



# News Release

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**Warren C. Evans**  
*Sheriff*

## Sheriff increases deputies' summertime presence in Wayne County parks

- *CEO & Commission approve funding for 8 officers thru Labor Day*

Users of Wayne County's historic park system will be able to enjoy an even more carefree and family friendly experience this summer thanks to an increased summer patrol, Sheriff Warren C. Evans announced today.



As part of the county's 2006-07 budget, County Commissioners and the County Executive provided funding that will allow Evans to assign eight officers to the county park system through Labor Day. The officers will be assigned primarily to patrol Hines Park, Elizabeth Park in Trenton and the county's Family Aquatic Center located in Detroit's Chandler Park.

"Use of the county's park system and its many amenities increases significantly during the summer months, and where there are more people, there is the potential for more problems," Evans said. "Assigning additional officers will allow us to have a more visible presence and maintain the kind of safe atmosphere that park users deserve and expect."

County Commissioners Kay Beard, Phil Cavanagh and Laura Cox, whose districts represents the Hines Park area, said finding the additional funding was easier than one might expect: since the officers will be assigned to the parks only during the busy summer months, the net cost to the county is equivalent to only 2 full time officers for one year.

"Our parks are a place where people should be able to go and leave the real world behind," said Cavanagh. "This is a creative approach to providing additional police presence in our parks when it is needed most."

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The new officers will patrol the 17-mile length of Hines Park, which runs from Northville to Dearborn, as well as Elizabeth Park in Trenton. Evans said that the most common reports park officers deal with include traffic violations, park ordinance violations such as parking, auto accidents and occasional rowdiness. Just prior to the start of the patrol, a number of picnic tables were stolen from the Helm's Haven and Warrendale areas of the park.

Officers also will be assigned to patrol the area of Detroit's Chandler Park near City Airport, where the county operates a popular water park. As a pilot project, Evans assigned officers to patrol the Chandler Park facility during the second half of last summer, a move that drew raves from area neighbors who had been complaining of loud music, rowdy behavior and illegal activity.

"We are pleased that Sheriff Evans will increase patrols at our parks," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. "It is important that we work together to ensure the safety and a good quality of life for our citizens. We want our residents to enjoy our parks and not worry about crime."

More vehicle patrol = more mounted patrols

Evans said that posting additional vehicle patrols in Hines Park, for example, will allow his mounted patrol officers to stay on horseback longer.

"A visible mounted patrol is one of the things that add to the safety, as well as the charm, of our parks. Too often we would have to put those officers in patrol cars to provide more timely service," Evans said. "Having these additional vehicle patrols will allow the mounted officers to stay on horseback and focus on the areas where park users congregate and vehicles can't access."

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