



2015 ATWATER BEACH & PARK

ANNUAL REPORT



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 \$1,788.58 by the North Shore Health Department for wages and mileage reimbursements 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 38 (153% increase over 2014) calls for service, approximately half of which occurred after park closing hours. Police personnel performed 225 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 in the attach memo from Chief Nimmer dated October 31, 2015..

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 four to 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. 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 15 to August 23 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. The total cost for the provision of the service was \$12,859.27, an increase of \$921.68 or 7.8% over 2014.

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 31 water tests occurred between June 1 and early September, 2015. During the testing season, samples at Atwater exceed the amount for Advisory/Caution posting on two occasions for a total of two days. Additionally, the Health Department posted an advisory on July 17 due to heavy rain, which can predictably increase coliform counts in the beach water. No testing results exceeded the level for beach closure. Please see below for details:

Test Dates with Below Standard Water Quality Indicators	Advisory Posting Dates	Closure Dates
7/13/15	7/14/15, 7/15	
7/15/15	7/16/15	
	7/17/15	

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 similar to that of 2015. While this year's weather was generally warmer than the summer of 2014, there were more precipitation days. Please see below for a brief summary of conditions:

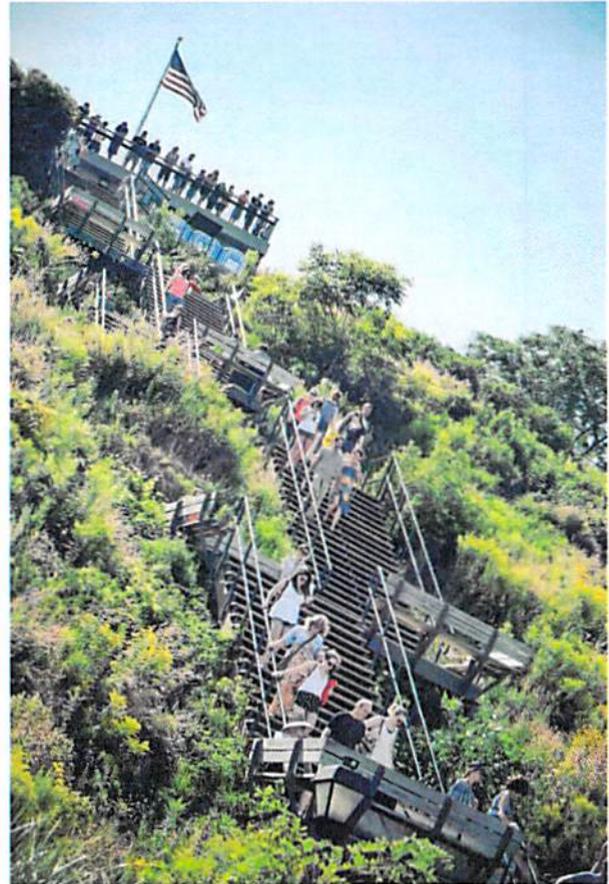
	June	July	August
Mean temperature	63.8	70.0	69.9
Deviation from normal mean temperature	-2.4	-1.3	-0.8
Days with temperature above 90°	0	1	3
Monthly average days with temp above 90°	1.5	2.9	2.0
Days with precipitation	10	5	9

Landscape Restoration

Restoration of the bluff continued by Marek Landscaping per the approved plan. Over a total of 18 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. Plants controlled included crown vetch, garlic mustard, thistle, sweet clover, lambs ears, pigweeds, Reed Canary grass, Lyme grass and others identified as a threat. Without management, these invasive and undesirable species would quickly out-compete the establishing native vegetation, leading to increased erosion and a general decline in value to both four and two-legged visitors.

This year's planting program included 640 herbaceous plants (wildflower, grass and sedge species) along with 60 container grown shrubs. Plugs and shrub plantings were concentrated along the main staircase.



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 units are cleaned three times each week.

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 replaced in 2015 following a complete vendor selection by the Parks Commission. The new structure features inclusive play components, highlighted by a wheelchair-accessible glider in the shape of a ship – a nod to the *Appomattox* shipwreck just offshore. The playground structure has been featured in several recreation industry trade publications and catalogs.



VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Shorewood Village Board
From: Peter Nimmer, Chief of Police
Cc: Kevin Carini, Deputy Chief of Police
Date: October 31, 2015
Re: Atwater Park Security Checks and Calls for Service – Summer 2015



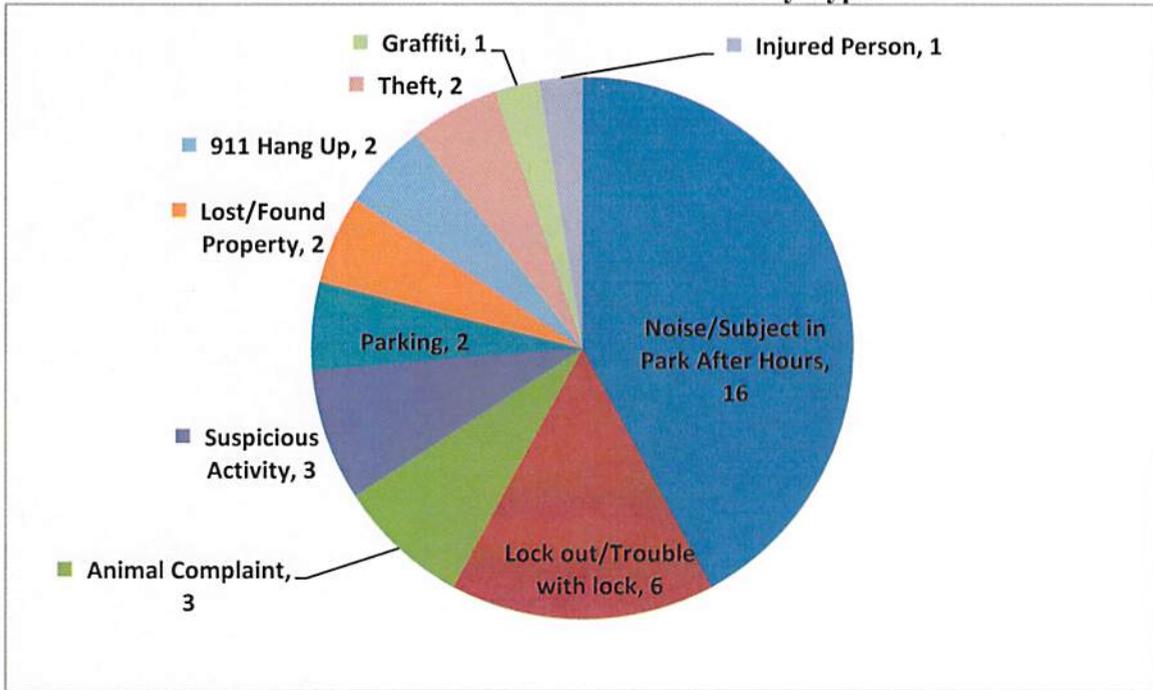
This summer the Police Department took a proactive approach at Atwater Park utilizing multiple tactics to establish a highly visible presence at the park and on the beach. Officers conducted foot patrols of the park area and the beach itself to establish a presence there and to take enforcement action when needed. At times a squad was positioned in a highly visible area on the street in front of the park so that park and beach patrons could see a police presence there even if an officer was not within their field of vision.

As an effort to deter noise and activity in the park after closing, Chief Nimmer worked with the Village Board to establish a no parking zone in the 4000 block of Lake Drive. This gave officers an additional enforcement tool and aided in our efforts to reduce park usage and unwanted noise outside of the establish park hours.

Additionally, the Shorewood Police Department worked closely with residents who reside on Lake Drive and encouraged them to report any activity in the park after hours as well as any violations of the no parking zone established in the 4000 block of Lake Drive. The relationship we established with the residents in the area supplemented our patrol activities and helped serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for the Police Department at the times that our officers could not physically be present there.

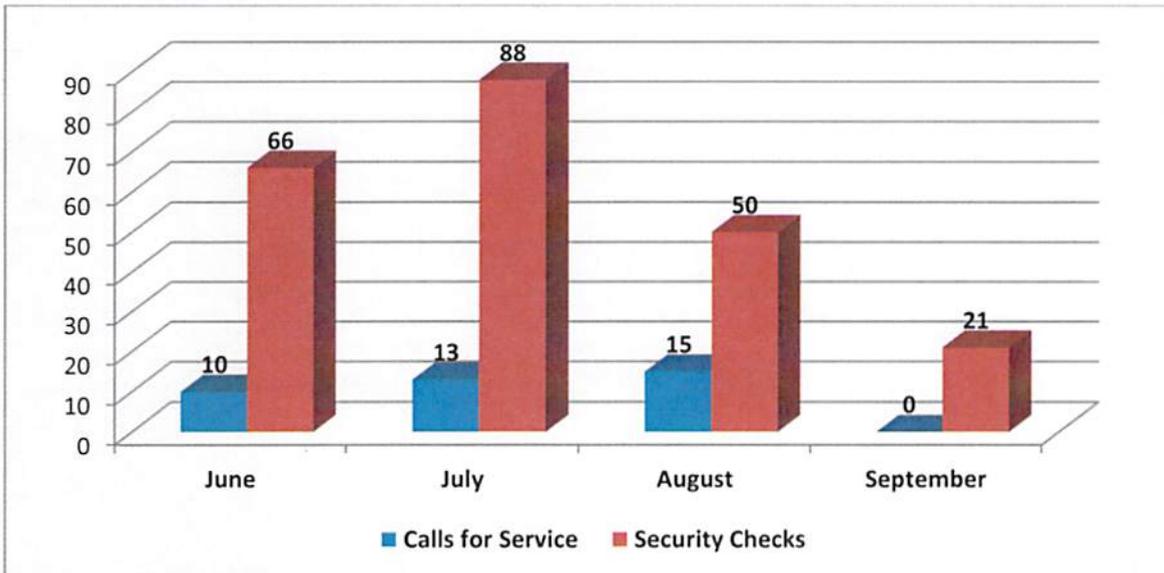
From the time period of June 1, 2015 to September 7, 2015, the Police Department took a total of 38 calls for service at the park. During that same time period Shorewood Police Officers conducted a total of 225 security checks; most of which were foot patrols of the park and beach. A breakdown of the calls for service by type is shown below:

2015 Atwater Park Calls for Service by Type



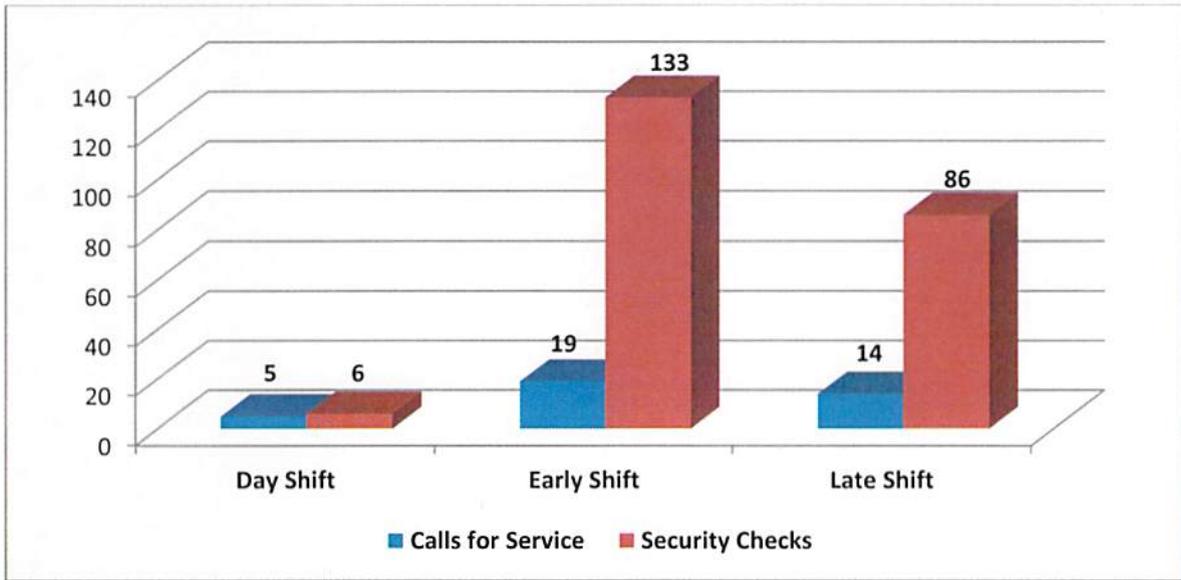
Of the 38 calls for service received at Atwater Park, the Police Department took the most calls for service during the summer during the month of August. July had the second largest volume of calls for service, followed by June. There were no calls for service received for Atwater Park from September 1, 2015 to September 7, 2015.

2015 Atwater Park Calls for Service and Security Checks by Month



Of the 38 calls for service received for Atwater Park half of them took place during Early Shift (3:00 pm to 11:00 pm) followed by Late Shift (11:00 pm to 7:00 am) and Day Shift (7:00 am to 3:00 pm) in that order. A majority of the security checks of the park and beach took place during Early Shift, followed by Late Shift and Day Shift in that order. A breakdown of the calls for service and security checks by shift is shown below:

2015 Atwater Park Calls for Service and Security Checks by Shift



For summer of 2016, we plan to once again take this proactive approach to patrolling the park and beach. We will again establish a highly visible presence early in the season and will again deploy multiple patrol strategies at both the park and the beach. Additionally, we will continue to actively enforce the no parking zone in the 4000 block of Lake Drive to help deter noise and activity in the park after hours. We will also continue to work closely with the residents in the area to help aid us in our enforcement efforts at the park and beach.