

By the numbers: 2022

St. Louis Park Police Department 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



SLP Police

Total calls for service:

46,868

Top calls for service:

1. TRAFFIC STOPS: 2,700
2. SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY: 1,892
3. WELFARE CHECK: 1,360
4. INFO/QUESTIONS: 1,307
5. PARKING COMPLAINTS: 1,242

Part 1 *
crimes reported

1,739

• **81 crimes against persons** (assault, robbery, rape)

• **1,658 property crimes** (theft, burglary, vehicle theft, arson)

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

Part 2 **
crimes reported

1,011

** *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*

Traffic stops: 2,700
Warnings: 1,842
Citations: 367
All other stops were cleared, assisting motorists, linked to a police report or tows.

Animal calls:

656

(general, bark, bite, cruelty, coyote, dangerous dog, at large, wildlife)

Animal impound:

81

Busiest day of the week is **Tuesday**.

Busiest time of the day is **5 p.m.**

2022 budget

In 2022, \$12,028,922 was budgeted for expenditures for police protection and communications. Of that, 90% (\$10,856,235) was allocated for salaries and benefits.

Top citations:

- Snow emergency
- Expired registration
- Driving after revocation or suspension

255 gun permits issued
22 solicitor permits issued

June was the busiest month:

7,869 REPORTS WRITTEN

848 ARRESTS

17 DWI ARRESTS



Letter from the chief



We are at a moment in policing that provides a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate our commitment and resolve to those we serve. Now more than ever, we can show there is still nobility in serving our communities as police officers. The last few years have been challenging to each of us for a variety of reasons and signal unique challenges to meet in law enforcement. These challenges are an important reminder that our legitimacy has always been built upon the strength of our police-community relationship. We must show our commitment to this relationship every day to maintain the trust we have developed.

As I reflect upon the last year in our organization and what lies ahead, I feel a tremendous sense of optimism and pride. That's due to the support we've had across the city for the difficult work we do in service to others. This outcome can only be achieved because of our dedicated staff who truly embrace our mission and operating philosophy. Developing and sustaining a police culture that consistently reflects the values and beliefs of the community we serve doesn't happen by chance and isn't sustained through luck. It comes from the character of those we hire, the standards we hold ourselves and each other to, a desire to learn and be better, and embracing the work required at every turn.

Like many of you, over the last year we've been able to return to doing those things that define who we are but that the pandemic forced us to step away from temporarily. Our outreach efforts returned in full force in 2022 with a renewed focus and energy. These opportunities provide meaningful moments for us to meet you where you're at and for you to get to know the person behind the uniform.



We have enjoyed meeting you in the parks, in schools, at parades and at the 4th of July celebration. We've also been glad to show up in those spaces that matter the most, where we can help mentor the kids in our community. We are grateful for each of these moments and look forward to many more in 2023 and beyond.

For me personally, 2022 will forever be memorable as the year when I took on the role of police chief for the City of St. Louis Park, following three years as deputy chief. As I said when I was sworn in as chief, our priorities must center on continuing to strengthen our police-community relationship, creating safe communities for all, and building a police culture that is reflective of our community's values and ideals. I am honored to serve in this role for you and am committed to the energy and action this role demands. I am excited for what lies ahead.

I want to thank each one of our members of the St. Louis Park Police Department for their incredible service, and I hope to see many of you while engaging in the community in 2023.

Bryan Kruelle, chief of police
St. Louis Park Police Department

Quality



Pathways to Policing

The multiagency Pathways to Policing program is designed to address a decrease in the number of police officer applicants and to attract candidates of color, women, and others with diverse backgrounds. The program focuses on candidates with college degrees who are interested in a career in law enforcement but may not have the means or ability to attend a law enforcement academic program while continuing their current careers. In 2022, we selected one Pathways to Policing candidate who successfully completed the program and was sworn in as a police officer.

Chaplains 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. For our chaplains, this work is a part of ministry that requires adaptability, availability, connectedness, confidentiality, and experience. The St. Louis Park chaplains donate hundreds of hours of their time to our department and community every year.

Smart911

Smart911, a new app-based technology, allows users to create a safety profile that displays only when they call 911. Users can provide key information about members in a household, such as medical conditions, disabilities or special medical needs; communication preferences; and car and property details as part of their safety profiles. Equipping emergency dispatchers and first responders with this information can help them make faster and better decisions, shorten response times, and save lives.

Smart911 is now available in 2023. Sign-up information is available on the city's website and our Facebook page. For additional information, go to www.smart911.com.



Responsiveness



Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal



Drug Take Back Day

Over the course of two events in spring and fall, 443 pounds of prescription drugs were collected as part of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The program aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. The quantity of unused and expired medications collected at these events continues to increase every year.



Medicine disposal

As part of Hennepin County's coordinated medicine disposal program, a medicine drop box is available in the police department lobby 24 hours a day, seven days a week for collection of household medicines. In 2022, 1,440 pounds of medications were collected in the lobby drop box. This number is up considerably from the 860 pounds of medications that were collected in 2021. 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 complete 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 Highway 7
- Excelsior and 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.

Our operating philosophy includes:

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

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

Police multicultural advisory committee

The police multicultural advisory committee (PMAC) 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 addition to attending regular monthly meetings, members participate in outreach events and police department training. This past year, members developed a PMAC driven question to be asked in interviews with new officer candidates. The PMAC also contributed to the revitalization of the bias crime reporting brochure and provided input on the police department's drone use policy. In April, the PMAC participated in a photo shoot that will assist in future recruiting endeavors. The PMAC provided assistance in several other community events, including Connect the Community, the youth mental health panel discussion, Basketball in the Park, National Night Out and the Crime Prevention Fund Golf Tournament.

School resource officers

Three police officers are assigned as school resource officers during the school year, helping and supporting students, teachers and school administrators. One officer is assigned to St. Louis Park High School and another to St. Louis Park Middle School. St. Louis Park elementary schools are serviced by the community and youth outreach officer whenever needed to maintain the strong connection between youth and our department.

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. In 2022, the commission made recommendations for survey questions about community satisfaction with police services, reviewed the police department's drone policy, and made contributions to the design of the department's online use of force dashboard.

Winter and spring break programs

The community outreach team offers winter and spring school break programs that focus 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, roller skating, trampoline parks, skateboarding, virtual reality and more.

Holiday Train

This 1,000-foot-long train with thousands of LED lights and live music was brought back by Canadian Pacific after a couple years of virtual viewership. Donations for this event benefit STEP (St. Louis Park Emergency Program) and more.

Outreach



Youth activities

- [Youth mental health panel discussion](#) acknowledged and provided resources regarding mental health issues faced by St. Louis Park students and their families. The panel was made up of mental health professionals from Relate Counseling, Park Nicollet, Lee Carlson Center, SLP Schools and Cope. The discussion was led by one of our very own SLP High School students.
- [Skate-a-palooza](#) helps build trust between officers and the community and introduces kids to skateboarding. The police department partners with 3rd Lair SkatePark and SkateShop for this outdoor summer event 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](#) educates youth on job opportunities with the city, including those in parks, recreation and maintenance divisions. It also provides information on how to search, apply and interview for jobs. This initiative has led to an effective collaboration between St. Louis Park Public Schools and the City of St. Louis Park.
- [Cops and Kids Holiday Shopping](#): Officers shopped with a select group of middle school students to purchase holiday gifts for their families. Officers and city volunteers assisted in wrapping the gifts and presented the families with a gift card to assist in purchasing a holiday meal. Thank you to Cub Foods and Target for their support.

Citizens' Police Academy

This year's Citizens' Police Academy provided 12 community members with insight on the police department's work helping and providing service to the community. This program is open to adults who live or work in St. Louis Park and occurs on an annual basis in the fall.

Annual winter coat drive

During the month of November, the St. Louis Park Police Department collected more than 185 coats for the Salvation Army. During the drop-off event, officers met several notable Twins baseball players, past and present, along with T.C. Bear.

Toys for Tots

In December 2022, the St. Louis Park Police Department partnered with AAA of Minneapolis and Parkway Pizza to collect toys for the annual Toys for Tots drive. Officers later participated in a drop-off parade at KARE11 where collected toys were given to the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve for distribution.

Other outreach activities

Our community outreach team conducted and participated in numerous smaller events targeted at specific audiences. These events included safety talks at senior living facilities, active shooter educational classes for businesses, teen driving safety classes through AAA, safety education classes with Boy Scout troops, and block parties, to name a few.

Catalytic converter marking events

To assist in preventing catalytic converter thefts, the city sponsored three catalytic converter marking events in collaboration with auto mechanic shops in St. Louis Park. Approximately 330 catalytic converters were marked at these events in 2022. An additional 67 vehicle owners received CATGUARD kits to mark their catalytic converters on their own time.

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. We debuted a retro pink patch design last year, representing our patch in the 1990s and early 2000s. In 2022, pink pint glasses, St. Louis Park police patches, St. Louis Park police retro patches, and challenge coins were available for purchase, raising \$1,600. Proceeds were donated to a colleague from our partner domestic violence advocacy service, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

Lights On!

We renewed and continued our commitment to this important program of microgrants to enhance driving safety on our roads and highways in 2022. For some members of our community, a broken turn signal or taillight possibly means choosing between paying for the repair or covering an important family expense. The Lights On! program allows officers to provide a voucher to a driver of a vehicle with broken lights. For more information, visit www.lightsonus.org.

Mental health support

Police officers are more likely than any other emergency responders to encounter a community member experiencing a mental health crisis. Since 2019, the St. Louis Park Police Department has partnered with Hennepin County Behavioral Health to bring a senior social worker into the police department and out in the community alongside officers. Following a short-term case management model, our social worker partner receives referrals from officers and establishes 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. In 2022, 287 referrals were made to help community members access help and care. In addition, the police department's multidisciplinary mental health workgroup provided input on new department policies for mental health emergencies, civil commitments and officer wellness. They also researched the creation of a suicide postvention response team.

Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is a volunteer program that teaches 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. To see if your block is organized and has a block captain, view the Neighborhood Watch block captain interactive map at bit.ly/SLPPDvolunteer.

Patrol and dispatch



Dispatch center

Our dispatch center, also referred to as the public safety answering point (PSAP), is staffed by eight full-time dispatchers, four part-time dispatchers, and a dispatch supervisor (new in 2022). St. Louis Park remains one of only two PSAPs in the five-county metro-area that is fully staffed. The dispatchers use computer aided dispatch (CAD) in conjunction with an integrated E911 system to process calls for service and manage critical information. Calls for service are also sent electronically to responding police officers via their squad computers.

The team handled 55,085 phone calls (23,242 911 calls and 31,843 calls to non-emergency lines). The National Emergency Number Association sets the goal to answer 95% of 911 calls within 20 seconds. The St. Louis Park PSAP answer time exceeds 98% of calls answered within 10 seconds.

Response to resistance reports

Response to resistance reports are required when force is used that is greater than routine handcuffing. In 2022, of the 46,868 calls for service, force was used or displayed 155 times or 0.33% of the total calls for service.

Patrol

The patrol division includes six sergeants and 30 patrol officers who work a combination of 10- and 12-hour shifts. The shifts overlap to provide more coverage 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. We applied and were awarded a grant for a DUI/traffic enforcement officer for 2022-23. This new service will improve traffic safety on our roads and highways mostly in the evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Bike patrol

In 2022, multiple patrol and reserve officers participated in the police department's bike patrol unit. The unit provides hundreds of hours of nontraditional patrol for the city. Between June and September, these officers can be seen on bikes out in the community, patrolling areas requiring extra protection, participating in outreach events and making positive contacts with young people.

Field training

The police officer field training program combines adult learning theory and problem-solving tools to encourage new officers to use a proactive mindset to identify and solve problems in communities. In 2022, seven 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, along with 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

In 2022, the crisis negotiations team (CNT) included two sergeants, six officers and a dispatcher. All team members receive an initial 40 hours of basic crisis negotiator training, which involves working with negotiators from around the metro area. Team members learn to use the equipment and tactics necessary to de-escalate someone in crisis and bring about the change in behavior necessary to resolve a dangerous situation. Team members typically attend an advanced 40-hour course after they have been on the team for a year or two.

CNT members train a minimum of four times a year with consortium partners. During these beneficial training periods, the team works closely with colleagues from Eden Prairie, Edina, and Minnetonka.



In 2022, crisis negotiators assisted the SWAT team with callouts, serving as the direct point of contact with people in crisis and those responsible for life-threatening conduct or behavior. The CNT seeks to ensure our department is prepared to establish crisis communications in an emergency. They are also there to connect with and inform neighbors and others about the purpose of the police action and what to expect.



SWAT and task force



SWAT team

The St. Louis Park Police Department SWAT team includes two sergeants, 10 or more officers and two St. Louis Park firefighters who are trained as tactical medics. SWAT officers have a minimum of two years' police experience, demonstrate elevated firearms proficiency and physical capabilities, and are interviewed by SWAT team supervisors to assess their professionalism and decision-making abilities. Additional required monthly training helps develop the capability for resolving intense and dangerous situations safely. SWAT officers build on their experience and gain leadership skills, establishing dedication to making the community safe for everyone.

Team members receive 40 hours of specialized tactical training and additional instruction over six months alongside our consortium partners from Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins and Eden Prairie. The St. Louis Park SWAT team participates yearly in a SWAT training conference at Camp Ripley, and selected team members, on a rotational basis, participate in a yearly conference hosted by the Special Operations Training Association (SOTA) in Duluth, MN.

Drug task force

The St. Louis Park Police Department works with the Southwest Hennepin Drug Task Force, consisting of officers from Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. The task force works together to conduct undercover operations and drug enforcement.



Support services



Community service officers

Community service officer-cadets (CSOs) provide support to department operations, such as maintaining police equipment, issuing citations for parking violations, monitoring the jail, and giving tours to visitor groups. The department employs at least four part-time CSO-cadets. The most senior CSO cadet(s) are responsible for training, evaluating and coordinating their group's activities. CSO-cadets are hired on a temporary, part-time basis (up to four years) 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 the department's data and reports, in accordance with federal and state data practice laws and records retention requirements. Retroactive case review is ongoing to ensure reporting compliance for case suspense purposes.

Records personnel also respond to public data requests, including requests for bodycam and dash camera video. Many of these requests require extensive image and audio redaction to align with video dissemination laws. The records team also receives and processes requests for gun permits to purchase (several hundred annually), along with solicitor and peddler permits for the City of St. Louis Park. The division works collaboratively with prosecutors to prepare a complete case file. Bodycam and dash camera videos are reviewed as needed and distributed through a secure online platform to all parties with the need to access data.



Awards



Mitch Swanson, 2022 officer of the year

St. Louis Park Police Officer Mitch Swanson has been named St. Louis Park Police Department's 2022 Robert Linnell Officer of the Year.

The police department presents this award annually to the officer who has demonstrated consistent principles of integrity, fairness and a commitment to service within the 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 selected by their peers in the St. Louis Park Police Department.

Those who nominated Swanson for the award cited his leadership on anti-theft efforts around locations with high frequency shoplifting activity, his dedication to the role of investigator, and his efforts to assist CSO-cadets with adapting to their new responsibilities.

Hailey Rose, 2022 civilian of the year

Public Safety Information Specialist Hailey Rose has been named the St. Louis Park Police Department's Civilian Employee of the Year for 2022.

A new award for 2022, the Civilian Employee of the Year Award goes to the department member whose dedication and initiative brings enhanced outcome and success to public safety work through innovation, collaboration, and officer support/teamwork. Hailey was cited by her peers for her ability to support and further the work of investigators on complex cases, collaborative efforts, and problem solving.

Volunteers



Police reserves

The police reserves unit includes nine volunteers ranging in age from 18 to over 70. The growing number of reserve officers will continue to be an important asset to our department. Their hours of volunteer service increased from 570 in 2021 to 740 in 2022 as they assisted patrol officers and participated in city events. Police reserves train and meet monthly.

Police explorers post #3505

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 Monday evening to participate in role-playing, class study, and social exercises related to a career in law enforcement. Explorers apply the information learned by participating in competitions and scenario-based exercises at an annual state conference and biennial national conference. Fundraising covers much of the training, equipment, competition and travel expenses; some additional costs are associated with competitions in other cities or states.

