A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF PARK RANGER:

On behalf of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Conservation Park Ranger Unit, I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report. This report recognizes many of our unit’s achievements over the past year. As you review this report, you will notice our unit is active, dynamic, and continually striving to provide exceptional interpersonal services for our community.

The Norfolk Park Rangers Unit works tirelessly to support, sustain, and protect our community and city’s resources. In doing so, violators are held accountable, complaints are addressed, and educational contacts are provided to safeguard our wildlife, natural resources, and parks for future generations.

Recruiting, hiring, and retention of highly qualified staff remains a big focus this year, while we continue to stay positively engaged within our community. The unit’s positive interactions through educational programs and contacts with community members included (but are not limited to) Ranger Walk-a-bouts, Lets Go Fishing, summer camps, and our joint school and library conservation programs.

The Conservation Park Ranger Unit of the Norfolk Department of Parks and Recreation are continually challenged by the ever changing and fast paced dynamics of the city. Norfolk Park Rangers gladly and consistently rise to these challenges by routinely demonstrating the highest levels of professionalism, resourcefulness, by providing outstanding service to the citizens of the City of Norfolk. It is my privilege to lead this distinguished team and look forward to leading the unit to another successful and productive year of service.

Sincerely,
Jonathan C. Crews
Chief Park Ranger
Norfolk Parks and Recreation
UNIT OBJECTIVES

• Enhance and enrich Norfolk residents and visitor’s conservation knowledge and experiences about natural resources within our community.

• Ensure proactive and responsive education, enforcement, and regulation with an emphasis on protection of natural resources, wildlife, and property.

• Strength partnership with conservation agencies/organizations to address resource protection needs and trends.
A Day in a Norfolk Park Rangers’ Boots
In 2022 conservation education efforts were at an exciting new level, 35 programs were offered with 1,041 attendees. The conservation unit interacted with numerous citizens through various educational programs such as the Schools Out Afternoon Recreation (S.O.A.R.), summer camps, Ranger Walk-a-bouts, and Let’s Go Fishing. Upon receiving strong encouraging feedback from the community, the unit implemented additional conservation programs throughout the year. These educational programs provided an opportunity to meet and educate youth, families, and other community members with the intent to positively impact and preserve the natural resources within the City of Norfolk. By providing these educational conservation opportunities, the team created an ongoing positive rapport with the community in addition to their enforcement responsibilities. Norfolk Conservation Park Rangers are looking forward to providing more innovative engaging programs in the upcoming year.
2022 STATISTICS

- Patrol Miles: 31,707
- Properties Patrolled: 9,074
- Self-Initiated & Calls for Service: 730
- Verbal & Written Warnings: 14,692
- Criminal Complaints: 62
- Parking Violations: 304
- Conservation Education Programing Attendees: 1,041
- Use of Defensive Force: 1

- Self-Initiated & Calls for Service increased 21%
- General enforcement contacts increased 20%
- Verbal & Written warnings contacts increased 71%
- Conservation Education Programing Attendees increased 654%
2020 – 2022 Data Summary

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Use of Force</th>
<th>Conservation Ed &amp; Programs Attendees</th>
<th>Criminal Complaints</th>
<th>Parking Violations</th>
<th>Verbal &amp; Written Warnings</th>
<th>Self-Initiated &amp; Calls for Service</th>
<th>Cemeteries Patrolled</th>
<th>Rec. Centers Patrolled</th>
<th>Open Spaces Patrolled</th>
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Top 10 Self-Initiated & Calls for Service

• Illegal camping
• Damaging, removing park property
• Medical emergencies
• Closed area(s)
• Illegal dumping
• Agency assist: Norfolk Fire & Rescue, Norfolk Police, & Virginia DWR Conservation Police
• Regulations applicable to city lakes and city owned land adjoining city lakes
• Graffiti prohibited
• Water rescues
• Vegetation fires
Top Locations for Self-Initiated & Calls for Service
PARKS
• Community Beach Park
• Sarah Constant Beach Park
• Northside Park
• Lakewood Park
• Ocean View Beach Park

RECREATION CENTERS
• East Ocean View Community Center
• Norfolk Fitness & Wellness Center
• Captain Quarters Recreation Center
• Huntersville Recreation Center
• Norview Recreation Center

CEMETERIES
• Forest Lawn Cemetery
• Cedar Grove Cemetery
• Elmwood Cemetery

BOAT RAMPS & RESERVOIRS
• Haven Creek Boat ramp
• Willoughby Boat Ramp
• Lake Whitehurst
• Lake Lawson
• Little Creek Reservoir

DOG PARKS
• Berkley Dog Park
• Meadowbrook Dog Park

SCHOOL GROUNDS & FIELDS
• Lake Taylor High School
• Ghent Elementary School
• Norview Elementary