

# JOHANNESBURG VOLUNTARY MOUNTED RIVER RANGERS

## Patrol Report Summary

June 2009

### Paulshof (Rivonia Stables)

	June	Year to date
Number of Patrols 2009*	22	146
Number of Patrols 2008 (for comparison)	35	187
Ave. Patrols per week 2009	4.97	6.77
Ave. Horses per Patrol 2009	2.14	2.27

\*Patrols in June 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. Three patrols from Riverpark covered this area during June. We understand that the trail will be reopened under the N1 in November of this year.

### Problems and comments

#### Sewerage/spills

1. Water leaks at Witkoppen Road, Clifton Road and Mount Fletcher were reported to Johannesburg Water, as well as several sewage spills.

#### Squatters

2. The Chilli Lane squatter camp is busier in the afternoons and over the week-ends. In general fewer squatters are seen along the trail, due to the cold weather.

#### Litter/Dumping

3. The clean-up undertaken by the Community together with the River Rangers and City Parks this month has made a remarkable difference, especially closer to Witkoppen Road.

#### Erosion/Hazards/Trees

4. The bank below Chilli Lane continues to erode. A large tree has fallen at the confluence of the Braamfontein and Sandspruits. A tree which is lying on the wires and fence near the crossing into Paulshof was reported to Telkom many months ago, but has not yet been removed.

#### Fires

5. Burning garden rubbish near Stonehaven Rd. A burnt area was seen above Stonehaven near the servitude. Squatters cooking fires opposite tennis courts near Chilli Lane.

#### General

6. Our cleaner has been cleaning along the Braamfontein Spruit and has cleared the confluence crossing to the best of his ability. But he requires a chainsaw and assistance to clear the fallen tree at the confluence crossing.  
A "roadway" has been cleared on both sides of the road reserve, presumably for access to the patrol vehicles of local security companies.

#### Flora, Fauna, Birds.

Sacred Ibis, hadeda, african black duck, egyptian goose, crowned plover, crested barbet, francolin, yellow billed duck, blacksmith plover, wattled plover, red collared barbet, dikkop, mandarin duck, pied crow, black headed heron, turtle doves

### Field and Study (Riverpark Stables)

	June	Year to date
Number of Patrols 2009*	19	110
Number of Patrols 2008 (for comparison)	23	119
Ave. Patrols per week 2009	4.29	5.10
Ave. Horses per Patrol 2009	2.00	2.13

\*Three patrols from this yard went north of Bryanston Drive and one patrol covered the Outspan trail.

### Problems and comments

#### Sewerage/spills

1. The manhole at the golf course crossing smells really bad, but is not leaking
2. A sewage leak in the park below Kingswood Crescent, at the bottom of the Augusta Townhouses, was reported.
3. Fresh water leaking from a storm water pipe at Ballyclaire Bridge was reported and repaired.

4. The cover of the manhole outside of no. 2 Hobbema Street has been removed. This has been reported.

#### **Squatters**

5. A large number of squatters are living amongst the rocks and trees along the river. Over the weekends there are as many as 15 squatters at the corner of Bryanston Drive and River Road. The group living below the Martial Arts Centre has grown in number to 8. There is a large group of approx.20 living on the Westbank. Between 4-8 have been reported living under Ballyclaire Bridge. Between 2-5 have made their home on the rocks by the golf course crossing, making fires on the rocks and washing their clothes in the river.

#### **Litter/Dumping**

6. City Parks have cleaned the litter which had been reported at the Field and Study Centre. Ceiling boards have been dumped on the river bank, in the grass near Peter Place. The beer bottles and plastic lying at the picnic site need to be cleaned up. Refuse bags and tiles have been dumped at Belgrave Bridge - cnr River Road.

#### **Erosion/Hazards/Trees**

7. The area around the supports of Ballyclaire Bridge is badly eroded.

#### **Fires**

8. All fires reported, have been squatter's cooking fires.

#### **General**

9. Coin security were patrolling again and joined our river rangers for a patrol.

#### **Flora, Fauna and Bird Sightings**

Heron, plovers, hadeda's, african black ducks, moorhens, hoepoe, woodhoepoe, sacred ibis, egyptian geese, guinea fowl, green parakeets, mallard ducks, grey loerie, crowned plovers, cattle egret.

**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 Bilgnaut, B Watkins

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

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