

Gastonia Police Department

Protect, Serve & Enhance the Quality of Life for All



Contact: Donna Lahser

lahser_donna@cityofgastonia.com

Sept. 24, 2018

Full scale search and rescue efforts underway

The full scale search and rescue efforts began after 7 a.m. today in Rankin Lake Park, Gastonia, to locate Maddox Ritch. The search area has been expanded two miles outside of the park. A new missing person poster sent out by the FBI has been posted on various social media sites. A news conference will likely be held after 3 this afternoon. Details will be sent out later today.

The public can help by calling police if they were at Rankin Lake Park Saturday and saw Maddox or took video or photos of their outing at the park. No piece of information is too small and could be helpful to the case.

Also, anyone who lives near the park is asked to search the areas around their own homes where a child might hide for any clues to find Maddox. "Call us immediately if you find anything out of the ordinary," Gastonia Police Chief Robert Helton said. "We have established a special tip line for information. That number is 704-869-1075."

###