



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Memorandum

DATE: May 27, 2020

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ana Ruiz, General Manager *AR*

FROM: Matt Anderson, Chief Ranger

SUBJECT: Calendar Year 2019 Ranger Activity Report

SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the enforcement and emergency response activities Rangers initiated or responded to on and off Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) lands in calendar year 2019. Historical information about the preceding four years is included for perspective.

The number of recorded violations has been declining since 2015, which is likely due to a number of factors including, 1) formation of the new Visitor Services Department in April of 2016, 2) staff and leadership turnover, 3) clarification of the roles and expectations of the generalist ranger model related to patrol, interpretation, natural resources, fire, and working with volunteers. These factors likely caused a pause in enforcement practices as new staff and supervisors grew into their new positions, and gained clarification of the enforcement and ranger priorities from the change in leadership at the various levels of the organization (General Manager, Assistant General Manager, and Department Manager levels). Veteran Rangers have also shared that they attribute fewer violations to more responsible land use especially amongst mountain bicyclists.

Emergency response and fire incidents in 2019 are down 21% compared to the 5-year average.

DISCUSSION

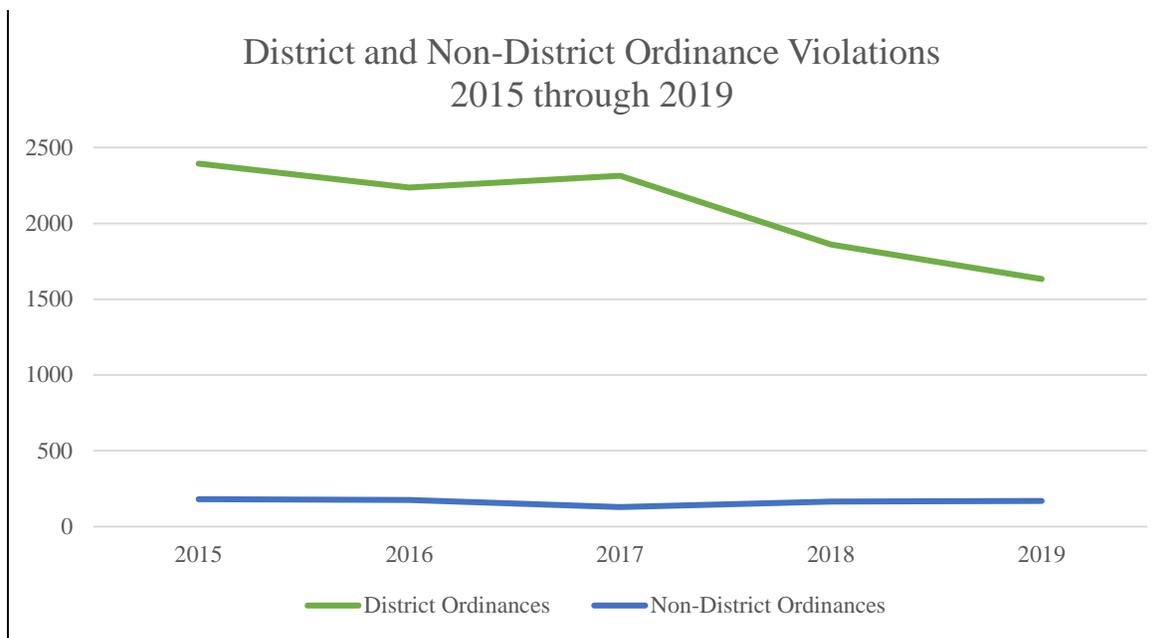
Information for this year's report was generated from the Incidents Database, which was placed in service for data collection on January 1, 2010. Visitor Services Department staff continues to refine the database to collect the desired information and improve the presentation of data and analysis from the system. Appendix A containing detailed information is provided for Board review. The Incidents Database and these summaries only include contacts that resulted in some form of written record, such as an incident report, written warning, citation, or mutual aid assistance. General assistance to preserve visitors, informational contacts, and verbal warnings are not captured.

District and Non-District Ordinance Violation Summary

2019 saw a 20% decrease in the total number violations recorded (District ordinances, including parking violations, and non-District Ordinances) in comparison with the 5-year average.

Violations of District ordinances represent the majority of issues that staff deal with. The most common District violations continue to be parking violations, after-hours use, entry to closed areas, and dog violations. The frequency of each violation is illustrated in Appendix A, Tables 1 and 2.

TOTAL VIOLATIONS	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5-year Average	2019 %Difference From 5-Year Average
District Ordinances	2394	2237	2313	1861	1633	2088	-22%
Non-District Ordinances	181	175	129	165	170	164	4%
TOTAL	2575	2412	2442	2026	1803	2252	-20%



Parking Violations

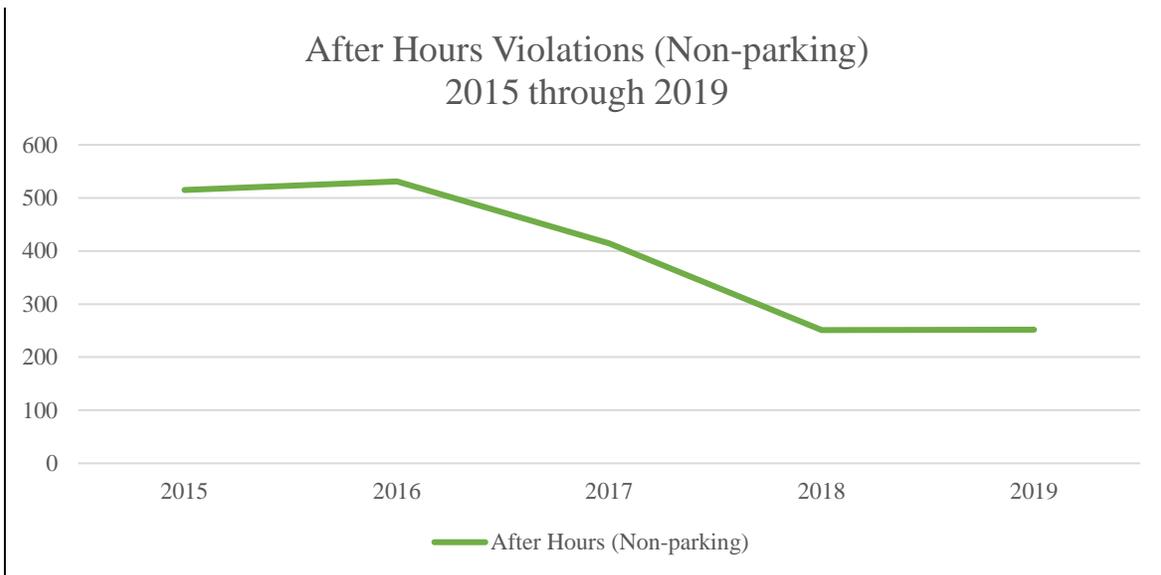
Below is a chart that displays the total number of parking citations by year, from 2015 through 2019. There were 531 parking citations issued in 2019, which represent a 17% decrease from the 5-year average. See Appendix A, Table 1 for more information.



The most frequent parking violation in 2019 continues to be after-hours parking, with most of them (59%) occurring at Rancho San Antonio County Park, as is typical; though this is a lower percentage than most previous years. See Appendix A, Chart 1 for details on trends of the percentage of after-hours parking violations issued at Rancho San Antonio County Park.

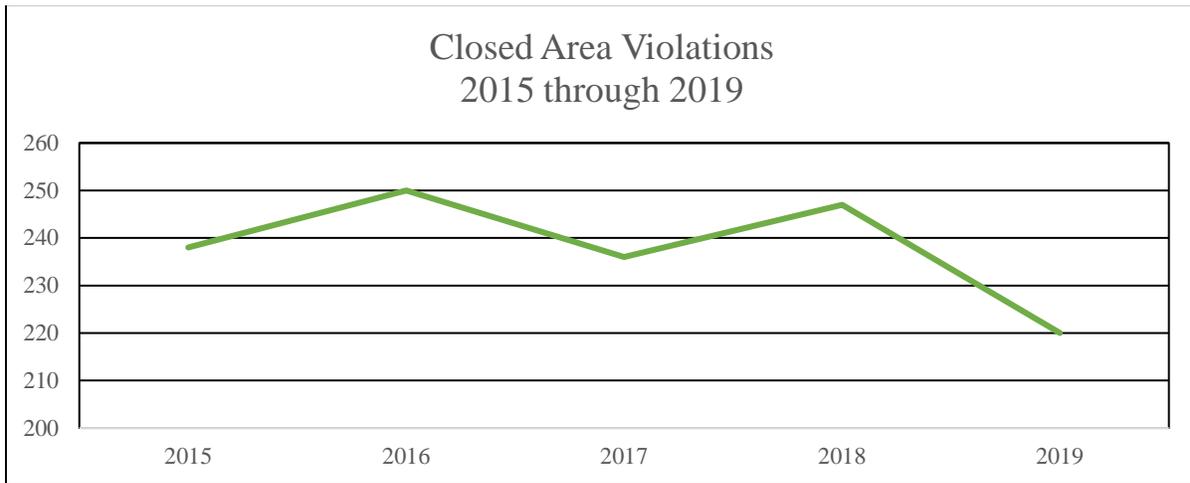
After Hours (Non-parking)

Below is a chart that shows the total after hours (non-parking) violations from 2015 through 2019. There were 252 after hours citations issued, which is a 36% decrease from the 5-year average. See Appendix A, Table 1 for more information.

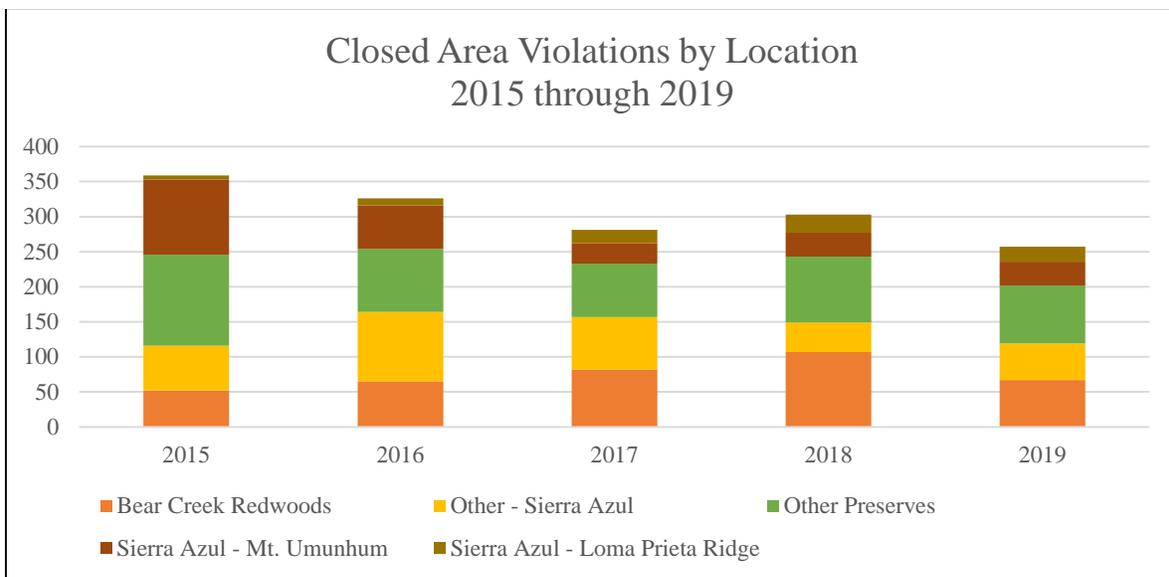


Closed Areas

The chart below shows total closed area violations by year from 2015 through 2019. There were 220 closed area violations issued in 2019, which was down 8% from the 5-year average. See Appendix A, Table 3 for more info.

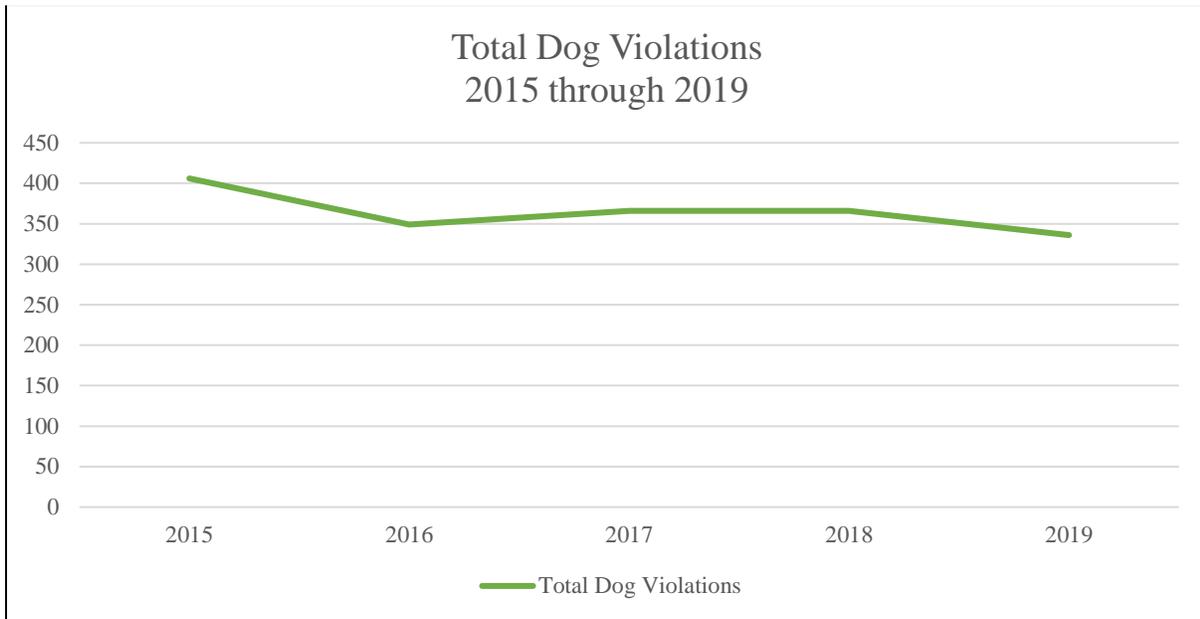


The chart below shows the closed area violations according to frequency at the preserves with the highest average violations. The fluctuation of violations at Mt. Umunhum and Bear Creek Redwoods was likely due to the opening of those preserves in 2017 and 2019, respectively.

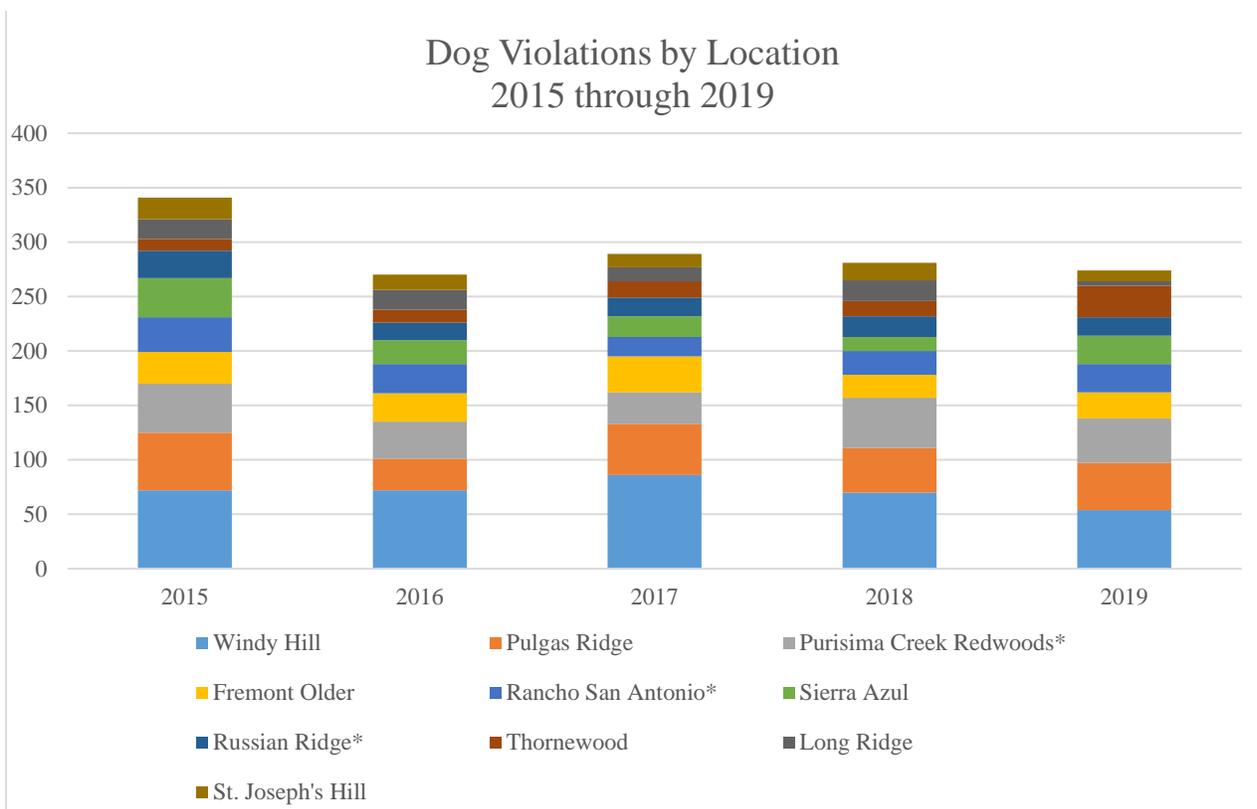


Dog Violations

The total dog violations for 2019 was 336. The majority of the dog violations in 2019 were for dog off-leash (186), a 9% decrease from the 5-year average. Second most common was dogs in a prohibited area (150), a 5% decrease from the 5-year average. See Appendix A, Table 4 for more information.

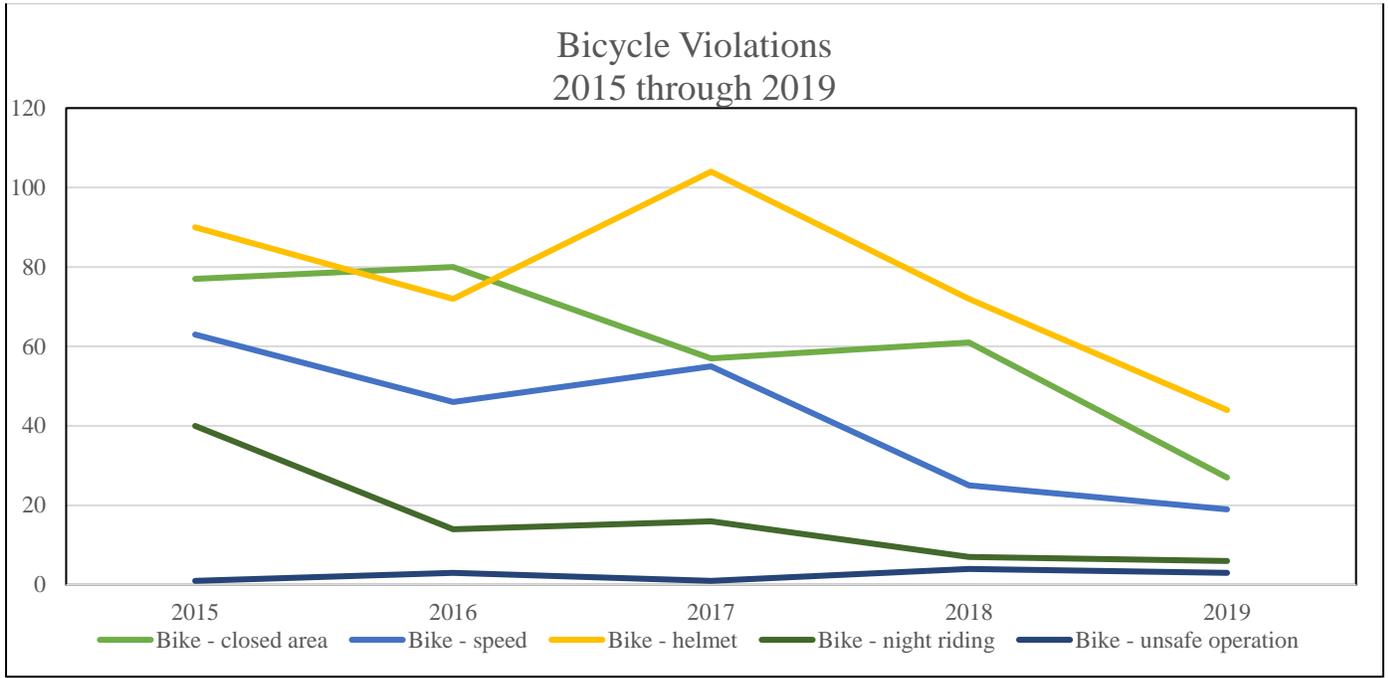


The chart below shows the total dog violations according to frequency at the preserves with the ten highest average violations. The preserves with asterisks next to the names do not allow dogs. See Appendix A, Table 5 for details.



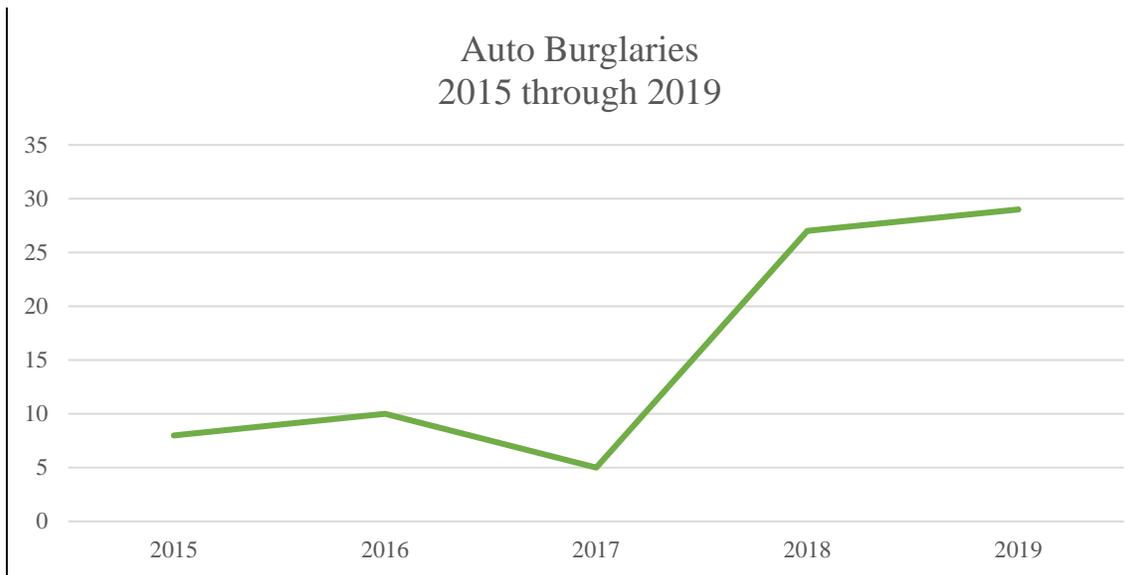
Bicycle Violations

Total bicycle violations for 2019 (93) decreased by 53% from the 5-year average, with the most frequent violation being bicycling without a helmet (44). See Appendix A, Table 6 for more information.



Auto Burglaries

Auto burglaries increased 84% in 2019 from the 5-year average. See Appendix A, Table 7 for a list of burglaries by location.



The majority of auto burglaries during 2018 and 2019 have occurred at Rancho San Antonio County Park (52% and 55% respectively). See Appendix A, Chart 2 for details on trends of the percentage of burglaries occurring at Rancho San Antonio County Park since 2015.

Emergency Response

The total number of responses to non-fire emergencies (98) and fire incidents (12) was 110 in 2019 (see Appendix A, Table 8 for details). Non-fire emergencies were down 22% from the 5-year average of 126. Fire incidents were down 5% from the 5-year average of 13.

43 of 98 non-fire emergencies and 5 of 12 fire incidents were off District land.

Of the fire incidents on District lands, 3 were live fires, 3 were evidence of fires, and 1 was unexplained smoke in a District residence (cause unknown). See Appendix A, Table 9 for more information.

District rangers responded to 6 confirmed fatalities during 2019. Of these, 3 were cardiac arrests, 1 was a motorcycle accident, 1 was a homicide, and 1 is unknown. Total number of off District land fatality responses was 3. See Appendix A, Table 10 for more information.

NEXT STEPS

Given the anticipation of more retirements on the horizon, staffing in the Visitor Services Department is expected to remain in flux for the next several years. With this in mind, the Department Manager will continue to work with Human Resources to develop a strategic recruitment plan to fill the projected vacancies. In addition, the District will continue to allocate time and effort in training new leaders and in completing an update to the Ranger Operations Manual.

Attachment

Appendix A – Ranger Activity Data

APPENDIX A - Ranger Activity Data

TABLE 1. VIOLATIONS OF DISTRICT ORDINANCES, IN ORDER OF FREQUENCY IN 2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5-year Average	2019 %Difference From 5-year Average
Parking after hours	482	419	415	331	305	390	-22%
After hours	515	531	414	251	252	393	-36%
Parking	208	181	384	264	226	253	-11%
Closed area	238	250	236	247	220	238	-8%
Dogs - off leash	228	180	225	203	186	204	-9%
Other violations	143	209	212	189	155	182	-15%
Dogs - prohibited	175	166	141	159	150	158	-5%
Bike - helmet	90	72	104	72	44	76	-42%
Bike - closed area	77	80	57	61	27	60	-55%
Bike - speed	63	46	55	25	19	42	-54%
Off road vehicle	23	24	20	19	13	20	-34%
Vandalism	67	34	12	12	8	27	-70%
Fishing	8		1	6	7	6	27%
Bike - night riding	40	14	16	7	6	17	-64%
Campfires	11	7	7	5	6	7	-17%
Camping	23	21	13	5	6	14	-56%
Bike - unsafe operation	1	3	1	4	3	2	25%
Dump/litter	2			1		2	-100%
TOTAL	2394	2237	2313	1861	1633	2088	-22%

TABLE 2. VIOLATIONS OF NON-DISTRICT ORDINANCES, IN ORDER OF FREQUENCY IN 2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5-year Average	2019 %Difference From 5-year Average
Non-District Parking	55	61	70	74	60	64	-6%
Other Crimes	63	54	34	38	56	49	14%
Auto burglaries	8	10	5	27	29	16	84%
Resisting peace officer	12	6	4	10	11	9	28%
False information	6	8		5	7	7	8%
Assault	1	3	7	2	4	3	18%
Alcohol - possession by minor	8	3	1	2	2	3	-38%
Marijuana - possession/cultivation	28	30	8	7	1	15	-93%
Poaching							0%
TOTAL	181	175	129	165	170	164	4%

**CHART 1. Percentage of After Hour Parking Tickets
Ocurring at Rancho San Antonio
2015 through 2019**

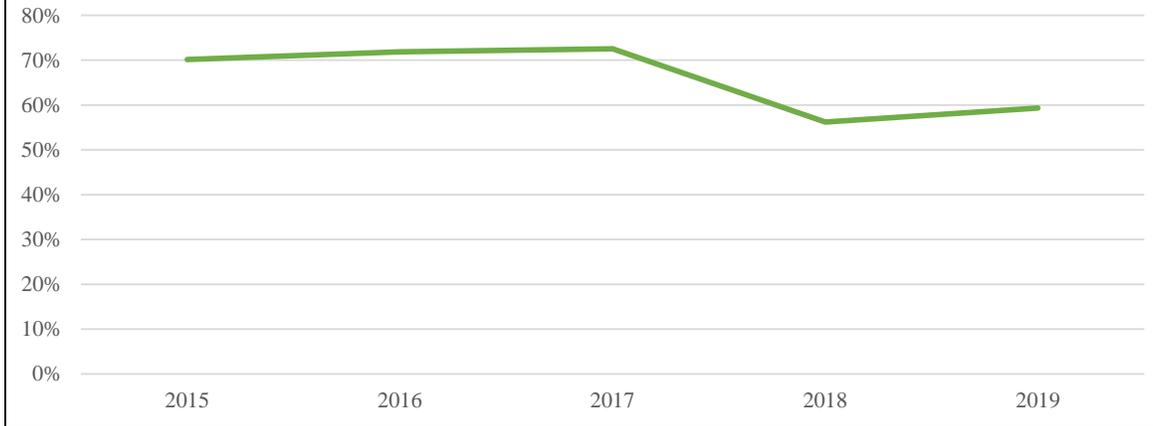


TABLE 3. CLOSED AREA VIOLATIONS BY LOCATION	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5-year Average	2019 %Difference From 5-year Average
Bear Creek Redwoods	52	65	82	107	67	75	-10%
Sierra Azul	55	95	66	34	51	60	-15%
Sierra Azul - Mt. Umunhum	107	62	29	34	34	53	-36%
Sierra Azul - Loma Prieta Ridge	6	10	19	26	21	16	28%
Monte Bello			10	10	11	10	6%
El Corte de Madera Creek	0	7	2	14	4	5	-26%
Sierra Azul - Rancho de Guadalupe	9	4	9	3	1	5	-81%
Long Ridge			2		8	5	60%
Rancho San Antonio	2	1	4	7	8	4	82%
Sierra Azul - Twin Creeks				4		4	-100%
Purissima Creek Redwoods		1		2	7	3	110%
Tunitas Creek			3			3	-100%
Russian Ridge	4	2				3	-100%
La Honda Creek		3	3	1	4	3	45%
Windy Hill			1	3	2	2	0%
St. Joseph's Hill	2					2	-100%
Skyline Ridge			2		1	2	-33%
Miramontes Ridge			1			1	-100%
No Preserve			1			1	-100%
Pulgas Ridge			1			1	-100%
Teague Hill			1			1	-100%
Ravenswood					1	1	0%
Fremont Older	1					1	-100%
Saratoga Gap				1		1	-100%
Sierra Azul - Cathedral Oaks				1		1	-100%
TOTAL	238	250	236	247	220	238	-8%

TABLE 4. TOTAL DOG VIOLATIONS						2019	%Difference
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5-year Average	From 5-year Average
Dogs - prohibited	175	166	141	159	150	158	-5%
Dogs - off leash	228	180	225	203	186	204	-9%
Other violations	3	3	0	4	0	2	-100%
TOTAL	406	349	366	366	336	365	-8%

TABLE 5. DOG VIOLATIONS BY LOCATION						2019	%Difference
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5-year Average	From 5-year Average
Windy Hill	72	72	86	70	54	71	-24%
Pulgas Ridge	53	29	47	41	43	43	1%
Purisima Creek Redwoods	45	34	29	46	41	39	5%
Fremont Older	29	26	33	21	24	27	-10%
Rancho San Antonio	32	27	18	22	26	25	4%
Sierra Azul	36	22	19	13	26	23	12%
Russian Ridge	25	16	17	19	17	19	-10%
Thornewood	11	12	15	14	29	16	79%
Long Ridge	18	18	13	19	4	14	-72%
St. Joseph's Hill	20	14	12	16	10	14	-31%
Sierra Azul - Mt. Umunhum	11	18	7	14	10	12	-17%
El Corte de Madera Creek	9	7	14	9	3	8	-64%
Monte Bello	4	8	14	5	5	7	-31%
Skyline Ridge	7	4	6	8	7	6	9%
El Sereno	7	10	6	6	2	6	-68%
Bear Creek Redwoods	3	7	6	1	8	5	60%
Picchetti Ranch	4	4	2	5	9	5	88%
Ravenswood	1	1		14	3	5	-37%
Coal Creek	3	3	6	7	3	4	-32%
Los Trancos	2	2	9	6	3	4	-32%
Teague Hill	7	5		1		4	-100%
La Honda Creek	3	4	5	1	6	4	58%
No Preserve	2	3		3	1	2	-56%
Foothills				2		2	-100%
Tunitas Creek			2			2	-100%
Saratoga Gap		2		1		2	-100%
Stevens Creek	2				1	2	-33%
Sierra Azul - Kennedy-Limekiln		1				1	-100%
Sierra Azul - Loma Prieta Ridge				1	1	1	0%
Sierra Azul - Rancho de Guadalupe				1		1	-100%
TOTAL	406	349	366	366	336	365	-8%

TABLE 6. TOTAL BICYCLE VIOLATIONS						2019	%Difference
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5-year Average	From 5-year Average
Bike - closed area	77	80	57	61	27	60	-55%
Bike - speed	63	46	55	25	19	42	-54%
Bike - helmet	90	72	104	72	44	76	-42%
Bike - night riding	40	14	16	7	6	17	-64%
Bike - unsafe operation	1	3	1	4	3	2	25%
TOTAL	271	215	233	169	93	196	-53%

TABLE 7. AUTO BURGLARIES BY LOCATION						2019	%Difference
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5-year Average	From 5-year Average
Rancho San Antonio	5	3	1	14	16	8	105%
Sierra Azul		3	2	8	6	5	26%
Picchetti Ranch				3		3	-100%
Long Ridge					2	2	0%
Purisima Creek Redwoods	2	1		2	3	2	50%
Bear Creek Redwoods		1				1	-100%
El Corte De Madera Creek	1				1	1	0%
No Preserve		1	1			1	-100%
Skyline Ridge		1	1			1	-100%
Windy Hill					1	1	0%
TOTAL	8	10	5	27	29	16	84%

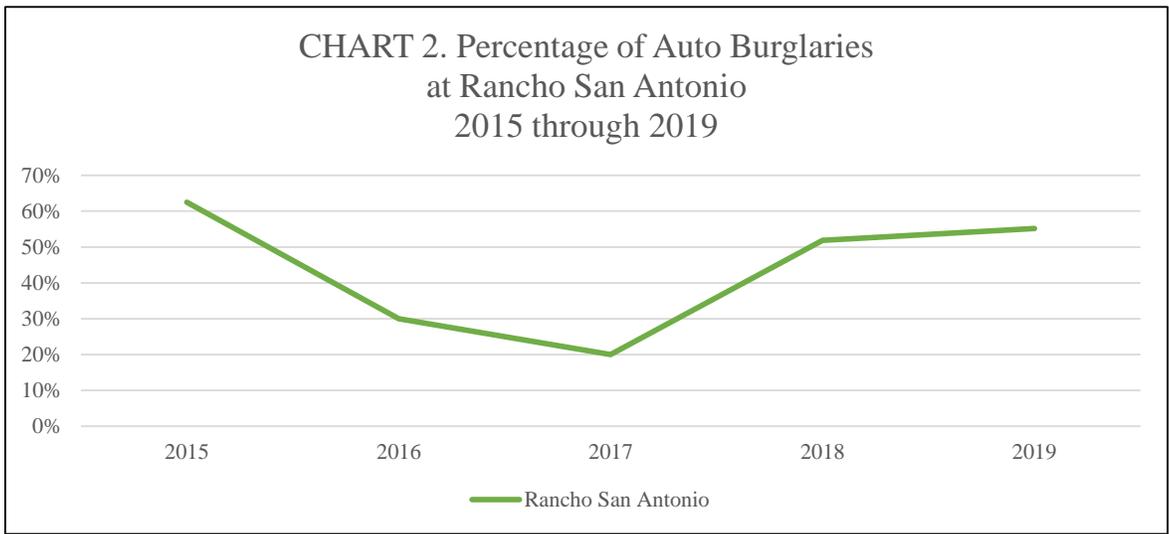


TABLE 8. EMERGENCY RESPONSE	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5-year Average	2019 %Difference From 5-year Average	Number of Off-District Occurences 2019
Animal Incident	2	2	1	0	2	1	43%	1
Bicycle Accident	26	35	28	31	22	28	-23%	5
Equestrian Accident	1	1	0	1	1	1	25%	0
Hazmat	1		3	0	0	1	-100%	0
Hiking/Running Accident	21	14	37	23	15	22	-32%	2
Lost Person/Search and Rescue	1	1	0	4	2	2	25%	2
Motorcycle Accident	16	3	2	5	4	6	-33%	3
Other First Aid	28	32	25	27	22	27	-18%	8
Vehicle Accident	45	36	40	39	30	38	-21%	22
TOTAL (non-fire)	141	124	136	130	98	126	-22%	43
Fire Incident	13	13	14	11	12	13	-5%	5
TOTAL	154	137	150	141	110	138	-21%	48

TABLE 9. FIRE INCIDENTS IN 2019	On District Land	Off District Land	Total
Live Fire	3	5	8
Fire Evidence	3	0	3
Other	1	0	1
TOTAL	7	5	12

TABLE 10. FATALITIES IN 2019	On District Land	Off District Land	Total
Fatality - Accident	0	1	1
Fatality - Homicide	1	0	1
Cardiac Arrest	2	1	3
Unknown	0	1	1
TOTAL	3	3	6