

SPRING LAKE PARK POLICE HISTORY

On December 30, 1953, the 960 citizens of Spring Lake Park voted to incorporate the township into the Village of Spring Lake Park. On January 16, 1954 an election was held to elect Village Officers and Officials. Two Constables were elected to provide Police Protection for the Village and the Spring Lake Park Police Department was formally created.

The two Constables, Kutscheid and Cox worked part time. Each Constable furnished their own vehicle to be used as a squad car. Constable Cox had a blue, 1951 Ford Crestliner. Constable Kutscheid had a green Packard. Both Constables furnished their own equipment for their squads and were reimbursed for mileage.



In October 1954,
Constables received a
raise to \$25.00 per
month!

Constables Kutscheid (left) and Cox (right) 1954.

Anoka County did not have any centralized Police Dispatching in the 1950's. Citizens needing the Police either called the officers at their homes, or called the Fire Department Dispatcher.

A Police phone was purchased in 1955 and was placed in the trunk of the squad that was being used on patrol. There was no Police Department building. All Police paperwork and equipment was kept at the Constables homes.

In 1955 a Police Commissioner was appointed to oversee the part time department. Wesley Cox was appointed the first Spring Lake Park Police Chief in 1957. The Village also purchased its first Police Car in 1958. The Police Department expanded to three part time men in 1958. In 1959 a building on Center Drive was rented and became the first Village Hall / Police Department.



Spring Lake Park Police squad at Hwy 65. And 73rd Avenue in Fridley April 9, 1960
(Glenn Opheim photo)



1960's Police Patch

In 1960 the Part Time Police Chief position was abolished. The department was supervised by Sgt. Paul Grey and was overseen by the Police Commissioner. Turnover of personnel became an issue due to the part time status of most of the department. At one point consolidation talks with the Anoka County Sheriff's Office took place.

In 1963 the department was expanded to three full time officers and one part time officer. When no Police Chief was in place, the Mayor acted as the Police Chief. The Police Civil Service Commission was created in 1965 to address several personnel and related issues within the Police Department.



Spring Lake Park Police Officer Richard “Dick” Anderson, left, Robert Mildenberger center, and Tom Fischer, right. (1965 photo). This photo was taken in front of the Police Department on Center drive.

In 1967 Otto Lind was hired as Chief of Police. The Police Department professionalized and was expanded to six full time men.



The Spring Lake Park Police Department 1968 (The Record, February 21, 1968)



SLP Police Patch late 1960's

The 1970's brought further expansion to the Police Department. The budget was increased to \$101,000 in 1970. The position of Detective-Sergeant was created to address investigation of crimes and supervision of the departments' officers. A seventh officer position was added as well as a Police Secretary to help with the filing of reports and to maintain records.



1970-1971 Police Patches



SLP squad at accident scene on Hwy. 10, May 1970. Note the SLP Bowling Alley.

The Police Department added a second squad car with the purchase of a Plymouth Fury. An education fund was established to train and educate officers. An expansion of Village Hall in 1971 added additional Police headquarter space and a garage.



Village Hall 1971



Police Garage 1971

On July 1, 1973 the Village of Spring Lake Park became the City of Spring Lake Park. Spring Lake Park became a member of the Minnesota Crime Watch Program. A ride-a-long program was also created. A Bike Patrol Program was added in 1975.



Dodge Polara 1973

The New Spring Lake Park Municipal Building was completed in 1977. All city services including the Police Department were moved to the new facility located on 81st avenue. The new building was built at a cost of \$495,000. The Police Department was greatly expanded with an enlarged Chief's office, patrol squad room and garage.



The new Spring Lake Park Community Center 1977.



SLP Squad Car at 7701 Hwy. 76 December, 1978

The 1980's brought new challenges and programs to the Police Department. The Police Department teamed up with the High School to provide Driver's Education Training. Further medical education was provided to students at the High School through its OEC (Opportunity in Emergency Care Program).



SLP Squad Car July, 1981

The late 1980's brought further change to the Police Department with the retirement of long term chief Otto Lind in 1987. Sergeant Bruce Porter was promoted to Chief of Police. Additional officers were added as well as a third Police squad car.



Chief Porter's Chevy Corvette parade squad.

The Police gun range was expanded. An Investigator position was added. Officers were issued stun guns and revolvers were replaced with semi automatic handguns. City Hall was further expanded and the Police department was expanded as well.

The 1990's saw the department with 10 full time officers. An eleventh officer was later added when a full time School Liaison Officer position was added at the High School. A fourth squad car was added to the fleet as well as an Investigators car.





The Spring Lake Park Police Department 2006



Police Patch 1972-2003



Current Police Patch

Chief Porter retired in 1997. Sergeant David Toth was named Police Chief. Additional secretary positions were added as well as a Police Reserve unit, DARE Officer and a Police bike. A second sergeant's position was added in 1998 due to a restructuring of the Police Department. The department changed its long time Police Patch in 2003.



The Spring Lake Park Police Department 2011

In 2010 Doug Ebeltoft became Chief of Police with the retirement of Chief Toth. The current Spring Lake Park Police Department consists of eleven officers, three secretarial support staff and seven Police Reserve Officers.

The Spring Lake Park Police Department is proud to serve the city, its residents, and guests. We have been "Community Policing" since our inception in 1953! Thank you for all your support.