

JOHANNESBURG VOLUNTARY MOUNTED RIVER RANGERS

Patrol Report Summary

April 2009

Paulshof (Rivonia Stables)

	April	Year to date
Number of Patrols 2009*	25	107
Number of Patrols 2008 (for comparison)	37	116
Ave. Patrols per week 2009	5.83	6.24
Ave. Horses per Patrol 2009	2.60	2.38

*All patrols in April 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. Four patrols from Riverpark covered this area during April. We understand that the trail will be reopened under the N1 in November of this year.

Problems and comments

Sewerage and water leaks

Sewerage/spills

An overflowing manhole below Tambach Rd was reported (JW 3198102) and was attended to.

The manhole cover along the Paulshofspruit was relaced by rangers.

An overflowing manhole in the garden of 47 Komari Rd was reported (JW 3233728) and was attended to.

Squatters

- 1 A group of 4 men were seen "camping" along the east bank of the Sandspruit about 200 m from the Leeukop fence.
- 2 Men were found smoking dagga next to the Leeukop fence.
- 3 There were signs of squatting along the river on the open plot next to Rivonia Sports.
- 4 Three camps were found on the Sunninghill side of the road reserve - a large pipe being used for sleeping, grids, fires, tins and wash line.
- 5 Squatters were seen washing in the river near Chill Lane
- 6 Squatters were seen below Tambach Road and various plastic sheets have been seen there indicating squatter shelters.

Litter/Dumping

- 7 A bag of clothes was found along the Paulshofspruit behind the town houses situated on Brackenhill Rd.
- 8 Some bags of rubbish were found below the Chill Lane fence.
- 9 There is a lot of builder's rubble on the road reserve on the Sunninghill side.
- 10 An easel was dumped in the grass just south of the confluence on the west bank.
- 11 Plastic rubbish (bucket, pipe etc) left on the N bank of the Paulshofspruit above Umhalnga Rd.
- 12 Trivial pursuit cards were dropped along the road reserve and on the south bank at the confluence.
- 13 Empty bottles and yogurt containers were dumped below the Rivonia sports tennis courts.

Erosion/Hazards/Trees

- 14 There is a large number of thorn bushes/trees spreading in the road reserve in Paulshof.
- 15 Ulwando were contracted by JCP and have been busy clearing alien vegetation and making the area more user friendly.
- 16 The willow tree which fell below Chill Lane has been sawed up the logs have been left in the river and are now all sprouting.

Fires

- 17 No fires were observed but places where fires had been made by vagrants were seen.

General

- 18 A white bakkie (PPR63545) with 4 or 5 men was seen twice next to the confluence of the Braamfontein- and Sandspruits.
- 19 Our cleaner has been and has made a difference to the litter problem and in removing thick undergrowth and has provided access to the Sunninghill side of the Sandspruit.
- 20 What looked like motorbike tracks were seen in the river sand below Chill Lane.
- 21 A hole has been sawed into the pallisade fence of Leeukop Prison next to the padlocked gate on the west bank of the Sandspruit in order to allow a person to climb through.
- 22 A truck was seen in the Leeukop grounds pumping water from the Sandspruit.

Flora, Fauna, Birds.

Go away birds, doves, homing pigeons, Indian mynahs, francolin (including chicks), African black ducks, sacred ibis, hadeda, yellow billed kite, black headed heron, Egyptian geese, thrush, blacksmith plovers, wattled plovers, crowned plovers, redbilled hoopoe, bulbul, cisticola, rose ringed parakeets, stilts, grey heron, kingfishers, korhaan? peacocks, black collar barbet, mixed breed ducks, pied crow, moorhen, maderin duck with "off white duck", mousebirds, glossy starlings, swifts, yellow billed ducks, Northern Carolina ducks, frogs were heard near Leeukop, green snake swimming in the Braamfonteinspruit.

Field and Study (Riverpark Stables)

	April	Year to date
Number of Patrols 2009*	18	71
Number of Patrols 2008 (for comparison)	22	74
Ave. Patrols per week 2009	4.20	4.14
Ave. Horses per Patrol 2009	2.11	2.17

*Three patrols from this yard went as far as the N1 highway, one more north of Bryanston drive and two covered part of the Outspan spruit.

Problems and comments

Litter/Dumping

- 1 Black bags have been reported to be dumped at the picnic crossing and also at Ballyclaire Road.
- 2 Builders rubble has been seen at the end of Pont Road on the West Bank - Wooden slats/sheets have been dumped.
- 3 Lots of empty glass alcohol bottles have also been reported.
- 4 The rubbish that has been removed out of the river at Belgrave and Bryanston Bridges, has not been taken away.

Squatters/Vagrants

- 5 Various groups have been reported at the picnic site.
- 6 +- 4-10 under Ballyclaire Bridge with cooking fires on both sides of the river. Squatters on both sides of the river at Bryanston Spar.
- 7 squatters have been seen on the Westbank, 2 below Peter Place and 6 at Ballyclaire.
- 8 2 at the Westbank, 5 at Ballyclaire Bridge, 3 Scout Hall, 4 Bryanston Drive
- 9 Squatters on the Westbank throwing litter in the river. Many seen at the picnic site, on both sides of the river - lots of bedding hidden south of the 1st Scout hall

Sewerage/Drains spillage

- 10 Property opposite the golf course with tall green walls with camera's, pool outlet pipe runs into the river, foaming and running into the river.
- 11 Sewerage spill reported 500m south of the N1 Highway - reported to Kgometso ref(3217738) and fixed
- 12 Water leak reported (ref: 3231803) below the public toilets at Sandton Field and Study centre. Possible water leak - reported (ref 3231794) outside no. 19 East River Rd West.
- 13 Very bad sewerage leak outside no. 53 Arklow Road reported (ref: 3244590), reported again 3 days later (spoke to Rolus) and was then reported on the 29th as fixed

Fires

- 14 Mostly squatter fires have been reported - not all attended.

General

The Rapid Response unit (SAPS) were seen rounding up squatters. Thank you

Resident North of 12th avenue complained to the rangers that another man and his child have been seen along the river shooting with a pellet gun.

Flora, Fauna and Bird Sightings

Black African Ducks, Yellow Billed Ducks, Hadeda's, Egyptian Geese, Wood hoopoes, Black smith plover with chick, ring-neck parrot, bulbul, grey heron, cattle egrets, ibis, moorhen, white faced coots, mallards, mandarin ducks

NOTE: daily reports of crime and squatter related issues have been 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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