

JOHANNESBURG VOLUNTARY MOUNTED RIVER RANGERS

Patrol Report Summary

February 2010

Paulshof (Rivonia Stables)

	February	Year to date
Number of Patrols 2010*	15	29
Number of Patrols 2009 (for comparison)	26	51
Ave. Patrols per week 2010	3.75	3.44
Ave. Horses per Patrol 2010	2.07	2.10

*Patrols in February 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

- No sewerage spills reported this month.

Squatters

- The Chilli Lane squatters have moved away due to the heavy rains. Only reports of people collecting water for cultural rituals, no visible signs of squatters

Litter/Dumping

- Community clean-up to be arranged for April.

Erosion/Hazards/Trees

- Lower parking lot in Chilli Lane built below the flood line. Could be dangerous.

Fires

- No fires reported.

General

- River crossings still difficult due to heavy rains.

Flora, Fauna, Birds.

Grey hornbills, blacksmith lapwings, hadedas, dikkops, red bishops, weavers, egyptian geese, african black duck

Field and Study (Riverpark Stables)

	February	Year to date
Number of Patrols 2010	17	33
Number of Patrols 2009 (for comparison)	19	32
Ave. Patrols per week 2010	4.25	3.92
Ave. Horses per Patrol 2010	2.06	2.03

Problems and comments

Sewerage/spills

- Outspan spruit - sewerage leak reported under ref: 3944396. This was attended to.
- The tap in the field of the Field and Study centre was gushing fresh water again. The whole mechanism was broken. This was reported and repaired.

Squatters

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

15 squatters living amongst the rocks near Bryanston Drive. This is a permanent camp.
20 squatters on the Westbank, in a camp located in amongst the trees.

Litter/Dumping

- Black refuse bags left on the trail along River Road still awaiting collection.
- Large tree trunks, brought down by the flood waters, have been washed up against the supports of the Bryanston Drive bridge. Have still not been cleared by the roads agency.
- River banks still strewn with river litter.
- Dustbins placed along the river at River Road are overflowing. Litter is not being collected on a regular basis.

Erosion/Hazards/Trees

- A number of large trees and branches have fallen down, both in the park and along the trail. City Parks have begun a clearing up process.
- The badly eroded area under the Ballyclare Bridge supports has been filled. A new rain-water run-off trench has been dug, but this new trench is causing further erosion at a different point along the river.
- The ground under Ballyclare Road on the north side of the bridge is being washed away, and will soon cause collapse of the road. The eroded area is getting worse and needs attention.
- The grass has been mowed in the park and along some sections of the river. The Brook Road side has not been attended to yet.

Fires

- Squatters cooking fires.

General

- The number of patrols in February were limited as the river has been very high and fast flowing due to the heavy rains, and often too dangerous to cross.

Flora, Fauna and Bird Sightings

Yellow billed ducks, african black ducks, masked weavers, guinea fowl, blacksmith lapwings, egyptian geese, cattle egret, slender mongoose, red-billed wood hoopoes.

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

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