

Public Safety Department

Stark Park Rangers exist not only to protect parkland and wildlife, but also park visitors. Park Rangers strive to keep Stark Parks a safe and enjoyable place to visit, and do so by being certified peace officers through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA). They are sworn and commissioned officials. Each Ranger goes through multiple months of field training to learn specific job duties pertaining to park policing. They have the ability to enforce state laws, including wildlife, watercraft, and traffic laws, as well as Stark County Park District ordinances.

Park Rangers are also trained in ice water rescue and general first-aid and CPR. You may see Rangers working closely with other police departments in Stark County as we have a mutual-aid agreement with law enforcement entities across the county.

Patrol Methods

Rangers are able to keep parks, lakes and trails safer with various patrol methods, including:

- Patrol Cars
- Foot Patrol
- Bicycle Patrol
- ATV Patrol
- Boat Patrol



K-9 Patrol

Gunnar, a Belgian Malinois and German shepherd mix, became the first K-9 Ranger at Stark Parks in early 2014. He is trained in narcotics tracking and detection, search and rescue, suspect apprehension, and article searching. With his handler, Sergeant Ranger Crock, Gunnar also appears at many community events just to say hello and receive some extra attention.



Help Stark Parks Stay Safe Parks

Always dial 9-1-1 in emergencies

Store the ranger number
in your phone (330) 353-2377.

Keep aware of your surroundings
and take note of locations.



SAFE PARKS



Respect Wildlife

Don't feed wildlife and never approach an animal.
If you come across an injured animal, call the Wildlife Conservation Center (330) 477 - 0448.



Be Courteous on the Trails

Respect the rights of the neighbors and stay on the designated trails.
Travel at a safe pace.
Keep trails clean and travel single file.
Stay to the right and pass on the left using audible warning.



Don't Litter

Take trash with you or discard it in the appropriate receptacles.



SAFE PARKS



Leash Your Pooch

Always keep control of your pet.
If you see a yellow ribbon, give the pup some needed space.



Pick Up Poop

Carry a waste bag or take one from the pet stations provided.
Take all waste with you or discard in the appropriate receptacles.

Horses Have the Right-of-Way

Move to the side.
Control pets.

Basic Trail Preparation

- Dress for the weather
- Wear comfortable and sturdy shoes
- Bring drinking water
- Wear bug/mosquito repellent
- Wear sunscreen
- Carry a small first-aid kit
- Bring a mobile phone
- store the ranger number in your phone 330.353.2377
- Leave valuables at home and secure property by locking cars



If you see something, say something! Don't wait.



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