER RANGERS

Patrol Report Summary

December 2009

Paulshof (Rivonia Stables)

	December	Year to date
Number of Patrols 2009*	15	257
Number of Patrols 2008 (for comparison)	20	329
Ave. Patrols per week 2009	3.38	4.93
Ave. Horses per Patrol 2009	2.00	2.20

*Patrols in December were limited to Paulshof and the Sandspruit north of Wikoppen. Due to the closure of the trail for construction of the N1 bridge, it remains difficult to mount patrols between Bryanston Drive and the N1. The trail will be reopened under the N1 once the bridge has been completed, which should be in the near future.

Problems and comments

Sewerage/spills

1. No spills or sewerage leaks were reported this month

Squatters

2. The Chilli Lane squatters have moved away due to the heavy rains.

Litter/Dumping

3. The river banks are littered with plastic bags and other debris which has been washed down river during the recent heavy rains and deposited by the flash floods. Also large increase in broken branches and other tree and plant remains in the water.

Erosion/Hazards/Trees

4. Telephone wire still hanging low on bridle path down from Umhlanga Road. Needs immediate attention.

Fires

5. No fires reported.

General

6. The number of patrols decreased in December due to riders being away over the festive season.

Flora, Fauna, Birds.

Cattle egrets, red bishops, white faced ducks, hadedas, blacksmith lapwings.

Field and Study (Riverpark Stables)

	December	Year to date
Number of Patrols 2009	18	229
Number of Patrols 2008 (for comparison)	16	246
Ave. Patrols per week 2009	4.2	4.39
Ave. Horses per Patrol 2009	2.61	2.14

Problems and comments

Sewerage/spills

1. Outspan Spruit sewerage spill again – reported ref: 3771119 to Sharon - reported on the Friday, Monday – still not fixed - Tuesday reported again ref: 3778133 and then again ref: 3793185
2. Manhole at Ballyclare Bridge overflowing. – reported on ref: 3793167 and then again reported to Thabila ref: 3800188

Squatters

3. 4 squatters reported living in the area below the martial arts centre.
4 under Ballyclare Bridge. The numbers decrease when there are heavy rains.

- 6 squatters living amongst the rocks near Bryanston Drive.
- 5 squatters on the Westbank, in a camp located in amongst the trees.
- 3 squatters west of the stables near the building site.

Litter/Dumping

- 4. Tree-trunks, large branches and other river debris washed down after the rains, banked up against Belgrave Bridge and Bryanston Drive Bridge reported to Roads Agency ref: 256239 .
- 5. Over-flowing bins along the trail. Rubbish has not been collected for some time.
- 6. The banks are strewn with plastic, polystyrene and other river litter washed down by the rains. Lots of litter in the park and at the picnic site. Need clean-up.

Erosion/Hazards/Trees

- 7. A number of large trees have fallen down, and large branches have broken and fallen, both in the park and along the trail. This, due to the heavy storms that we've experienced recently.
- 8. The badly eroded area under the Ballyclare Bridge has been filled at last, and the rain-water run-off from the bridge diverted along a new course, to prevent further erosion. However the ground under the road on the North side of the bridge is being washed away, which will soon cause collapse of the road.

Fires

- 9. All are squatters cooking fires.

General

- 10. Escom trucks arrived to clear plants and trees growing around the electricity pylons along the river.

Flora, Fauna and Bird Sightings

Little egret, yellow billed ducks, african black ducks with ducklings, masked weavers, sacred ibis, giant kingfisher, guinea fowl, blacksmith lapwings, egyptian geese, common moorhens, redbilled wood-hoopoes, crested barbet, grey heron, red bishops, barbel, slender mongoose, frogs, lots of butterflies and a white cockatiel.

NOTE: weekly reports of crime and squatter related issues have been faxed to SAPS and to JCP

Management Committee:- T Bezuidenhout, F Butcher, J Butler, N Firer, L Hegele, K Blignaut, B Watkins

Reports compiled by Lauren Hegele (Rivonia) and Janet Butler (Riverpark)

Queries to Karen Blignaut kblignaut@telkomsa.net These reports are archived on our website www.riverrangers.org.za