

2023 PARK RANGER ANNUAL REPORT



CITY OF NORFOLK
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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.
- Strengthen partnerships with conservation agencies/organizations to address resource protection needs and trends.

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

I am honored on behalf of the City of Norfolk Parks and Recreation Department's Conservation Park Ranger Unit, to share the 2023 Annual Report. This report reflects the statistical data, information, and the incredible amount of hard work and dedication by your amazing City of Norfolk Park Rangers.

This was a year of significant operational activity and growth as the unit hired three new Park Rangers as well as increased our recruiting, hiring, and retention efforts. As always recruiting and maintaining highly qualified staff will continue to remain a major focus for 2024. We will be developing a leadership team by recruiting and hiring a Senior Park Ranger and Park Ranger II.

The unit has continued their efforts to provide the highest level of service and public safety to our residents and visitors through conservation education programs and enforcement. Our unit continues to be made up of caring and courageous professionals, committed to keeping and protecting our city's natural resources for future generations. I am proud of the City of Norfolk Conservation Park Ranger Unit and feel fortunate to serve the community alongside them.

A huge thank you to our community members and partners whose dedication and collaboration is vital to our mission. We also greatly appreciate our City Council and the City Manager's Office for their continued support of our unit. Finally, to the members of our City and Department staff, specifically our Director's office, thank you for the leadership, and partnership.

Sincerely,

Jonathan C. Crews
Chief Park Ranger



A Day in a Norfolk Park Rangers' Boots

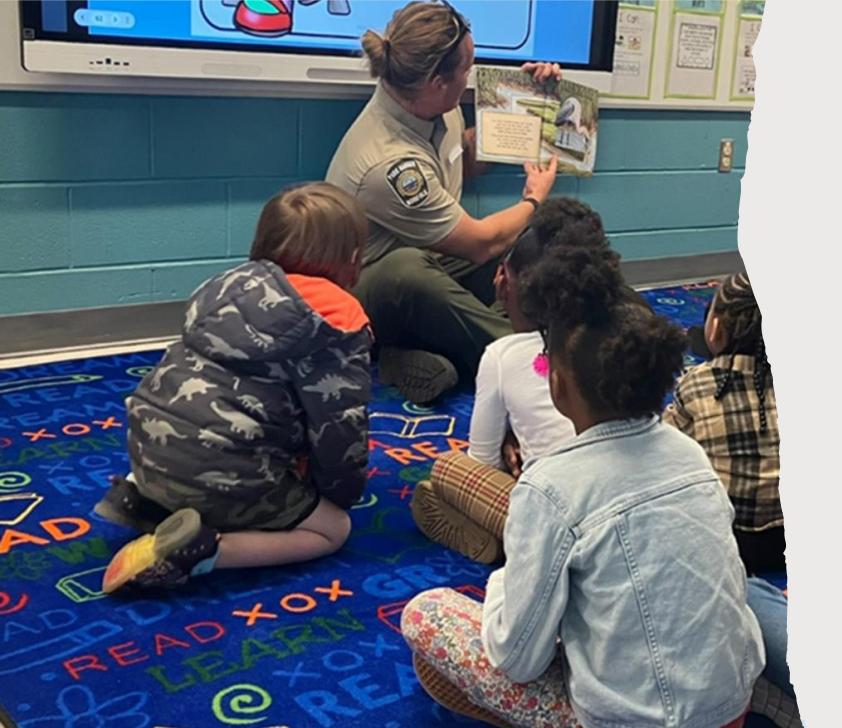


CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Conservation education efforts forged ahead in 2023 by reaching new communities within our city and creating a solid foundation for an exciting education expansion for 2024.

We hosted 56 conservation programs and events which provided an opportunity to meet, educate, and encourage City of Norfolk residents to take pride and ownership of the city's natural resources. The conservation team remained steadfast with our Let's Go Fishing, Ranger Walk-A-Bouts, and Afterschool and Summer Programs. Additional programs were implemented to include Invasive Species Identification and Removal, and park/beach beautification projects. These programs provided the opportunity to engage and educate 2,059 participants throughout Norfolk.

The Conservation Park Ranger Unit (team) is hard at work continuing our innovative stewardship initiatives, by connecting residents to their local ecosystem, parks, and trails. Keep a look out for upcoming opportunities to participate in Eco Explorers, Rocking with a Ranger, Wildlife Wonders, and Birding in Norfolk programs.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The Park Ranger Unit continuously strives to connect and provide support to the unhoused members of the community. Additionally, the team investigates and identifies prohibited campsites throughout the city. The Park Ranger Unit continues to work in collaboration with the Norfolk Community Services Outreach team to provide city resources to individuals in need.

In 2023, our joint effort with the Parks and Recreation Litter Teams, eradicated 24 abandoned campsites and helped facilitate the restoration of our city's natural resources.

2023 STATISTIC SUMMARY

Patrol Miles
31,315

Properties Patrolled
8,954

Self-Initiated & Calls for Service
1,605

Verbal & Written Warnings
9,577

Criminal Complaints
70

Parking Violations
340

Conservation Education Programming Attendees
2,059

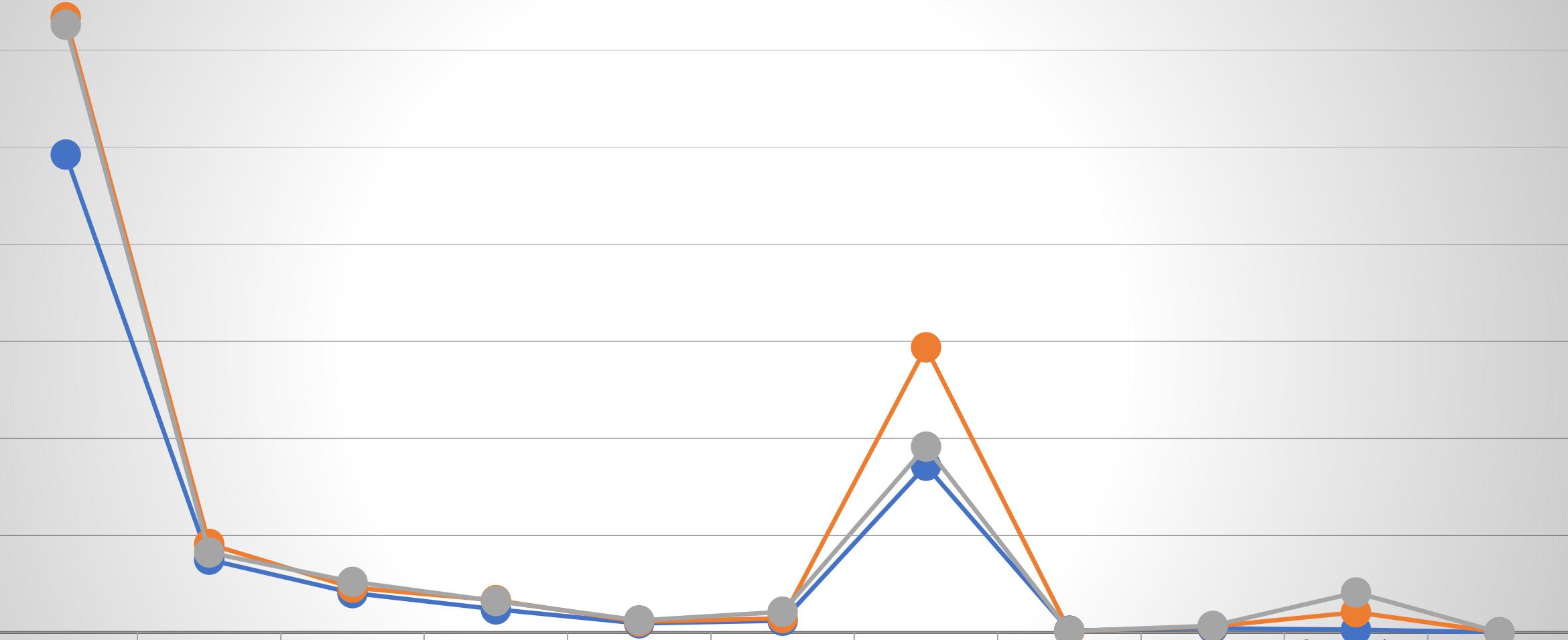
Use of Defensive Force
1

Self-Initiated & Calls for Service Increased
45%

General Enforcement Contacts Increased
12%

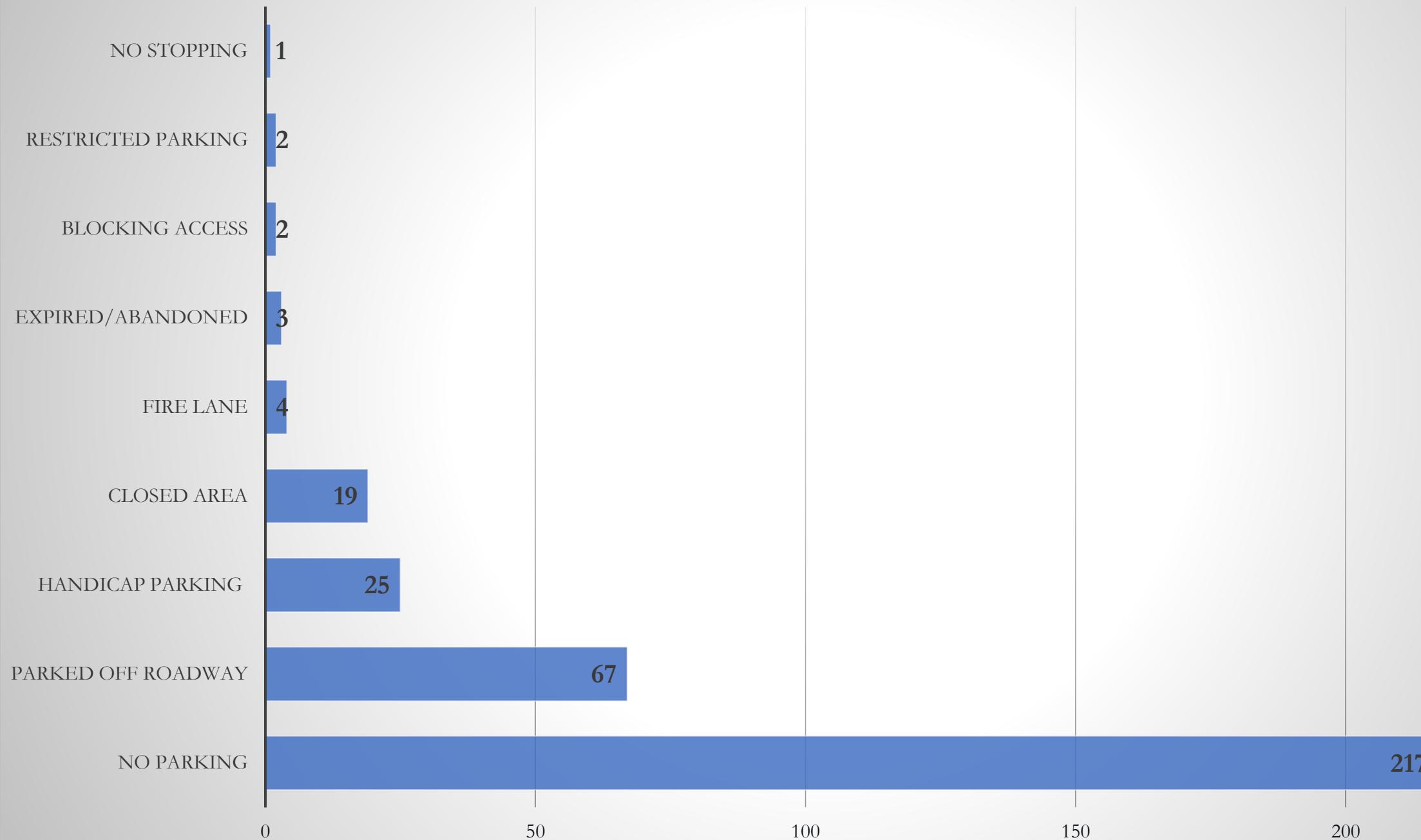
Conservation Education Programming Attendees Increased
97%

2021 – 2023 DATA SUMMARY

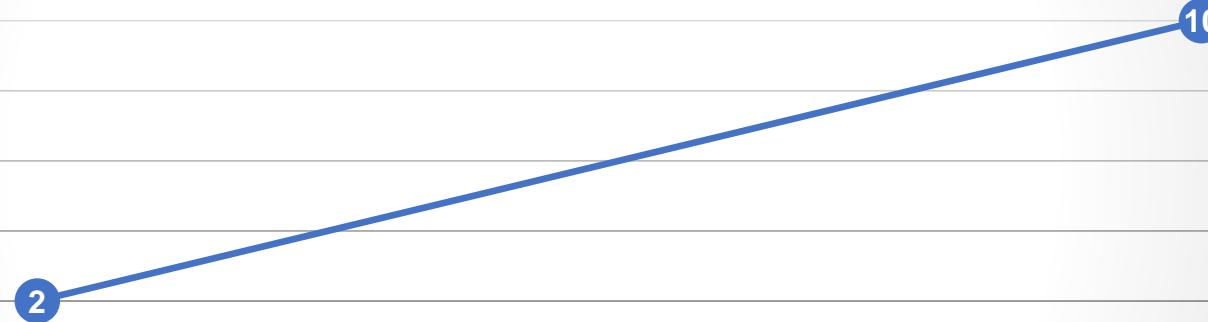


	Patrol Miles	Parks Patrolled	Open Spaces Patrolled	Rec. Centers Patrolled	Cemeteries Patrolled	Self-Initiated & Calls for Service	Verbal & Written Warnings	Criminal Complaints	Parking Violations	Conservation Education Programing Attendees	Use of Force
2021	24,628	3,747	2,029	1,192	464	605	8,591	93	211	138	1
2022	31,707	4,557	2,306	1,659	552	730	14,692	62	304	1,041	1
2023	31,315	4,115	2,602	1,616	621	1,065	9,577	70	340	2,059	1

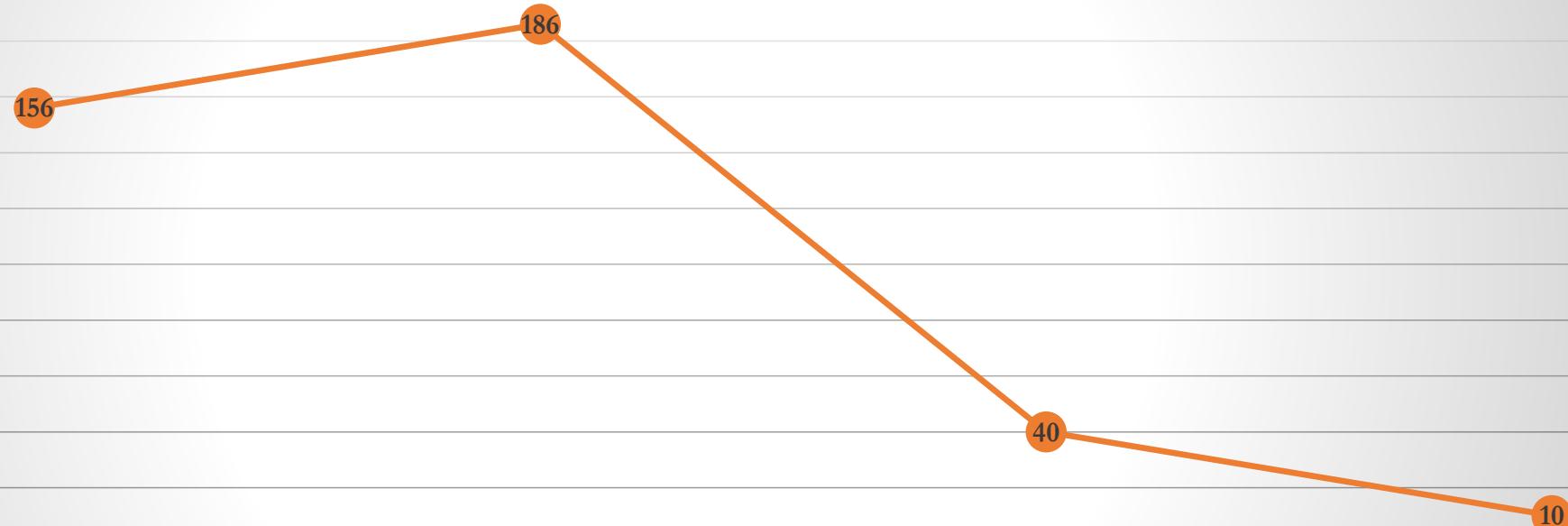
PARKING VIOLATIONS



FELONY CRIME DATA



MISDEMEANOR CRIME DATA





TOP 10 INCIDENTS

- **Parking Violations**
- **Medical Emergencies**
- **Unlawful storage and accumulation of solid waste**
- **Agency Assist - Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS/Other**
- **Camping Violation**
- **Suspicious Activity**
- **Fire – Vegetation/refuge/Garbage**
- **Hunting/Fishing/Crabbing/Trapping Violation**
- **Inoperable vehicle**
- **Damaging, removing, etc., park property generally**

TOP LOCATIONS FOR SELF-INITIATED & CALLS FOR SERVICE

PARKS

- Sarah Constant Beach Park
- Ocean View Beach Park
- Lakewood Park
- Northside Park
- Lafayette Park

RECREATION CENTERS

- Norfolk Fitness & Wellness Center
- Tarrallton Community Center
- Norview Community Center
- East Ocean View Community Center
- Fairlawn Community Center

CEMETERIES

- Forest Lawn Cemetery
- Elmwood Cemetery
- Calvary Cemetery

BOAT RAMPS & RESERVOIRS

- Willoughby Boat Ramp
- Lake Whitehurst
- Haven Creek Boat Ramp
- Little Creek Reservoir
- Lake Wright

Beach Access Point

- 15th View Street
- Dolphin Run-East Beach
- 11th Bay Street
- 21st Bay Street
- Cape View Ave.

SCHOOL GROUNDS & FIELDS

- Lake Taylor High School
- Ghent Elementary School
- Sherwood Forest Elementary School

TOP 10 PARKING VIOLATION LOCATIONS

