



SLP Police

Total calls for service:
50,668
1 call every 10 minutes

Top 5 calls for service

1. Traffic stops
2. Suspicious activity
3. Welfare checks
4. Alarms
5. Theft

Part 1 * crimes reported
1,947

- **96 crimes against persons** (assault, robbery, rape)
- **1,851 property crimes** (theft, burglary, vehicle theft, arson)

** Includes theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, aggravated assault, robbery, rape, arson and homicide*

Traffic stops: 3,352
Warnings: 2,195
Citations: 733

Part 2 ** crimes reported
1,130

**** Driving while intoxicated (DWI), narcotics, vandalism, forgery/fraud, criminal sexual conduct, disorderly conduct, other assault, obscenity, stolen property, fleeing police, gambling, liquor violations and weapons offenses**

Animal calls: 701
(general, bark, bite, cruelty, coyote, dangerous dog, at large, wildlife)

Animal impound: 53

Busiest day of the week is **Friday**
Busiest time of the day is from **7 – 8 p.m.**

2020 budget

In 2020, \$10,242,232 was budgeted for expenditures for police protection and communications. Of that, 92% – \$9,403,155 – was allocated for salaries and benefits.

Top citations

- Parking violations
- Driving after revocation or suspension
- Speed
- Vehicle registration

549 gun permits issued
67 solicitor permits issued

May was the busiest month:
7,421 reports written
68 DWI arrests
822 arrests
52 individuals booked into jail



Letter from the chief



Trust between law enforcement agencies and the people they protect and serve is essential in a democracy. It is key to the stability of our communities, the integrity of our criminal justice system and the safe and effective delivery of policing services. On May 26, 2020, the role of four Minneapolis police officers in the death of George Floyd broke this trust across our nation and forced all police agencies to rebuild the trust of the people we serve.

As the chief of police, I am honored to continue the proud tradition of community-oriented policing in St. Louis Park. We are committed to partnerships with our community, transparency, fundamental fairness, treating everyone with respect and dignity, and providing a voice to the community. These principles are the guideposts of community-oriented policing. This model has assisted our department in building trust with the community up to this point, and I am confident it will continue to assist as we move forward.

In July 2020, at the request of the St. Louis Park City Council, we provided an overview to council members of the police department's use-of-force policy. The city council supported the police department's proposal to form a workgroup to work with police staff on updating the use-of-force policy to comply with the newly legislated model policy. The workgroup included volunteers from the city's police advisory and human rights commissions and the multicultural advisory committee.

Before its first meeting, the workgroup received the police department's current use-of-force policy along with the model policy provided by the Minnesota Board of Police Officers Standards and Training. During three subsequent virtual meetings in October and November, the workgroup reviewed the policy, engaged in policy discussions, provided updates to each of their commissions and committee, and provided valuable community input on policy recommendations.

Workgroup recommendations were incorporated into the final revised use-of-force policy that was adopted and implemented by the police department. All St. Louis Park police officers completed training on the new use-of-force policy by the Dec. 15, 2020, deadline required by the Minnesota Police Accountability Act.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/police to read the new use-of-force policy and to learn more about the St. Louis Park Police Department.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/police to learn more about the department's community-oriented policing model and our practices for hiring, training, use of force and service to the community and schools.

Our staff takes great pride in serving and engaging our community to make St. Louis Park a great place to live, work and visit. We are grateful for the ongoing support and partnerships with our elected officials, city administrators and the community.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as the chief of police for the City of St. Louis Park.

Mike Harcey, chief of police
St. Louis Park Police Department

Quality



Pathways to Policing

The multi-agency Pathways to Policing program is designed to address a drop in the number of police officer applicants and to attract candidates of color, women and others with nontraditional backgrounds. The program focuses on candidates with college degrees who are interested in a career in law enforcement but don't have the means or ability to attend a law enforcement academic program while continuing their current careers. In 2019, the Pathways to Policing program received an excellence award for community diversity and inclusion from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

Chaplaincy program

The chaplaincy program includes five volunteer chaplains who are available as professional, nondenominational resources to provide confidential spiritual guidance and counseling for department staff, their families and the community. The St. Louis Park chaplains donate hundreds of hours of their time to our community every year.



Responsiveness



Drug Take Back Day

At an October 2020 event, 286 pounds of prescription drugs were collected as part of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. This compares to 323 pounds of prescription drugs collected in 2019 over the course of two events.



Medicine disposal

The police department is part of Hennepin County's coordinated medicine disposal program. A drop box is available in the police department lobby 24 hours a day, seven days a week for collection of household medicines. In 2020, 821 pounds of prescription medications were collected in the lobby drop box. Acceptable items include prescription, over-the-counter and pet medicines. Medicines should be brought in their original containers. No identification is required, and the service is free. Visit www.hennepin.us/medicine for a list of accepted medicines.

Police substations (COP Shops)

To provide district police officers with resources in the neighborhoods they serve, the police department operates several substations (COP Shops) throughout the city. COP Shops are equipped with all the necessary resources for officers to write reports, meet with community members and maintain a presence in the neighborhoods. COP Shops are located at:

- The Shoppes at Knollwood, 8332 Hwy. 7
- Excelsior & Grand, 4717 Park Commons Drive
- The Shops at West End, 1623 West End Blvd.

Collaboration



Mission and philosophy

The mission of the St. Louis Park Police Department is to provide a safe community through quality service, community partnerships and professionalism.

The department's operating philosophy includes:

- Committing to community-oriented policing
- Delivering effective and efficient services
- Providing a positive work environment for employees

Through its mission and philosophy, the police department seeks to support the city's overall mission of providing collaborative, quality and responsive services to residents.

School resource officers

Three police officers are assigned as school resource officers during the school year, serving as resources for students, teachers and school administrators. One officer is assigned to St. Louis Park High School and another at St. Louis Park Middle School, with a third serving private schools, including Benilde-St. Margaret's.

Police multicultural advisory committee

The police multicultural advisory committee was created in July 2015 with the mission of enhancing communication and understanding between law enforcement and the community and to create an inclusive environment for all. In collaboration with St. Louis Park Community Education, it hosts an annual Iftar dinner at Lenox Community Center, in addition to regular monthly meetings attended by group members, community members and police officers from the department. This year, volunteers from the committee participated on the use-of-force policy workgroup (*see letter from the chief*).



Police advisory commission

The police advisory commission's goals are to:

- Increase awareness of police department capabilities and services
- Provide an opportunity for community involvement and input in police services
- Encourage positive interactions between the police department and the community

The work of the commission changes as the needs of the community change. This year, volunteers from the commission participated on the use-of-force policy workgroup (*see letter from the chief*).

Winter and spring break programs

The community outreach team offers a winter and spring school break program that focuses on at-risk youth in the community who have uncertain home and life schedules during long school breaks. These programs are filled with fun events for both the youth and officers, including ice skating, snow tubing, trampoline parks, skateboarding, virtual reality and more. Along with the fun are educational visits to museums and manufacturing facilities, such as a soda bottling company and a U.S. Bank Stadium tour. The program also includes a community give back event, with activities such as picking up trash from the skate park and packing food boxes, provided by St. Louis Park-based Matter, to serve the homeless.



Outreach



Youth activities

The St. Louis Park Police Department continued its tradition of Cops and Kids Holiday Shopping, but virtually. Officers shopped using submitted wish lists, then wrapped gifts and conducted no-contact deliveries to youth participants and their families. Thank you to Cub Foods-West End and Target for their support.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following youth activities were not held in 2020. It's hoped that these events will return in 2021.

- Skateapalooza helps build trust between officers and the community and introduces kids to skateboarding at the outdoor skate park at Carpenter Park.
- Fishing with a Cop in Wolfe Park attracts hundreds of community youth over its three sessions in the spring and summer.
- Basketball in the Park has partnered with Perspectives, Inc. to host this program at Ainsworth Park for more than a decade.
- Jobs in the Park is a three-day event that educates youth on job opportunities with the City of St. Louis Park, including in parks, recreation and maintenance. It also provides information on how to search, apply and interview for jobs. The program focuses on at-risk teens, a group often not provided such opportunities. This initiative has led to an effective collaboration between St. Louis Park Public Schools, the City of St. Louis Park and Methodist Hospital.

Citizens' Police Academy

After skipping 2020, the Citizens' Police Academy will return in 2021 in expanded form, allowing a small group of community members to learn about the police department's work helping and providing service to the community.

Pink Patch Project

In 2019, the St. Louis Park Police Department joined the Pink Patch Project, selling collectible uniform patches during the month of October to help bring awareness and an end to breast cancer. In 2020, pink St. Louis Park police patches and challenge coins were available for purchase throughout the month of October, raising \$1,100. Proceeds were split between the American Cancer Society and a St. Louis Park police officer whose family was affected by a breast cancer diagnosis in 2020.



Lights On!

For some families, a broken turn signal or taillight means choosing between paying for the repair over another important expense. The Lights On! program allows officers to issue a voucher to a driver of a vehicle with a broken light. The driver can then redeem the voucher at a participating service provider for a free repair.

Mental health support

Police officers are more likely than any other emergency responders to encounter a community member experiencing a mental health crisis. The police department partners with Hennepin County Behavioral Health and the Hopkins Police Department to bring a senior social worker into the station and out in the community alongside officers. Following a short-term case management model, our social worker partner receives referrals from officers and establishes needed connections between people in crisis and the services they need. This is aimed at reducing repeated interactions, preventing unnecessary arrests and guarding against uses of force.

Hundreds of referrals were made in 2020 to help community members access help and care. In addition, the police department's multidisciplinary mental health workgroup identified and designed hours of useful training for officers and dispatchers on autism spectrum disorders, adverse childhood experiences and mental health emergencies. Another major accomplishment of the group was the drafting and enactment of a trauma responsive policing policy that provides guidance on minimizing the unintended effects of police response to criminal activity on young people in our community.

Vitals™ Aware Services

Vitals™ Aware Services provides first responders with crucial information about vulnerable individuals, increasing the effectiveness of situational response and vastly expanding the potential for successful and safe resolutions.

Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is a voluntary program that teaches simple and proven crime prevention techniques and builds relationships between neighbors and the police department. Block captains help maintain the safety and well-being of their neighborhood by coordinating Neighborhood Watch activities for their block.

Patrol and dispatch



Dispatch center

The Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), or dispatch center, is staffed by eight full-time dispatchers and five part-time dispatchers. The dispatchers use Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) in conjunction with an integrated E911 system to process calls for service and manage information critical to responding police, fire and medical units. Calls for service are also sent electronically to responding police officers through a mobile computer (MCD) system. Each year, the dispatch center handles more than 22,000 calls to 911, and about 36,000 additional non-911 calls.

Response to resistance reports

Response to resistance reports are required when force is used that is greater than routine handcuffing. In 2020, of the 50,668 calls for service, force was used or displayed 150 times or 0.296% percent of total calls for service.

Patrol

The patrol division includes six sergeants and 29 patrol officers who work a combination of 10-, 11- and 12-hour shifts. The shifts overlap to provide more comprehensive coverage during shift changes and extra resources during peak periods of activity. This schedule also allows officers time to engage the community in addressing crime and other issues that affect quality of life.

Bike patrol

In 2020, 17 officers participated in the St. Louis Park Police Department's bike patrol unit, providing more than 300 hours of nontraditional patrol for the city. Between June and September, these officers can be seen on bikes out in the community. Last year, while many events were canceled due to COVID-19, the bike patrol officers still participated in many outreach initiatives and made numerous positive citizen contacts throughout the summer. The police department's bike patrol unit is highly valued by the police department, city administration and the community it serves.

Field training

The police officer field training program combines adult learning theory and problem-solving tools, which encourages new officers to use a proactive mindset to identify and solve problems in communities. In 2020, two new officers participated in field training, which included 480 hours in a squad car and at least 80 hours of initial orientation and basic training. This includes eight hours of firearms and 16 hours of response to resistance training. Each new officer receives about 700 hours of field training.

Crisis negotiations



Crisis negotiations team

The crisis negotiations team includes two sergeants, five officers and one dispatcher. All team members receive an initial 40 hours of basic crisis negotiator training, which involves working with negotiators from around the metro area. Professional actors play the roles of those in crisis. Team members learn to use the equipment and tactics necessary to de-escalate someone in crisis. Team members typically attend an advanced 40-hour course after they have been on the team for a year or two.

In addition to the initial training, team members train quarterly as a team and with consortium partners. During the 32 hours of training, the St. Louis Park team works closely with teams from Eden Prairie, Edina and Minnetonka. The trainings involve scenarios, speakers and often members of the community who have experienced a crisis and a police response. A typical member with two years of experience on the team has received more than 100 hours of specialized training. The team will train up to an additional 40 hours a year.

The purpose of crisis negotiators is to ensure the team is immediately prepared to establish crisis communications if a subject becomes barricaded or is actively resisting the efforts of the SWAT team. They are also there to calm and inform neighbors and others as to the purpose of the police action and what to expect. In 2020, crisis negotiators helped the SWAT team with four callouts, including two involving a firearm. In all four callouts, the situation was resolved peacefully.



SWAT and task force



SWAT team

The St. Louis Park Police Department SWAT team includes two sergeants, 11 officers and one St. Louis Park firefighter who is trained as a tactical medic. Officers interested in joining SWAT must have a minimum of two years of police experience, demonstrate shooting proficiency and physical agility, and be interviewed by SWAT team supervisors. St. Louis Park SWAT officers take this assignment in addition to their daily duties and are required to train at least 10 hours a month. Positions on the SWAT team help officers build experience and gain leadership skills.

All team members receive an initial 40 hours of specialized tactical training at Southwest Metro Basic SWAT School, a consortium of SWAT teams from Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park police departments. Six months of training dates are exclusively St. Louis Park SWAT; the other six months are consortium training with the Southwest Metro SWAT. The St. Louis Park SWAT team participates yearly in a SWAT training conference at Camp Ripley in northern Minnesota.

Drug task force

The police department participates in the Southwest Hennepin Drug Task Force, which includes officers from Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. The task force works together to conduct undercover operations and drug enforcement. One St. Louis Park police officer is assigned full time to the task force. Other officers may assist with task force activities during their off-duty time or as assigned.

Mass casualty training

St. Louis Park has been training for regional response to a mass casualty since 2014. Officers participate in ongoing training to prepare for a large, regional response event such as a natural disaster or other catastrophe.

Support services



Community service officers

Community service officers (CSOs) provide support services such as maintaining police equipment, issuing citations for non-moving violations, monitoring the jail and giving tours to visitor groups. The department has one full-time CSO coordinator and four part-time CSOs/cadets. The CSO coordinator is responsible for training, evaluating and coordinating CSO/cadet activities. CSOs/cadets are hired on a temporary, part-time basis and must be attending an accredited post-secondary law enforcement program while employed, with the intent to become a licensed police officer.

Records

The records division collects, processes, distributes and maintains all police department records in accordance with federal and state data practice laws and records retention requirements. It provides support for the city attorney and the Minnesota State Patrol.



Awards



Officer Boies named 2020 officer of the year

St. Louis Park Police Officer Robert Boies was selected as the 2020 Robert Linnell Officer of the Year. Boies received several nominations for the award, including the following:

“Officer Boies is a fantastic trainer who is committed to our mission and values. He is continuously training and mentoring new officers to help them succeed and grow, including coming to work on his days off to work with his trainees to help them succeed. Robert is an exemplary officer who is looked upon as a leader. He treats his partners with fairness and compassion and truly cares about them. He strives to provide excellent service for everyone he interacts with, including suspects. His patience, thoughtfulness and caring approach is demonstrated through the time he takes to listen and explain the process to them. He also has a natural ability to help citizens in crisis through rapport building.”

Officer Boies is currently assigned to investigations. He is a member of the SWAT team and works as a patrol training officer as well.

Since 1989, the St. Louis Park Police Department has presented this award to the officer who has demonstrated consistent principles of integrity, fairness and a commitment to service within our community. The officer of the year is an example of what a police officer should be or strive to be by demonstrating their commitment to the mission and values of the police department and the City of St. Louis Park. Officers are nominated by their peers for the award. While officers usually select the officer of the year by voting on nominations during the police department's annual meeting, this year's voting was conducted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Volunteers



Police reserves

The reserves unit includes nine volunteers ranging in age from 20 to over 70. Although their involvement was limited in 2020, they still volunteered more than 133 hours helping with night patrols and city events.



Police explorers

The St. Louis Park Police Explorers Post #3505 is one of the longest-running law enforcement explorer posts in the nation. The volunteer program offers youth ages 14 to 21 a chance to learn firsthand the duties and responsibilities of police officers. Explorers meet every Tuesday evening to participate in role playing, class study and social exercises related to a career in law enforcement. Explorers also volunteer at local community events with the police officers.

Explorers apply the information they've learned by participating in competitions and mock scenarios at the annual Minnesota Law Enforcement Conference. National conferences are held every other year. Fundraising covers much of the training, equipment, competition and travel expenses; some additional costs are associated with competitions in other cities or states.