

# SPRING LAKE PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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## **Mission**

**“TO SERVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR  
COMMUNITY THROUGH HONOR, INTEGRITY AND SERVICE”**

## Message from Chief Josh Antoine

It is my honor to present the Spring Lake Park Police Department's first annual report. As you read through this report please remember it is an attempt to give a general overview of the Spring Lake Park Police Department's day to day operations in 2023 and not a whole picture of what the Police Department accomplished throughout the year.

In 2021 and 2022 the police department experienced many changes due to the retirements of the Police Chief and several long-time officers. During that time the Police Department was able to continue to provide our community with a high-level service through our core values of Honor, Integrity and Service. In 2023, we saw stability in the police department staffing and were able to implement our goal as a police department of community outreach, along with providing safety and security for our residents. Just a few of the programs we were able focus on were Coffee with a Cop, Heroes and Helpers and several Special Olympics events. You can read more about these events in the Patrol Division report.

Despite being surrounded by larger cities Spring Lake Park has continued to keep that small-town feel. Our overall crime has been decreasing every year since 2021 and we are working hard to continue that decrease into future years. Although we have seen decreases in our overall crime we do continue to see our calls for service rising and 2023 was no different with a 10.79% rise. A part of that rise in calls was officer self-initiated calls such as traffic stops, resident contacts and other misc. calls. We continue to believe that self-initiated activity by officers is a deterrent to crime and will continue to encourage the officers to make as many contacts during their shifts as possible.

We continued as a department to add new technologies and new tools for the officers to utilize on the street meant to enhance officer, community, and offender safety. You can read about some of these new tools in the Patrol Division report. These new tools will help us carry out our mission "To Serve, protect and enhance the quality of life in our community through Honor, Integrity and Service".

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I want to thank our community for continuing to put your trust in the Spring Lake Park Police Department in 2023 and for future years to come.

Lastly, I wish to thank our entire staff, City Administrator, Council Members and our community for their continued support of the Police Department.

Sincerely,

Joshua Antoine

Chief of Police

**Patrol Division:**

The patrol division consists of six patrol officers and one school resource officer lead by two sergeants allowing for 24-hour coverage for our residents. The patrol officers have experienced the continued increase in the number of calls for service during the past year, which creates the majority of our contact with residents. In addition to the calls for service, our officers also conduct self-initiated activities such as traffic stops, neighborhood patrols, and after-hours business checks.

During 2023, the patrol division increased our community outreach and education. We partner with other community groups and agencies to help each other out. Here are a few of the programs in which we participated:

- Coffee with a Cop and Pizza with the Police events
- Assisted our Parks and Rec with Mature Drivers classes, Easter Egg hunt and Family Fall Fest
- Met with our local Cub Scouts groups
- Partnered with SBM Fire for their Santa Parade and open house events
- Partnered with SLP School District on the Start Your Engines and Tower Days 5K Fun Run events
- Partnered with neighboring agencies and school districts for the Heroes and Helpers event
- Participated with Special Olympics Minnesota for the Torch Run and Polar Plunge
- Assisted SLP Lions with their Trunk or Treat event

In efforts to make Spring Lake Park streets a safer city to travel, our patrol division participates in “Selected, Intensified Traffic Enforcement” or “SITE” program. Officer concentrate their traffic enforcement activities on areas where the police department receives the most traffic related complaints.

Officers also participate in the “Toward Zero Deaths” program, administered by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, and has received several state awards and grants for our effort in traffic safety.

With the advances in technology the department began utilizing tools meant to enhance officer, community, and offender safety. These tools consist of a robot that can go up and down stairs and allow the officers to view unknown areas without putting themselves in harm's way. The robot would be utilized in a call such as a burglary in progress. The robot is great to use as a de-escalation tool.

The police department has implemented new "less lethal tools." One of these tools is a 40mm launcher. These propel large less-lethal munitions, with the objective on gaining compliance from an uncooperative offender without resulting in a higher level of force. The department is also implementing PepperBall, which consists of small rounds that are deployed similar to that of a paintball. These projectiles contain chemical irritant so officers can deploy chemical agent at a safe distance and this also allows offenders to decontaminate more quickly than traditional pepper spray.

Implementing these new tools is becoming increasingly important as law enforcement does have the overall goal of safety for everybody, including the offenders.

Due to the demand of more equipment being utilized by law enforcement, the department is transitioning to sport utility vehicles so officers can carry equipment with them to better serve our community the sport utility vehicles also are beneficial as they do perform better in inclement weather

As we look ahead to the future, the patrol division has been given approval to add an additional officer for more coverage. This will occur in 2024 and will be a great benefit to our department and community as a whole. The additional officer will allow additional coverage on schedule rotation making it easier for officers to focus on their own physical and mental health. It may be somewhat difficult to measure or quantify these increases, but it is critical benefit to our staff and will continue to grow their effectiveness as officers.

**Investigative Division:**

The Spring Lake Park Police Department Investigations Unit is dedicated to serving our community and ensuring justice for victims by conducting thorough criminal investigations and empathetic victim communication. In 2023, our Investigator Tony Bennek, pursued our mission by performing investigations into various crimes against individuals and property.

Crimes against individuals encompassed assault, criminal sexual assault, violation of protection orders, neglect of vulnerable adults, and child endangerment. Property-related offenses included fraud, property damage, arson, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and retail theft, among others. Throughout the year, we delved into a total of 307 criminal cases and referrals from child and adult protection agencies, with 90 cases forwarded for charging consideration.

Beyond case investigations, Investigator Bennek assisted with managing evidence and property, squad car maintenance and oversaw civil forfeitures.

In addition to our investigative responsibilities, Investigator Bennek provided crucial support to the patrol unit. This involved responding to complex and resource-intensive calls, covering open shifts, and assisting in training of officers when needed.

### **Records Tech Division:**

Our Spring Lake Park Records Technician Division continued to provide a high level of custom service and efficiency in 2023. The Spring Lake Park Records Technician Division staffs the front police department window at the Spring Lake Park Police Department and provides phone support for citizens Monday-Friday. In addition to helping connect citizens to public safety services, our records unit achieved the following:

- Processed approximately 3000 police reports and supplement reports
- Filed approximately 569 citations
- Processed 65 permits to purchase firearms
- Completed 200 local records checks
- Processed 110 criminal history queries
- Processed 30 background checks for city employment and business licensing

### **Reserve Division:**

The Spring Lake Park Police Department Reserve Unit provided many valuable volunteer hours to the department and the community in 2023. During the course of 2023, our Reserve Unit consisted of three individuals who worked two hundred and six hours in our community throughout the year. The reserves provided services that would normally take up a considerable amount of time of our officers. This allows officers to focus on other incidents in our community. Utilizing the 2023 Dollar Value of Volunteer Hours for the State of Minnesota, this equated to approximately \$6,676.15 in wages saved.

On behalf of the entire department, we thank each and every one of our Reserve Officers for their service and dedication to the police department and our community.



**Crime Statistics:**

Summary of Index Crimes Submitted to the State for the 2023 National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRS)

<b>Group A Crimes</b>	<b>Agency 2021 Totals</b>	<b>Agency 2022 Totals</b>	<b>Agency 2023 Totals</b>
Arson	2	0	1
Assault Offenses	114	118	126
Bribery	0	0	0
Burglary	30	25	16
Counterfeiting/Forgery	9	11	16
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	98	45	38
Drug/Narcotic Violations	18	21	13
Drug Equipment Violations	3	7	2
Embezzlement	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	1	0	0
Fraud Offenses	52	49	40
Gambling Offenses	0	0	0
Homicide Offenses	0	0	0
Human Trafficking Offenses	0	0	0
Kidnaping/Abduction	2	0	2
Theft Offenses	226	156	120
Motor Vehicle Theft	28	33	23
Pornography/Obscene Material	1	0	1
Prostitution Offenses	1	0	0
Robbery	7	2	3
Sex Offenses	10	5	2
Sex Offenses, Nonforcible	0	0	0
Stolen Property Offenses	8	10	7
Weapon Law Violations	8	9	8
Animal Cruelty	1	2	4
<b>Group A Totals =</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>422</b>

**Crime Statistics:**

Summary of Index Crimes Submitted to the State for the 2023 National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRS)

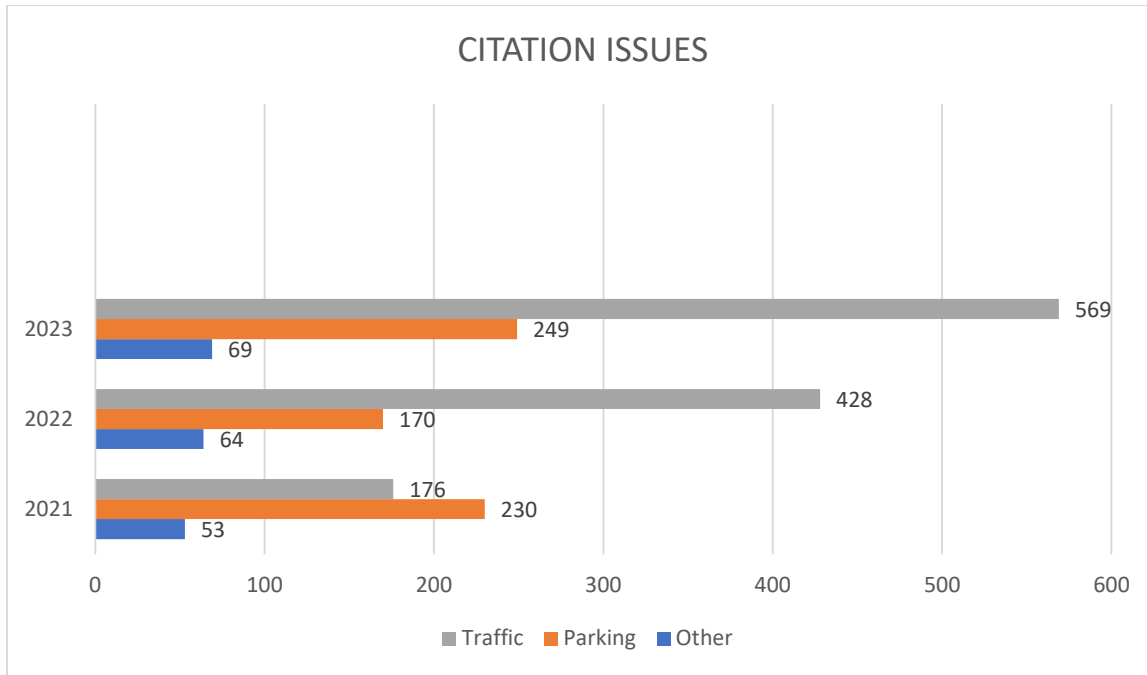
<u>Group B</u> Crimes	Agency <u>2021</u> Totals	Agency <u>2022</u> Totals	Agency <u>2023</u> Totals
Bad Checks	2	4	1
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	57	64	78
Driving Under the Influence	24	26	25
Drunkenness	0	0	6
Family Offenses, Nonviolent	1	1	2
Liquor Law Violations	6	1	6
Peeping Tom	0	0	0
Trespass of Real Property	8	15	17
All other Offenses	<u>120</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>111</u>
<b>Group B Totals =</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>246</b>

**Non-reportable- 6,507**

**Traffic stops- 2,123**

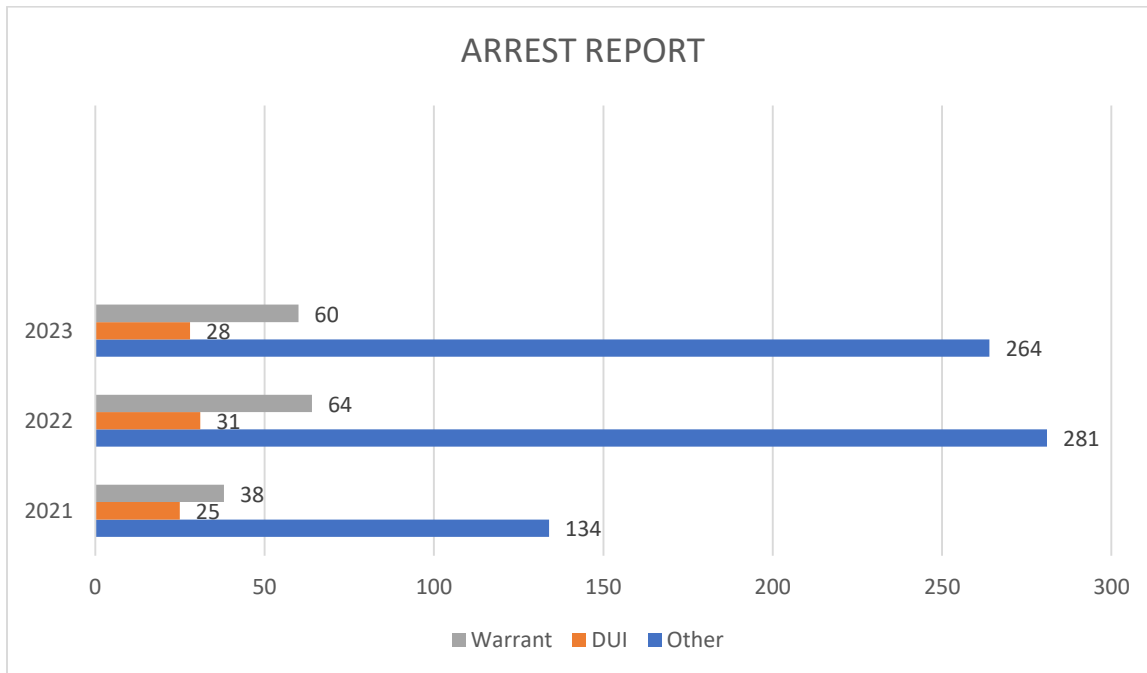
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## Citations Issued:



Blue: Other    Orange: Parking    Grey: Traffic

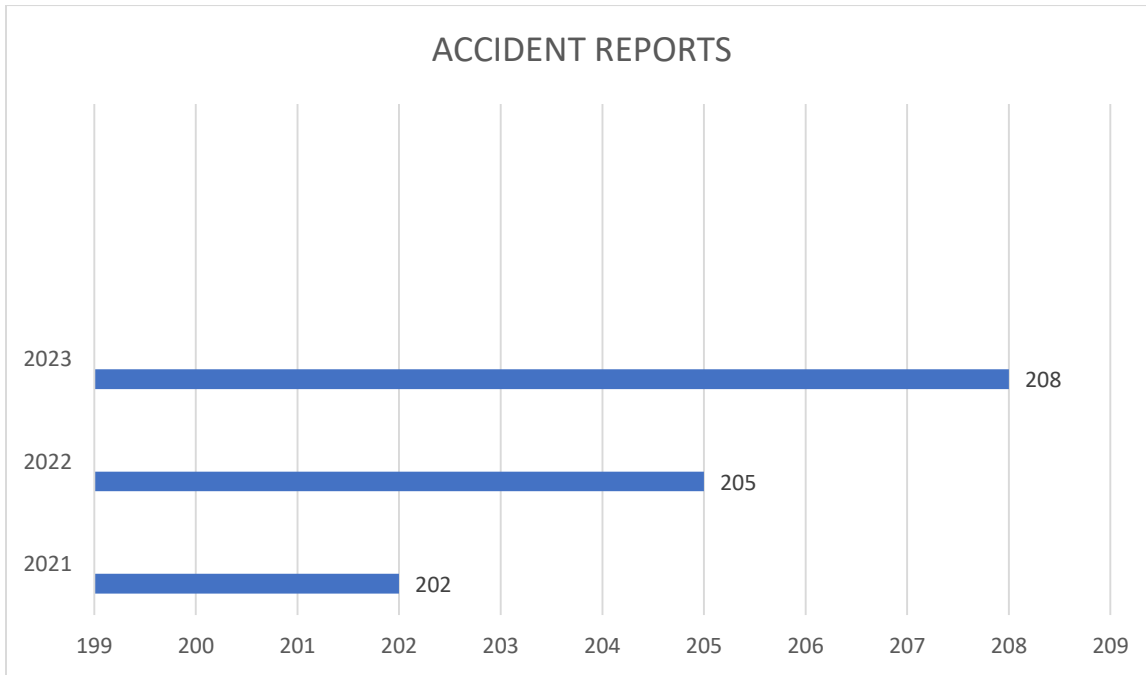
## Arrest Reports:



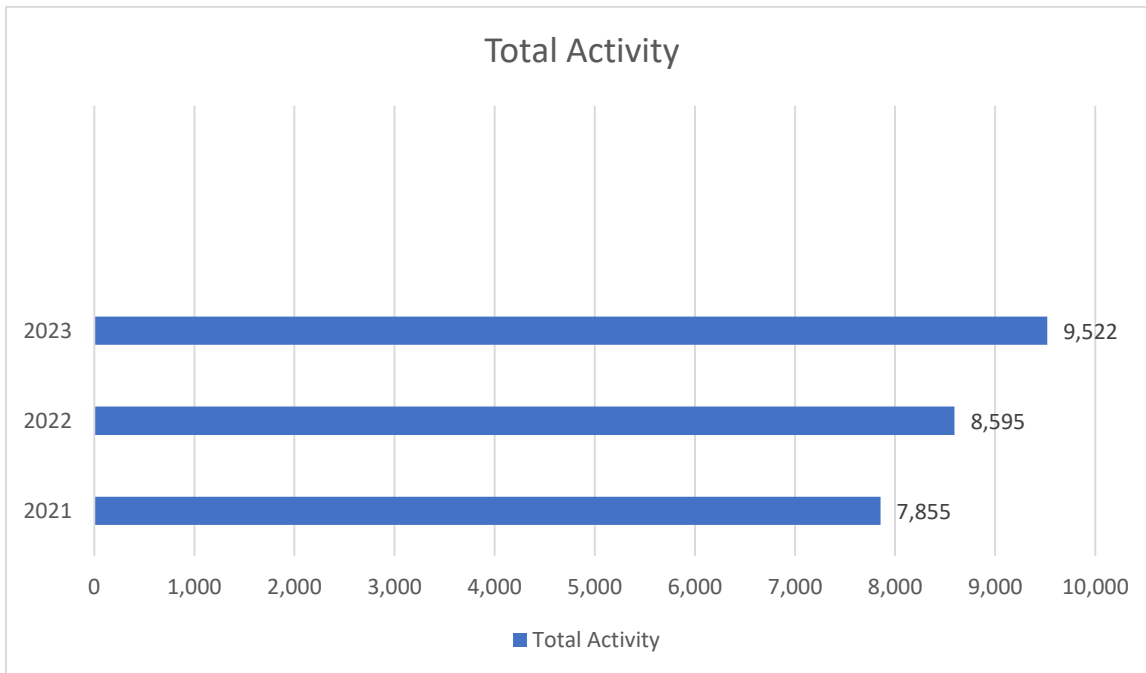
Blue: Other    Orange: DUI    Grey: Warrant

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## Traffic Accidents:



## Agency Total Activity:



## Community Engagement



Coffee with a Cop at HyVee



2023 Special Olympics Torch Run



Career Fair at HCTC



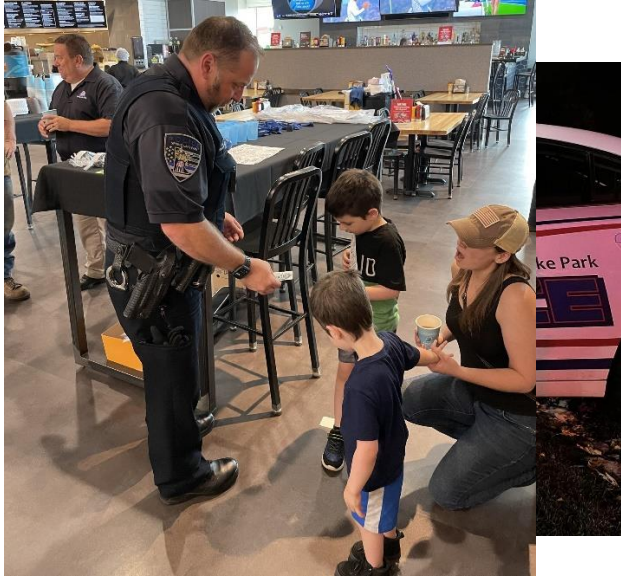
Night to Unite Party – Westwood Park



Start Your Engines Event



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Coffee with a Cop



Halloween Trunk or Treat



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## Heroes and Helpers Event

