



# Milwaukee County Park Rangers 2025 Year in Review



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# 2025 Review of Goals



Sponsored Ranger staff to receive Defensive Driving and Personal Safety/Self Defense training at M.A.T.C.

Increase Fee Compliance Revenue by 4.3%

Applied for Grants through Grants Coordinator to purchase much needed safety equipment for Rangers(e.g. ballistic vesting)

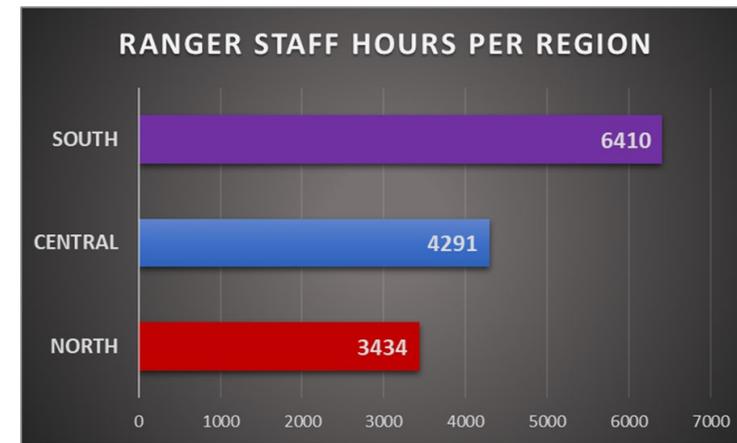
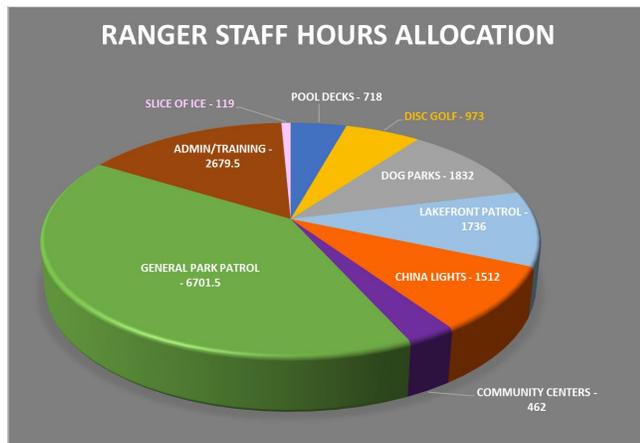
Continued to expand both seasonal and full-time recruitment

Expanded, supported, and fostered training opportunities for all Parks staff

# 2025 Patrol Hours



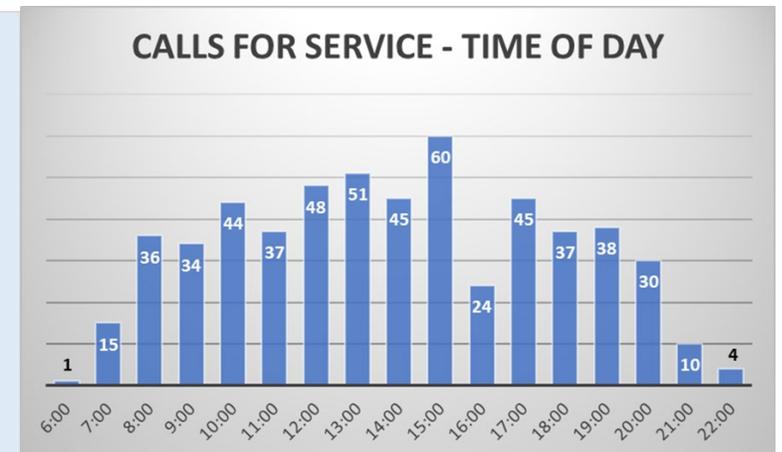
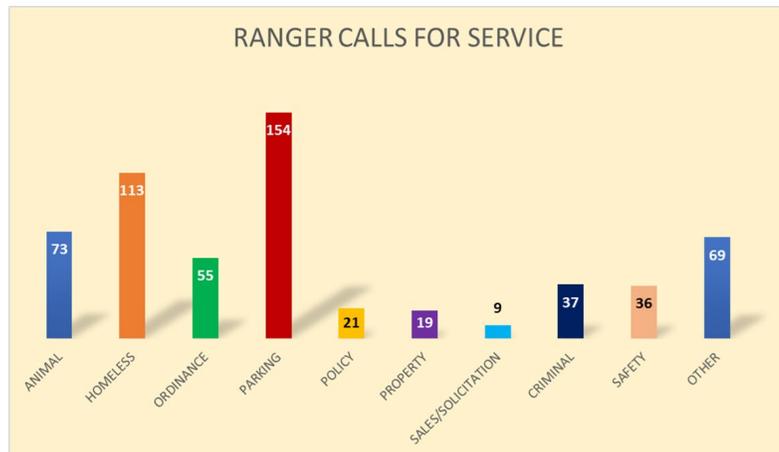
- Overtime is primarily limited to China Lights (reimbursed by Tianyu Arts), Senior On-Call Manager responsibilities (24/7 emergency coverage for 26 weeks annually), and Aquatics patrols, particularly during periods of extreme temperatures.
- As in years past, Ranger staff frequently shifted assigned hours to accommodate special events and specific/detailed patrol directives (1,519.75 hrs. @ China Lights)...also revamped Ranger schedule to provide more coverage on weekends and busy times (3p-7p)
- 86,807 miles placed onto six assigned vehicles
- 718.5 hours patrolled at Aquatic centers/pools in a three-month period



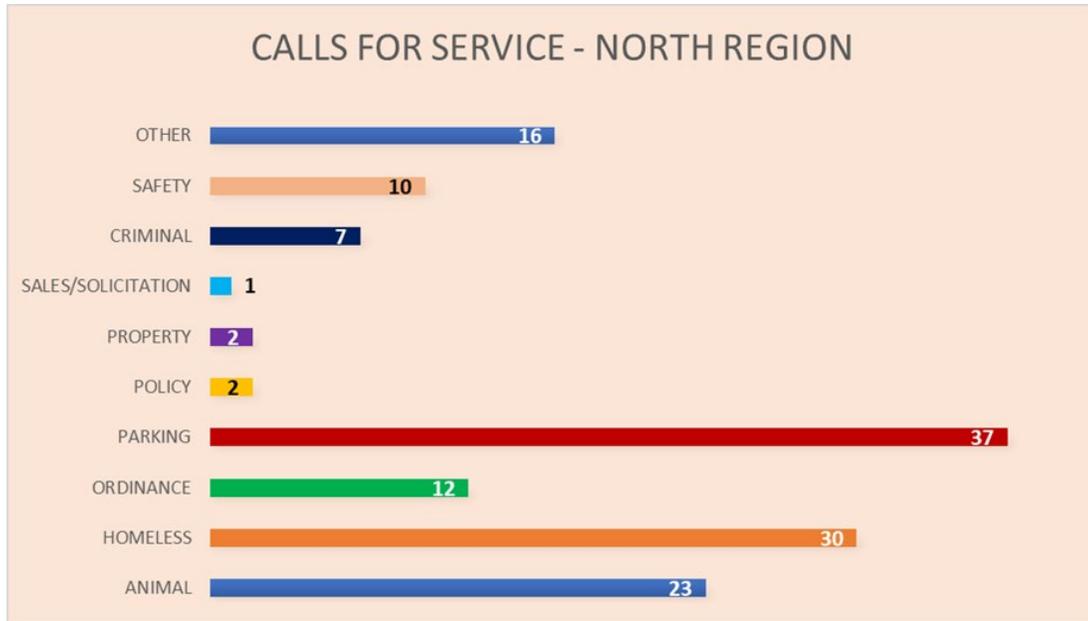
# 2025 Calls for Service



- 586 Calls for Service \* Incidents or activities that Rangers observe or manage during patrols are not included
- Calls in summer months accounted for 57.7%
- 26.3% or 154 calls were for Parking complaints
- 19.3% or 113 calls were for Unhoused challenges
- 92.8% of calls occurred between 8a and 8p
- Calls for service are *only* from either dispatch or Ranger hotline (414-257-7777)



# 2025 Calls for Service (cont'd)



## 2025 Dog Exercise Areas

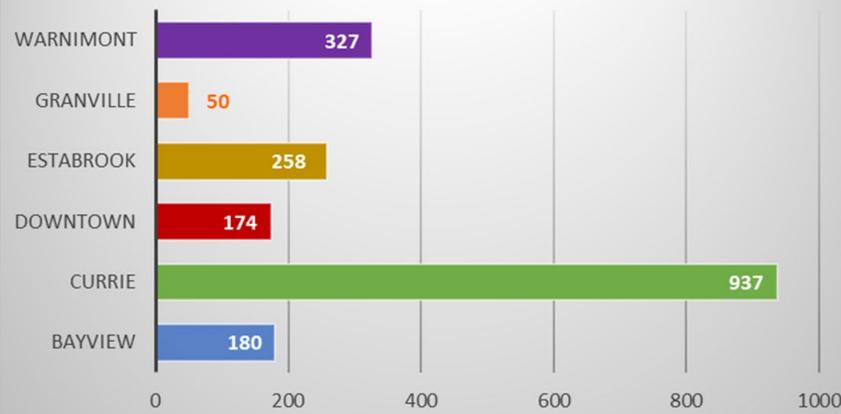


- 1,983 total permits sold
- 1,832 hours patrolled
- \$27.10/hour while on Fee Compliance focused patrols (*9.8% increase from 2024*)
- Patrol to enforce rules and “petiquette” is being adhered to is main priority
- Added the Downtown Dog Exercise Area on August 20

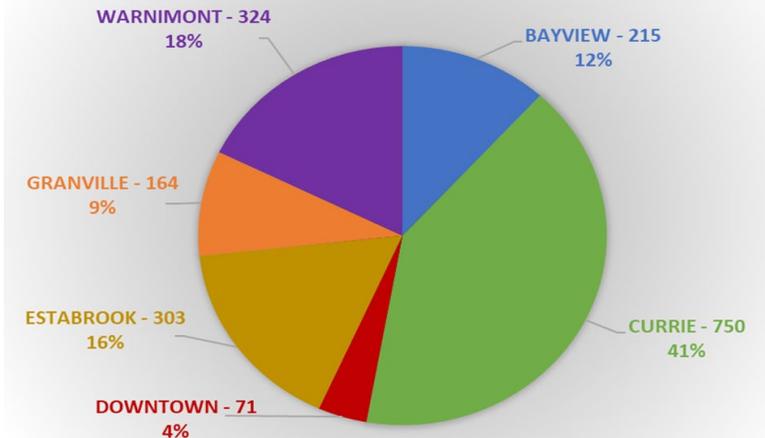
### DEA REVENUE



### DEA PERMITS ISSUED



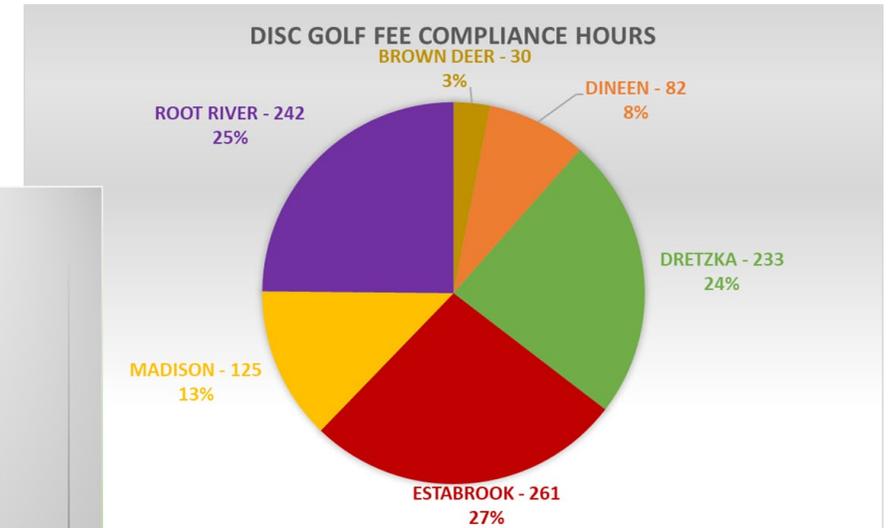
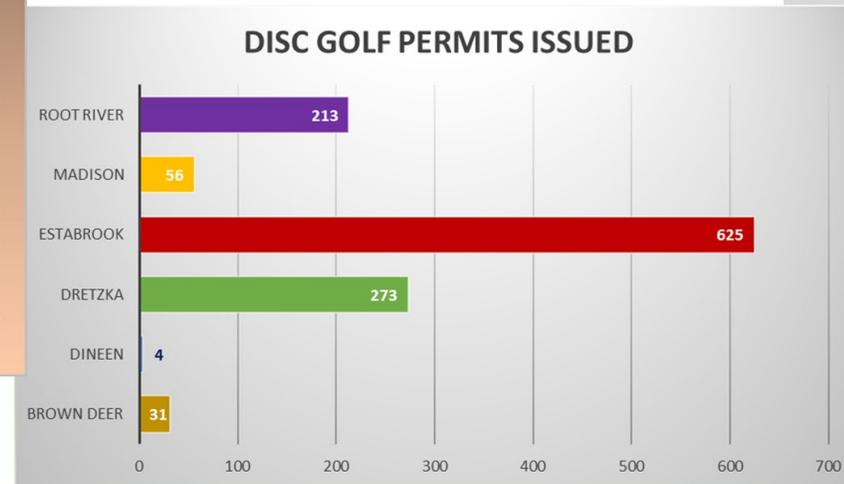
### DEA FEE COMPLIANCE HOURS



# 2025 Disc Golf



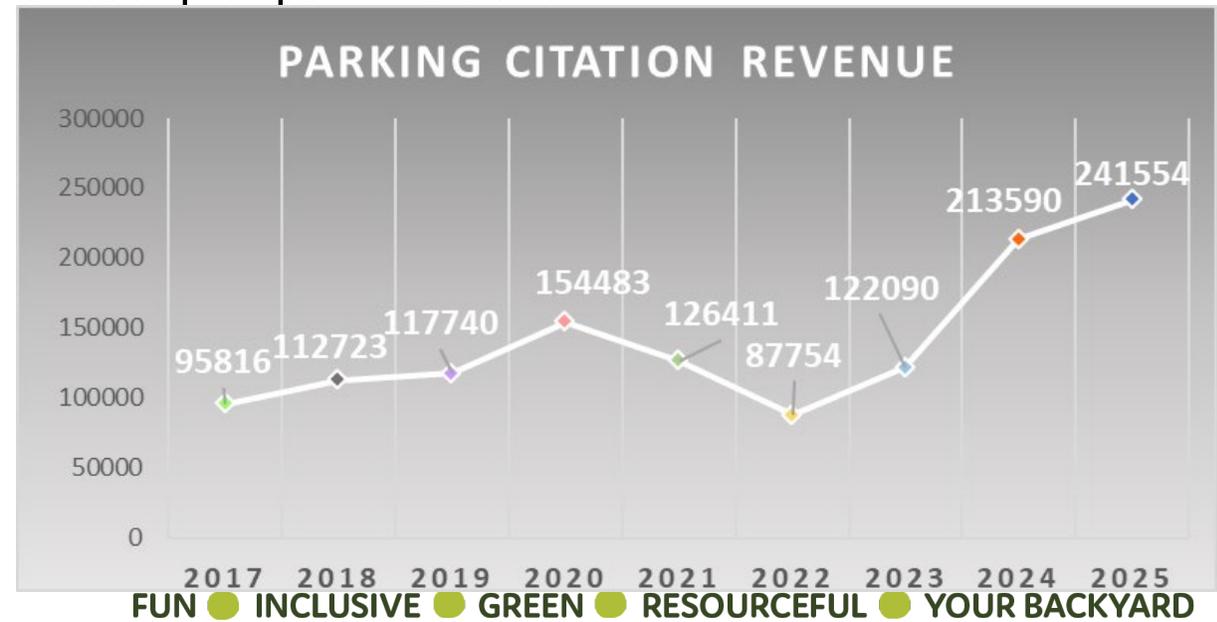
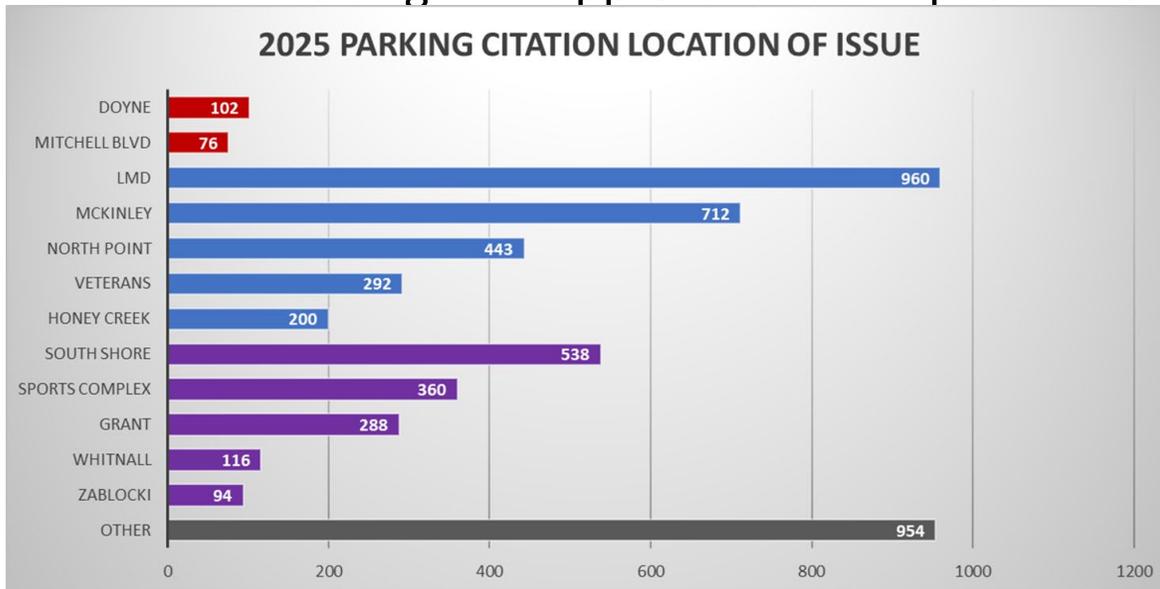
- 1,215 total permits sold
- 973.25 hours patrolled
- \$25.25/hour while on Fee Compliance focused patrols (*7.7% increase from 2024*)
- Ensure all that are 17 and up have a permit to play



# 2025 Parking Citations



- In 2025, we entered the second year of managing all Parks parking citation payments transferred from the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office as of January 1, 2024.
  - Previously collected \$29 per paid citation
  - Now collecting \$35 per paid citation, plus applicable late fees
  - Authorized to work directly with citizens on payment arrangements prior to court referral
  - 40% of issued citations were after parks closed...same as 2024
  - Awaiting TRIP approval and will pilot in 2026 to recoup unpaid citations





- \$315,765 in Ranger generated revenues encompassing Dog Exercise Areas, Disc Golf Courses, and Parking Citations (*4.3% increase from 2024*)



## 2025 Community and Special Events



- **China Lights (47 days)**
- **Summer Concert Series** (Washington, Humboldt, & Boerner Botanical)
- Numerous Mitchell Domes Events (Art Festival, Seasonal Show Domes, Art in the Green, free days)
- Numerous Wehr Nature Center Events (Halloween Haunts, Cider Sunday, Bug Day, Sugar Maple days)
- Multiple Sports Complex events: multiple Craft Relics, multiple sporting events, card shows, Gymnastics tournament
- Community Centers Events: **King-Back to School, Turkey giveaway; Kozy- Egghunt, King & Kozy-Breakfast with Santa, Wilson-WIAA Hockey playoffs**
- Lakefront Events: Three Lakefront Marathons, Kite Fest, UPAF Ride for the Arts, Roots & Wings Walk, Salmon Rama, **Air Show, July 3<sup>rd</sup> Drone Show, USA Triathlon**, Turkey Trot
- Numerous hiring events and seasonal orientation presentations (with Human Resources)
- Other Notable Events: Sherman Harvest Fest, Gordon Concert, LaFollette Movie Night, McGovern National Night Out, Town Hall meetings, County Budget Input sessions, Washington Park UEC Opening, Themed Slice of Ice Events
- Park locations that held election polling places
- Bike ride with County Executive as well as other MKE Healthy County Challenges
- Aquatics Conflict Resolution, De-escalation and non-escalation training-5 sessions

# Community and Special Events



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## 2025 Top 3 Accomplishments



Successfully developed and implemented a new summer rotation schedule for Ranger staff, in effect from Memorial Day through Labor Day, increasing full-time park patrol coverage by 60 hours each weekend (Friday–Sunday). The 15-week initiative delivered an additional 900 hours of patrols, significantly enhancing park safety and operational presence during peak season.



Successfully recruited and onboarded two new Full-Time Rangers who have already made a strong and positive impact within the Parks and the broader community. One hire advanced from over three years as a Seasonal Ranger and brings valuable military experience from the U.S. Army, while the other contributes more than 31 years of Milwaukee County service, including extensive experience with the former House of Correction and Emergency Management as a Dispatcher. Both demonstrated exceptional aptitude, completed training efficiently, and were rapidly deployed to second shift, where they frequently operate as an effective team.



Successful coordination of a cross-departmental suicide prevention initiative in collaboration with Parks staff, the Sheriff's Office, DHHS, and other partners. Through this coordinated effort, approximately 40 resource and prevention signs have been installed, or are currently being installed, across the Parks system to provide support and assistance to individuals in need.



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## 2026 Goals



Our goal is to create safe, welcoming, and healthy parks by building trust with the community, protecting natural resources, and providing a visible, service-oriented ranger presence across Milwaukee County Parks.

- **Optimize coverage across all 154 Parks and over 15,000 acres**
  - Each park receive at least three patrol visits per month and adjust accordingly to park size and events.
- **Continue to strengthen cross-agency collaboration**
  - To keep the frequency of information sharing meetings or briefings with MCSO, but also expand to begin new collaborative meetings with the likes of OEM, DHHS.
- **Adapt strategies to evolving community needs**
  - Will have patrol deployments adjusted seasonally using historical call-for-service data and community feedback. Also utilize information/feedback from our Community engagement team to adapt.



**YEAR LONG FOCUS: Safe, Welcoming Parks for All – A consistent emphasis on visibility, equity, and positive engagement across all ranger activities.**



MKEco.

# Questions / Discussion



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