



August 25, 2020

## News Release

### Media Contact

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# Homicide Suspect Found Deceased in Swan Creek Metropark

Toledo, OH: Ryan Thames, the person of interest in the August 23<sup>rd</sup> homicide, was found deceased inside of Swan Creek Metropark.

On 8/24/2020 at approximately 3:45 PM a female called 911 to report that she had just hung up with Ryan Thames, the father of her child. Thames told her he was in Swan Creek Metropark and was planning to kill himself. The caller also stated that Thames, 35 years-old, was a suspect in the homicide of Rudy Gonzalez and provided a physical description; but did not know what Thames was wearing. She also stated that he had a gun.

Metroparks Toledo Rangers were also advised of the 911 call and began searching Swan Creek Metropark. Metroparks Rangers located a friend of Thames who also stated that Thames was inside the park and wanted to commit suicide. Both Rangers and Toledo Police began escorting guests out of the park and closed it to the public. The Toledo Fire and Rescue Department was called to the scene in the event there were any injuries.

Officers from both departments gathered, formed search teams, and dispersed throughout the Metropark. At 4:59 PM, officers heard a single gunshot and communicated that over the police radio. At 6:02 PM, a Toledo Police Sergeant and two Metroparks Officers in a search group located the suspect, deceased from an apparent gunshot wound. A firearm was recovered at the scene. The suspect was located on an unmarked, primitive trail near the middle of the park adjacent to Swan Creek itself.

Thames was the person of interest in the homicide of Rudy Gonzalez who was shot in the backyard of his home located at 1500 block of Eleanor on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Gonzalez and his fiancé, Victoria Cluckey, had two guests at their home that morning: Cluckey's female friend



and Ryan Thames. During the course of the night, Gonzalez and Thames got into a verbal altercation. At one point during the altercation, Thames went to a vehicle, retrieved a firearm, and returned to the backyard where he reportedly shot Gonzalez.

“Our Rangers and Toledo Police Officers are to be commended for their swift, professional action to protect the safety of park visitors,” said Joe Fausnaugh, Chief of Operations for Metroparks Toledo.

Toledo Police Chief George Kral said “Although the suspect chose to end his life rather than be taken into custody, I am proud that the Toledo Police Officers and Metroparks Rangers worked as one team to safely evacuate the park and locate the suspect.” He added “This illustrates that law enforcement is not static, it is constantly evolving and officers must quickly adapt to ever-changing situations.”

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