

Atwater Beach & Park Annual Report



Shorewood
December 2014

I. AREA OVERVIEW

General Maintenance

As in previous years, three members of the DPW seasonal staff were assigned specifically to Atwater Beach/Park. These employees were responsible for landscape maintenance on both the beach and park levels, litter pick-up and refuse/recycling containers, watering as necessary, beach water testing and algae removal as necessary. The DPW was reimbursed in the amount for \$1,446.01 by the North Shore Health Department for wages related to beach water sampling.

The beach (sand) cleaner was operated by a trained regular DPW staff person on Thursday or Friday of each week June through September.

Public Safety/ Emergency Response

The Shorewood Police Department took a proactive approach to the patrol of the park following a vandalism incident the last weekend of May. Officers responded to 15 calls for service, approximately half of which occurred after park closing hours. Police personnel performed 158 checks/patrols of the park and beach. These activities resulted in enforcement actions which included 26 citations and 88 warnings.

More detailed information regarding Shorewood Police Department activities related to the park and beach can be found attached to this report.

Structural Condition Assessments

DPW staff annually reviews all structures:

- **Stairs** – stair treads were replaced as necessary. Staff's review of the stair structure indicates that within the next five years all of the stair tread will require replacement. Additionally, the area under the stairway is prone to washouts and requires a permanent repair. The gravel originally placed under the stairs to protect the footings continues to be washed down the slope during heavy rainfall events. Voids in this underlayment allow for the unsightly growth of vegetation through the stair risers.
- **Beach House** – the beach house is a concrete block building constructed in 1987. The structure has a Spancrete concrete cap roof. Lighting was recently upgraded by staff to improve energy efficiency. General upkeep is needed but no significant work is required.
- **Lower playground equipment** – the equipment at the beach level was installed in 2013 and is in excellent condition.

II. BEACH

Life guards

Life guard services were again provided under contract with the Milwaukee County Parks Department. The agreement provided for the provision of guard services from June 19 to August 17 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. The total cost for the provision of the service was \$11,937.59.

Water Quality

As in past years, beach water testing was performed by the DPW seasonal staff assigned to the park/beach. These staff and their supervisor, Judy Kaiser, are trained annually in testing practices by North Shore (formerly Shorewood) Health Department personnel. Water samples are transported by DPW staff to the City of Milwaukee Health Department laboratory for testing.

A total of 28 water tests occurred between June 2 and August 27, 2014. During the testing season, samples at Atwater exceed the amount for Advisory/Caution posting on three separate occasions for a total of eight days. Testing results exceed the level for beach closure on one occasion for a total of 3 days. Please see below for details:

Test Dates with Below Standard Water Quality Indicators	Advisory Posting Dates	Closure Dates
6/19/14	6/20, 6/21, 06/22, 6/23	
6/23/14		6/24, 6/25, 6/26
8/12/14	8/13, 8/14	
8/19/14	8/20, 8/21	

The posting of the advisories/closing is done by DPW staff following notification from a North Shore Health Department officer.

Weather Data

While official attendance records are no longer kept, anecdotal evidence indicates season attendance was down from prior years. This could largely be attributed to the season's colder-than-normal weather. Please see below for a brief summary of conditions:

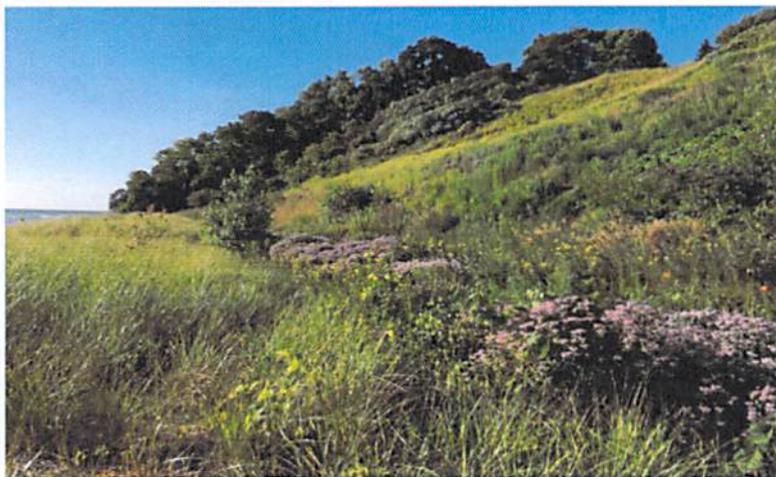
	June	July	August
Mean temperature	65.3	68.2	70.0
Deviation from normal mean temperature	0.9	3.6	0.7
Days with temperature above 90°	0	0	0
Monthly average days with temp above 90°	1.5	2.9	2.0
Days with precipitation	8	2	5

Landscape Restoration

Restoration of the bluff continued by Marek Landscaping per the approved plan. Over a total of 26 site visits, Marek Landscaping performed vegetation management, planting of native species, woody plant removals and catch basin cleanings.

Invasive species management began in earnest in 2014, with hand cutting, mowing, removal, targeted herbicide applications and seed collection of invasive and undesirable plants.

This year's planting program included 640 herbaceous plants (wildflower, grass and sedge species) along with 30 two gallon container grown shrubs. Plugs were placed throughout the slope in all stands except those that are currently well established with native vegetation. Woody natives were added to existing woody plantings on the slope in various locations and to create new shrub plantings throughout.



Restrooms

The permanent restrooms located within the beach house are maintained by the DPW summer staff assigned to the beach and open during their work hours, Monday through Friday approximately 7:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Village also contracts annually for four portable toilets which are available for use during all hours which the beach is open (5:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.). The 2014 contract was upgraded to include an additional cleaning (an increase to two per week) following odor complaints the previous season.

III. PARK

Special Events

The following events were held at the park and/or beach this season:

- June 14: Shorewood Men's Club Chicken BBQ
- Village July 4th celebration and fireworks
- August 23: SURF @Water event
- September 19: Plein Air breakfast

Playground Equipment

The play structure at the north end of the park was installed in approximately 1999 and is in very poor condition. For the past several years, staff has regularly repaired broken timbers and/or protruding hardware. Larger plastic components have failed and have been removed. An end-of-season assessment indicated the equipment has reached the end of its useful life. For safety and liability reasons, it is staff's strong recommendation that the structure be removed prior to the 2015 season.

Memorial/Honor Donations

Two benches at the park level were replaced following the receipt of donations through the Shorewood Park/Shorewood Foundation amenity program. The donations were coordinated by Diane DeWindt- Hall and then ordered and installed by DPW staff.



A shade structure for the boardwalk bench on the beach was also purchased and installed under this program in late summer.

