

JOHANNESBURG VOLUNTARY MOUNTED RIVER RANGERS

Patrol Report Summary

March 2009

Paulshof (Rivonia Stables)

	March	Year to date
Number of Patrols 2009*	31	82
Number of Patrols 2008 (for comparison)	29	79
Ave. Patrols per week 2009	7.00	6.38
Ave. Horses per Patrol 2009	2.55	2.37

*Most patrols in March 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. One patrol from Rivonia and one from River Park covered this area during March.

Problems and comments

Sewerage and water leaks

- 1 A freshwater leak was found between pylons 30 and 31 in Bryanston.
- 2 A bad sewerage leak (3187438) at the top of the Paulshofspruit was reported and was fixed by JW.

Squatters

- 3 Various groups have been seen below Tambach Rd. between Chilli Lane and the buildings nearest Witkoppen. They have been seen washing in the river.
- 4 Clothing and other signs of squatters were found in the bamboo just north of the Rivonia Sport Club's tennis courts
- 5 Squatters and their bags of things have also been seen on the east bank near the confluence of the Sandspruit and Brammfontein spruit near the road reserve.
- 6 A group is still living in the reeds below Riverside Spar in Bryanston and various bits of cardboard under the trees in this area suggest squatters live here..

Litter/Dumping

- 7 A lot of litter especially plastic was washed down after the rains.
- 8 A pile of beer bottles were left along the Sandspruit
- 9 Checkers advertising supplements and junk mail and cardboard was dropped into the Paulshofspruit at the Umhlanga Rd bridge
- 10 Garden refuse and sand was dumped at the top of Brighton close along the Paulshofspruit
- 11 Razor wire was dumped into the stormwater drain below the ADT hut below Millcliff Rd, Paulshof
- 12 Wooden stairs were left on the bank between Amble Way and Millcliff.
- 13 A black bag containing rubbish including part of a vacuum cleaner were found below the Rivonia Sports Club tennis courts
- 14 Boxes and other rubbish have also been dumped into the river below Stonehaven Rd
- 15 The bricks have been moved off the trail by our helper but are still on the river bank below Kingsway.
- 16 There are lots of bottles lying on the road reserve.

Erosion/Hazards/Trees

- 17 The erosion below Chilli Lane has worsened after the recent heavy rains.
- 18 A tree fell onto the electricity and phone cables next door to 10 Mount Edgecombe Rd

Fires

- 19 A fire was observed at the squatters in the reeds below Spar in Bryanston
- 20 Fires have also been made by the squatters below Tambach Rd, Sunninghill and in the area of the confluence.

General

- 21 Sizwe Mabuza of Johannesburg City Parks came on a walk to observe the area we patrol.
- 22 JCP have been very busy this month, mowing the grass and chopping up the fallen trees along the river.
- 23 The manhole cover along the Paulshofspruit below Stonehaven needs to be repaired. Several manhole covers have been damaged or are not closing the holes properly as a result of having been moved by the big mowers.
- 24 Two cleanups were organised by the Rangers this month - one using scholars from Roedean Primary School and the other in conjunction with JCP and as a result a lot of the litter has been removed.
- 25 Grass is very long on the east bank of the Sandspruit so it is not easy to spot what is going on there.

Flora, Fauna, Birds.

Grey hornbill, Go away bird, swallows, pigeons, Paradise flycatcher, Hadedah, sacred ibis, Egyptian geese, blacksmith plovers, wattled plovers, crowned plovers, weavers, cisticola, green parakeets, yellow billed kite, doves, African Black ducks, little egret, cattle egret, red bishop, grey heron, black headed heron, francolin, white butterflies and blue pansy butterflies, red veld flowers.

Field and Study (Riverpark Stables)

	March	Year to date
Number of Patrols 2009*	21	53
Number of Patrols 2008 (for comparison)	22	52
Ave. Patrols per week 2009	4.74	4.12
Ave. Horses per Patrol 2009	2.29	2.19

*One patrol from this yard went as far as the N1 highway and one covered the Outspan spruit.

Problems and comments

Litter/Dumping

- 1 Rubble at Belgrave
- 2 Tree moved from golf course crossing downstream. Crossing now clear.
- 3 Litter along banks especially from the rains
- 4 Bags of rubbish lying around
- 5 Litter dumped under BallyClare Bridge
- 6 At first river crossing near stables a cream bag with cardboard in and around it dumped
- 7 At the storm water drain south of the first scout hall there are canvasses and tarpaulin.
- 8 Garden refuse dumping at the corner of River Road and St Audley Road

Squatters/Vagrants

- 9 2 at Ballyclare Bridge with cooking fire
- 10 4 on west bank
- 11 5 below Martial Arts Centre
- 12 4 at Braai area
- 13 5 on rocks close to the old scout hall
- 14 15 by Bryanston Spar across the river (8 March 2009). Further reports of signs of habitation in the reeds (24 March 2009)

Sewerage/Drains spillage

- 15 Bad smell in park but unable to determine the source (20 March 2009)
- 16 Near martial arts centre (River Road/Grosvenor Road) - Reported to Jhb water. Were unable to give reference as their system was offline. Lukas phoned later to get clear instructions. . (8 March 2009)
- 17 Water Gushing from pipe next to BallyClare Bridge. (10 March 2009)
- 18 Drain D103 at golf course crossing smelling of sewage (12 March 2009)
- 19 Possible sewage leak on Outspan Spruit (30 March 2009)

Fires

- 20 The only fires that have been reported are squatters cooking fires

River Erosion/Trees

- 21 Soil erosion is getting particularly bad underneath the Ballyclare Bridge
- 22 Lots of sand washed into river and increasingly large banks of sand in river at Bryanston Drive. Under bridge has been cleared but tree stumps still on the side of the river.
- 23 Belgrave Bridge is dangerously silted up. Andrew to report (24 March 2009). Reported cleared up (30 March 2009)
- 24 Black Wattles tipped over in Park - broken branches
- 25 Tree in River at bend below the Martial Arts Centre

General

- 26 Car parked below the stables at 9:30 on Thursday 4th March. 6 people got out and crossed the river.
- 27 White bakkie down by river looking like it was trying to collect river sand. Got stuck. ADT there to assist but required 4x4 to tow the bakkie out (6 March 2009)
- 28 Parks board have been cleaning up. Looking a lot better.
- 29 Blue Honda Ballade (Registration Number: RZW988GP down by River trying to collect river sand. Rangers told him it was illegal and they would have to report him if he didn't stop. (13 March 2009)
- 30 2 ladies with 5 Ridgeback dogs off leads attempted to attack horses (13 March 2009)
- 31 Strong Current in the river prevent crossing on 19 and 20 March 2009
- 32 Injured dove taken to FREEME (20 March 2009)
- 33 Pylon 2 is reported making a strange noise (21 March 2009)

Flora, Fauna and Bird Sightings

Black Ducks, Hadedas, Owl, Indian Minors, Egyptian Geese, Yellow Billed Ducks, Blacksmith Plovers, Mandarin Ducks, Bulbul, Rameron, Pigeon, Turtle Dove, African Duck, Masked Weaver, Baby Mousebird, Grey Heron, Moor Hens, Hoepoe, Cormorant, White Egret, Ibis, Cattle Egret, Raptor, White Faced Coots with babies on Outspan Dam. Mongoose

NOTE: daily reports of crime and squatter related issues are faxed to SAPS and to JCP

Directors:, LE Murray, PJ Anderson, VF Butcher, H Fannin A Murray, GS Schurr, S Sporides
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