



1/27/09 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HILLSBORO WELCOMES PARKS PATROL

Hillsboro, Oregon - The Hillsboro Police Department and the Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Department have partnered to help make the City's parks even safer and more user-friendly for residents through a new Police Parks Patrol Specialist position.

"The Parks Patrol is a great addition to our park system and will make a significant contribution to making citizens experiences in our city parks even more enjoyable while also helping to preserve and protect valuable park resources," says Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Community Resources Manager Corinne Bloomfield.

Matt Delepine was hired recently as Police Parks Patrol Specialist and is now out patrolling the parks keeping an eye out for problems and serving as an ambassador for safe and respectful park use. This Police position has the authority to enforce rules and issue exclusions, and has regular communication with both the Police and Parks & Recreation departments. Delepine will also provide park visitors with information on Hillsboro Parks & Recreation's offerings when appropriate, and will have input into park policies and new programs that would benefit the park system.

"The regular presence of the Parks Patrol in our City's parks will not only create a more user-friendly, user-safe environment all around, but it will also help to reduce issues and decrease the impact on police patrol resources," says Hillsboro Police Lieutenant Mike Rouches.

Prior to joining the Hillsboro Police Department as Parks Patrol Specialist, Delepine was a member of Parks Patrol at the neighboring Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District for four years. He is a native Oregonian, grew up in Hood River, and is a graduate of Beaverton High School.

Residents are encouraged to report suspicious or illegal activities in the parks by calling the Hillsboro Police Department non-emergency line at 503-629-0111. Suggestions or comments about City Parks should be directed to Hillsboro Parks & Recreation at 503-681-6120.

For more information on City of Hillsboro parks, call 503-681-6120 or visit www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/ParksRec.

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