

## CAPTAINS MESSAGE

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about your Springfield Park District Police Department. On the following pages you will find answers to some of the most commonly asked questions regarding our department.

The Springfield Park District Police Department is the primary Law Enforcement Agency for all of Springfield's Parks trails and facilities that are owned or operated by the Springfield Park District. The Park District Police Department's primary duties are to preserve the peace, protect life and property, and to enforce the laws of Illinois and the ordinances of the Springfield Park District within the Park System.

The Springfield Park District employs both Full Time and Part Time Police Officers. Full Time Officers have attended a Police Academy certified through the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board and completed over 480 hours of training. Part Time Officers have also attended a Police Academy certified through the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board and have completed over 400 hours of training. Both full time and part time Officers must undergo continual education training every year as well as qualify with their firearms quarterly.

The Springfield Park District Police Department subscribes to a community policing, customer service based philosophy. The departments mission statement and main mission is proudly displayed on our new vehicles "To Protect and Serve in our Parks".

Hopefully this brochure will help you learn more about those that protect you and answer most if not all of your questions. Please take comfort and pride when you come in contact with one of our officers knowing that you are dealing with a certified professional who takes pride in making sure that your trip to the park is as safe and enjoyable as possible.

If you have any questions comments or concerns about the Springfield Park District Police Department please feel free to send me an email at [jdavis@springfieldparks.org](mailto:jdavis@springfieldparks.org).

Respectfully

Captain Jonathan Davis

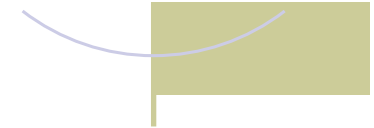


### Springfield Park District Police Department:

1508 W. Fayette  
Springfield, IL 62703  
Phone: 217-753-6221  
E-mail: [jdavis@springfieldparks.org](mailto:jdavis@springfieldparks.org)



## Frequently Asked Questions



### *Springfield Park District Police*



*"To Protect and serve in our Parks"*

Office: 753-6221

## Meet Your Full Time Park Police Officers.

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Captain Jonathan Davis—

Captain Davis has been with the Park District Police Department since 2004. Captain Davis has previous police service with the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Captain Davis is a certified Firearms Instructor, Field Training Officer and Juvenile Officer.

Sergeant Andrew Rath-

Sergeant Rath has been with the Park District since 2004. Sergeant Rath has previous Military experience with the 183rd Fighter Wing of the Illinois Air National Guard. Sergeant Rath is a certified Field Training Officer and serves as the second watch supervisor of the department.

Officer Chad Robinson

Officer Robinson has been with the Park District since October 2006. Officer Robinson has previous Police experience with the Springfield and Grandview Police Department. Officer Robinson is a certified Field Training Officer and Firearms Instructor.

Officer Brian Croll-

Officer Croll has been with the Park District since October of 2006. Officer Croll has previous experience with the 183rd Fighter Wing of the Illinois National Guard. Officer Croll is a certified Juvenile Officer.

Officer Jeff Graham-

Officer Graham has been with the Park District since October 2006. Officer Graham previously served as a Part Time Officer with the Department until being promoted to full time December 2007

Officer Christopher Yingling -

Officer Yingling has been with the District since May 2007. Officer Yingling previously served as a Park Ranger until being promoted in December 2007. Officer Yingling served with the Police Explorers Post prior to becoming a Park Ranger.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q.** What type of Community programs to the park police offer?

**A.** The Park Police offer a variety of community programs such as the Seemore the eagle park watch program and the Police Explorer post for youths who are interested in Law Enforcement as a future career. If you would like further information on these programs please call the Park District Police Office at 217-753-6221.

**Q.** How do I report a crime?

**A.** If the crime is an emergency please dial 911. If it is not please dial 217-788-8311 and an Officer will be dispatched to your location. If you have a general question you may contact the Park Police Office during normal business hours at 217-753-6221. If you are unable to reach anyone please leave a message on the voice mail system or contact dispatch and ask to speak with an officer.

**Q.** Why is there never anyone at the Park Police station and why do they never answer the phone?

**A.** Officers spend a majority of their time patrolling the parks and answering calls for service within the parks and facilities of the park district. Officers therefore spend very little time in the office usually only to complete reports and other paperwork.

**Q.** What type of authority do park police have?

**A.** Park Police Officers are sworn Police Officers. They hold the same authority as their brother and sister police officers who are employed by other jurisdictions.

**Q.** What is the difference between a Park Ranger and a Park Police Officer?

**A.** Rangers are civilian employees of the district who

are employed on a part time seasonal basis. The rangers assist the police by ensuring that all restrooms, gates and facilities are locked and that all lighting is turned off after its use.

**Q.** Why do I sometimes see Park Police Officers on Traffic Stops outside of the park?

**A.** Park District Police Officers main priority is ensuring the safety of citizens within the park system. On occasion while traveling from park to park an officer may encounter a violation that poses a threat to the citizens of the community which the officer has sworn to protect. If so the officer will address the violation to ensure the safety of the community.

**Q.** What are the requirements to be a Park Police Officer?

**A.** Park Police Officers must be 21 years of age or older and have completed high school. Candidates must have a criminal free background, a valid driver's license and be able to be certified through the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. An Associates or Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice is preferred as well as previous Law Enforcement Experience.

**Q.** What time do the parks close?

**A.** All parks close at 10:30 pm except Riverside and Carpenter which close at Dusk. All parks re-open at 4am with the exception of Riverside and Carpenter which reopen at Dawn

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