FOREST PRESERVES of Cook County

Resident Watchman

2020 Annual Report

The Resident Watchman program is covered in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinance Section 1-9-3: Fees and Occupancy of District Lands. The Resident Watchman Annual Report is addressed in Section 1-9-3(B)-16.

1. **PROGRAM MONITORING**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County did not conduct its annual housing inspections of the Resident Watchman residences. During the course of a normal year, the Housing Director or his designee conducts a minimum of one internal physical walk through of each residence. Due to maintenance and repairs, in a typical year, most residences are inspected or visited three and even four times. However, the District did conduct external inspections of the residences to ensure all Watchmen are maintaining their respective residences. Monitors made multiple inspections of the boundary areas assigned to Watchman to ensure Watchmen are performing assigned duties.

2. **FEE COLLECTIONS**. Occupancy Fees are the payments made by Resident Watchmen for occupying the residence. All Resident Watchmen enter an Occupancy Agreement similar to a lease, and all Occupancy Fees are deducted via automatic Payroll Deductions. These fees cover the cost of the housing maintenance and repairs. Fees collected in 2020 were $234,481. This is an increase of $28,934 from the $205,547 in fees collected in 2019, due to a higher occupancy rate from 2019 and an increase in fees for 2020.

   2020 ended with 33 Resident Watchman, up five (5) from 28 in 2019. For the majority of 2020 there were 34 Resident Watchman. Several properties sat vacant for an extended period of time during the year due to the repair process and /or cost of repairs. Many of the vacancies are in the stand alone or "Free Standing" houses. In many cases these buildings need electrical, plumbing, roofing or other mechanical / structural types of repair to bring the residence up to Cook County Building and Zoning residential code. The funding to pay for these repairs comes from the Occupancy Fees paid by the Resident Watchman. Over time these residences will either be repaired, removed from the program and repurposed when feasible, or demolished.

3. **PROGRAM EXPENSES**. The expenses to cover the costs for the Resident Watchman program come from the Occupancy Fees paid by the residents. Expenses related to the program in 2020 were $220,468.82, an increase of $83,884.52 from 2019, when expenses were $136,584.30. This is due in part to several big projects, including siding, several planned new roofs, several emergency roof repairs, plumbing repairs and upgrades, as well as HVAC repairs and upgrades. We expect to see 2021 expenses to be similar to 2020 expenses with repairs for electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems, installing new windows and roofs, adding insulation and other physical structural repairs. The condition of Watchman Residences continues to improve, but there still remains a significant amount of deferred structural and mechanical maintenance and repairs, such as several more HVAC systems, new roofs, siding, windows, insulation, tuck-pointing, etc. for several of the residences. The District expects the 2021 Annual Report to reflect that a large percentage of the Resident Watchman budget will be spent on repairing and maintaining the residence.

4. **OCCUPIED RESIDENCES & VACANCIES**. The District currently maintains 42 Resident Watchman residences. At the end of 2020, 32 were occupied. We expect 2021 occupancy to be at or near 35 residences for most of the year. In 2021, the District's Housing Committee will be looking at removing several residences from its listings.

a. **ADDITIONS:** The District added a new residence during 2020, a Free-Standing house located at 770 Hammond Ave., Elgin IL 60120. This house was acquired as part of a larger land purchase adjacent to the Bluff Springs Fen Nature Preserve.

b. TERMINATIONS: In 2020, three Resident Watchmen were unable to perform the responsibilities of a Resident Watchman for a period of ninety (90) or more days during a twelve (12) month period. Under the Resident Watchman Program, this inability represents grounds for termination from the program and required vacating from the residence. In 2020, due to the national and local eviction moratoriums and other efforts to avoid removing people from their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, the District decided to allow these watchmen to continue residing in the residences and to periodically reevaluate their respective situations. One employee has returned to being able to perform watchman duties, one employee has passed away (after vacating the residence), and the District continues to monitor the third situation.

The District maintains three types of residences:

1) Attached Apartments– defined as an apartment physically attached to a District facility. There are ten (10) Attached Apartments. At the end of 2020, ten (10) were occupied, with no vacancies.

2) Adjacent Houses – defined as a house located at a District facility – such as a Nature Center or maintenance facility. There are thirteen (13) current Adjacent Houses. At the end of 2020, all 13 were occupied.

3) Free Standing– defined as a stand-alone house located on District property but not at a District facility. The District typically acquires these houses as part of a larger land purchase where the house was part of the parcel purchased. There were 20 free standing houses in 2019 and the District added a new residence located at 770 Hammond Ave, Elgin to put the number of Free Standing residences at twenty-one (21) Free Standing houses. At end of 2020, ten (10) were occupied, leaving eleven (11) vacancies. We expect the number of Free Standing houses to be at or near 21 for 2021.

4)

	Occupied	Vacant	Total
Attached	10	0	10
Adjacent	13	0	13
Free Standing	10	11	21
Total	**33**	**11**	**44**

Please see Attachment B for a list of Watchmen and facilities.

5. <u>WATCHMEN ACTIVITY</u>. Watchmen are required to sit "Fire Watch" on weekends when there are heightened conditions for fires and to conduct visual inspection of assigned boundaries surrounding the residence, they reside in. Certain locations may also be called on for snow removal or snow plowing when conditions require.

Resident Watchmen are required to submit a “Resident Watchman Bimonthly Report” twice a month, which categorizes their activity as watchmen. The categories that are reported on consist of “Fires,” “Encroachments,” “Hunting,” “Debris,” “Vandalism,” “Missing Signs,” “Branch Removal,” “Citizen Assist,” and “Other,” which may include such things as snow removal / snow plowing, reporting a car accident to 911, noticing lights on in a facility after hours or looking for anything out of the ordinary that might require a police inspection or visit.

“Fires” consists of two separate activities. It can be calling in wildland fires or responding to wildland fires after designated work hours. “Branch Removal” also consists of two separate tasks. The reporting of trees or large limbs down where it will impact the general public, and/or the removal of trees and large limbs down where it will impact the public. This work is performed after designated work hours.

2020 saw increases in all reported categories except “Encroachments.” Historically, there have been ups and downs in the numbers reported, and 2020 was a relatively “average” year overall. Being one of the only “open” places for the public to go to get out of their house may have led to increases in certain categories. Watchman Reports are available for review, and a summary of the reports is included as Attachment A.

ATTACHMENT A

RESIDENT WATCHMAN REPORTING STATISTICS

2020

	Fires	Encroachments	Hunting	Debris	Graffiti Vandalism	Missing Signs	Tree / Branch Removal	Citizen Assist	Other
January	0	1	0	60	1	1	36	22	135
February	0	1	0	45	0	3	25	13	102
March	2	0	0	62	2	2	24	24	99
April	2	0	0	56	2	1	26	38	89
May	1	0	1	76	6	3	30	36	120
June	1	0	0	56	1	1	32	27	126
July	0	0	0	55	1	2	28	18	124
August	0	0	0	61	0	1	38	31	110
September	0	0	0	58	1	2	29	22	119
October	0	0	1	62	0	3	26	21	118
November	3	0	0	60	1	1	26	19	103
December	4	0	1	42	1	2	13	12	102
TOTALS	**13**	**2**	**3**	**693**	**16**	**22**	**333**	**283**	**1,347**

2019

	Fires	Encroachments	Hunting	Debris	Graffiti Vandalism	Missing Signs	Tree / Branch Removal	Citizen Assist	Other
January	1	2	0	23	0	0	17	28	121
February	0	1	0	24	0	0	21	21	119
March	4	1	0	27	0	0	18	20	98
April	2	0	0	38	1	1	25	23	100
May	1	0	0	30	2	1	31	19	100
June	0	1	1	22	0	0	20	26	108
July	0	0	0	26	0	1	15	24	92
August	0	0	0	22	1	2	22	24	100
September	0	0	0	21	2	3	23	18	113
October	0	0	0	35	0	4	24	19	116
November	0	0	0	33	0	3	29	19	146
December	0	0	0	40	2	1	23	19	91
TOTALS	**8**	**5**	**1**	**341**	**8**	**16**	**268**	**260**	**1304**

2018

	Fires	Encroachments	Hunting	Debris	Graffiti Vandalism	Missing Signs	Tree / Branch Removal	Citizen Assist	Other
January	2	4	0	60	0	2	21	45	151
February	0	4	1	51	1	3	24	36	171
March	7	2	1	69	1	6	27	35	141
April	7	2	1	55	1	1	28	35	124
May	0	2	1	58	0	3	37	33	153
June	0	2	1	56	2	7	42	34	130
July	0	2	0	75	1	0	29	24	150
August	0	2	0	62	0	3	28	36	143
September	0	3	0	58	0	2	29	30	141
October	2	2	0	55	1	5	33	24	112
November	0	2	0	35	2	4	28	26	168
December	0	2	0	23	0	1	30	15	130
TOTALS	**18**	**29**	**5**	**657**	**9**	**37**	**356**	**373**	**1714**

2017

	Fires	Encroachments	Hunting	Debris	Graffiti Vandalism	Missing Signs	Tree / Branch Removal	Citizen Assist	Other
January	4	4	1	50	1	7	20	25	64
February	9	4	3	50	1	6	19	18	76
March	4	4	3	39	5	6	23	22	81
April	1	5	1	43	1	4	17	29	115
May	0	4	0	49	2	5	21	32	111
June	0	3	0	38	2	3	21	22	86
July	0	5	0	55	0	4	20	20	122
August	0	4	0	51	0	4	18	30	114
September	2	3	0	46	1	5	18	26	130
October	0	4	0	57	1	5	34	23	125
November	6	5	0	51	0	3	22	24	115
December	6	3	0	48	3	4	22	32	145
TOTALS	**35**	**48**	**8**	**577**	**17**	**56**	**255**	**303**	**1284**

2016

	Fires	Encroachments	Hunting	Debris	Graffiti Vandalism	Missing Signs	Tree / Branch Removal	Citizen Assist	Other
January	0	5	0	40	1	4	16	19	56
February	0	5	3	49	0	3	22	29	69
March	7	5	8	48	0	2	25	33	74
April	3	4	0	54	2	4	13	32	73
May	0	4	0	43	5	5	26	28	82
June	0	4	0	44	3	3	20	44	70
July	0	6	0	50	0	3	29	30	85
August	0	4	1	47	0	5	19	30	94
September	0	4	0	48	3	6	20	27	76
October	0	3	2	47	0	6	23	28	77
November	7	4	0	39	0	4	24	34	77
December	1	4	1	36	1	7	18	17	94
TOTALS	**18**	**52**	**15**	**545**	**15**	**52**	**255**	**351**	**927**

2015

	Fires	Encroachments	Hunting	Debris	Graffiti Vandalism	Missing Signs	Tree / Branch Removal	Citizen Assist	Other
January	4	5	0	31	0	4	6	18	43
February	4	1	0	24	0	2	10	24	51
March	6	0	3	24	1	2	17	16	35
April	9	4	1	37	0	1	19	26	37
May	3	5	0	38	1	2	22	26	52
June	0	2	0	33	0	2	20	28	44
July	0	3	0	40	1	2	34	32	61
August	0	4	0	38	1	2	32	25	52
September	0	2	0	41	0	2	20	34	56
October	0	4	0	48	0	1	29	42	54
November	7	4	0	41	0	2	25	25	53
December	0	4	0	38	1	2	16	26	40
TOTALS	**33**	**38**	**4**	**433**	**5**	**24**	**250**	**322**	**578**

2014

	Fires	Encroachments	Hunting	Debris	Graffiti Vandalism	Missing Signs	Tree / Branch Removal	Citizen Assist	Other
January	0	4	0	25	1	3	12	32	82
February	1	7	0	24	0	3	14	24	64
March	3	7	0	41	1	4	18	16	56
April	15	5	1	35	1	2	20	22	41
May	1	6	0	33	1	2	22	22	55
June	0	9	0	38	0	3	33	27	49
July	3	7	0	47	0	2	26	24	48
August	0	6	0	48	0	2	19	26	55
September	1	6	0	48	0	3	27	32	49
October	2	6	0	42	1	5	23	18	45
November	11	8	0	40	0	3	19	20	30
December	0	6	0	38	2	1	16	13	22
TOTALS	**37**	**77**	**1**	**459**	**7**	**33**	**249**	**276**	**596**

2013

	Fires	Encroachments	Hunting	Debris	Vandalism	Missing Signs	Branch Removal	Citizen Assist	Other
January	0	4	1	42	0	6	16	25	41
February	1	4	2	32	1	6	23	28	61
March	3	4	0	47	1	6	23	35	56
April	18	6	0	57	2	6	34	36	48
May	2	7	2	50	1	3	34	39	49
June	0	6	0	40	1	2	43	42	51
July	2	6	0	34	4	3	34	26	52
August	0	8	0	34	1	3	24	22	56
September	0	6	0	34	0	5	34	20	40
October	0	7	0	38	0	3	25	24	41
November	3	6	0	45	1	1	24	21	32
December	0	4	0	14	2	5	10	20	33
TOTALS	**29**	**68**	**5**	**467**	**14**	**49**	**324**	**338**	**560**

2012

	Fires	Encroachments	Hunting	Debris	Vandalism	Missing Signs	Branch Removal	Visitor Assist	Other
January	0	6	2	43	2	5	18	34	75
February	0	3	4	40	3	7	27	40	57
March	34	5	3	46	4	5	37	43	28
April	5	4	0	41	4	5	33	37	31
May	1	5	0	47	1	7	31	45	43
June	12	4	1	49	2	6	30	37	51
July	3	4	0	49	3	5	36	30	41
August	0	3	0	56	5	3	39	37	52
September	0	4	1	57	4	5	33	32	55
October	4	5	1	47	4	6	29	41	41
November	7	6	0	56	2	4	25	33	41
December	0	4	0	48	1	3	22	22	35
TOTALS	**66**	**53**	**12**	**579**	**35**	**61**	**360**	**431**	**550**

2011

	Fires	Encroachments	Hunting	Debris	Vandalism	Missing Signs	Branch Removal	Visitor Assist	Other
January	3	4	3	41	2	10	28	52	52
February	0	6	1	33	1	8	32	53	62
March	5	7	4	58	3	11	31	59	49
April	0	7	0	56	5	7	30	50	52
May	0	6	1	62	5	9	35	54	60
June	1	5	1	53	5	7	48	61	59
July	0	5	0	52	6	9	55	56	53
August	0	6	0	35	2	10	40	38	52
September	0	5	0	49	2	7	31	35	52
October	1	6	0	60	1	10	32	46	45
November	6	8	1	54	5	7	36	33	47
December	0	4	2	46	1	12	29	35	54
TOTALS	**16**	**69**	**13**	**599**	**38**	**107**	**427**	**572**	**637**

Attachment B

RESIDENT WATCHMAN/WOMAN STATUS REPORT AS OF 12-31-2020

Type	HB	Name	Address	Fee	Date of Occupancy	Division
Adjacent	101A	Anthony Banas	3500 Rohlwing Road Rolling Meadows	595.53	10-01-15	Northwest/Poplar Creek
Adjacent	103	Brian Winters	410 West Dundee Road Palatine	595.53	8-31-12	Northwest/Poplar Creek
Adjacent	*105*	*Vacant as of 07-01-13*	*3 Stover Road Barrington*	*476.42*		*Northwest/Poplar Creek*
Adjacent	105A	Rob Klamczynski	3 Stover Road Barrington	595.53	8-5-12	Northwest/Poplar Creek
Adjacent	110	John McCabe	640 Cosman Road Elk Grove Village	595.53	7-1-03	Northwest/Poplar Creek
Free Standing	113A	Lindsay Ivanyi	450 S. Arlington Heights Rd Elk Grove	714.64	12-15-14	Northwest/Poplar Creek
Free Standing	114B	Sebastian Rusin	356 Donlea Road Barrington Hills	714.64	01-10-2019	Northwest/Poplar Creek
Free Standing	*115*	*Vacant as of 04-01-18*	*1335 South Freeman Road Barrington*	*714.64*		*Northwest/Poplar Creek*
Adjacent	135	Nick Kuhn	11N2080 Rohrssen Road Elgin,	595.53	12-01-17	Northwest/Poplar Creek
Attached	136	Paul Stiller	3100 West Golf Road Elgin	476.42	12-08-12	Northwest/Poplar Creek
Free Standing	*148*	*Vacant as of 2-2010*	*31W482 Route #72 Hoffman Estates*	*714.64*		*Northwest/Poplar Creek*
Free Standing	*187*	*Vacant as of 5-2010*	*544 Penny Road Barrington Hills*	*714.64*		*Northwest/Poplar Creek*
Free Standing	195	Mark Hildebrandt	110 South Barrington Road Barrington	714.64	11-15-07	Northwest/Poplar Creek
Free Standing	*199G*	*Vacant as of 08-2012*	*1498 Schaumburg Road Streamwood*	*714.64*		*Northwest/Poplar Creek*
Attached	203	Matt Skoflanc	6200 West Devon Avenue Chicago	476.42	8-31-12	North Branch/Skokie
Attached	301	Gilbert Rosario	8800 West Belmont Avenue Chicago	476.42	11-11-16	Indian Boundary
Attached	304	Adam Kessel	738 Thatcher Avenue River Forest	476.42	07-23-15	Indian Boundary
Adjacent	423	Kevin Neary	500 West Ogden Avenue Western Springs	595.53	7-1-89	Salt Creek
Adjacent	521	Brenda Occhuizzo	9750 S. Willow Springs Rd. Willow Springs	595.53	10-18-12	Palos/Sag Valley
Free Standing	525	Brendon Jones	9001 West 103rd Street Palos Hills	714.64	05/01/17	Palos/Sag Valley
Free Standing	*525*	*Vacant as of 10-2020*	*9001 West 103rd Street Palos Hills*	*714.64*		*Palos/Sag Valley*
Attached	601B	Mark Jaeger	463 Thornton/Lansing Road Thornton	476.42	09/15/17	Thorn Creek
Adjacent	602B	Steve Smith	15895 Paxton South Holland	595.53	10-01-2019	Thorn Creek
Attached	624	Jameal Mathis	18725 S. Stony Island Chicago Heights	595.53	05-01-2020	Thorn Creek

Type	HB	Name	Address	Fee	Date of Occupancy	Division
Attached	649	Daniel O'Rourke	3302 Ashland Avenue Steger	595.53	06-01-2020	Thorn Creek
Free Standing	650	Sandra Daniels	17270 Volbrecht Road South Holland	714.64	01-01-13	Thorn Creek
Free Standing	770	Michael Parzygnat	770 Hammond Ave Elgin	714.64	07-01-2020	Northwest / Poplar Creek
Adjacent	801A	Tim Paluch	13800 South Harlem Avenue Orland Park	595.53	1-1-95	Tinley Creek
Attached	802A	John Jackson	6797 West 147th Street Oak Forest	476.42	06-10-2019	Tinley Creek
Free Standing	803	Mike Pogwizd	7300 West 143rd Street Orland Park	714.64	03-15-2020	Tinley Creek
Free Standing	*807*	*Vacant as of 10-31-13*	*15940 South Central Avenue Oak Forest*	*714.64*		*Tinley Creek*
Free Standing	*838*	*Vacant as of 08-31-13*	*4401 West Flossmoor Country Club Hills*			*Tinley Creek*
Attached	901	Joel Rosario	1150 Harms Road Glenview	476.42	1-1-02	North Branch/Skokie
Adjacent	906	Julio Irizarry	1720 Cherry Street Northfield	595.53	2-23-04	North Branch/Skokie
Adjacent	1005	Michael Soverino	3120 Milwaukee Avenue Northbrook	476.42	06-01-2020	Des Plaines
Attached	1101	Kelvin Boyd	12201 West McCarthy Road Palos Park	476.42	06-01-2020	Palos/Sag Valley
Adjacent	1103	Matthew Yanz	12545 West 111th Street Lemont	595.530	03-15-2020	Palos/Sag Valley
Free Standing	*1104*	*Vacant as of 11-1-11*	*11301 Ford Road Palos Park*	*714.64*		*Palos/Sag Valley*
Free Standing	1122	James Phillips	13240 Wolf Road Orland Park	714.64	11-1-01	Palos/Sag Valley
Free Standing	1124B	John Pellegrino	13535 South 110th Avenue Orland Park	714.64	11-3-01	Palos/Sag Valley
Free Standing	*1125*	*Vacant as of 10-15-11*	*13500 South Wolf Road Orland Park*	*714.64*		*Palos/Sag Valley*
Free Standing	1141	James Lee	12801 South Bell Road Lemont	714.64	10-12-18	Palos/Sag Valley
Free Standing	*1141*	*Vacant as of 10-01-2020*	*12801 South Bell Road Lemont*	*714.64*	*10-12-18*	*Palos/Sag Valley*
Adjacent	1144	Jeanette Louis	13621 S. 110th Avenue Orland Park	595.53	10-6-03	Palos/Sag Valley
Free Standing	1145	Mike Hart	13541 S. 110th Avenue Orland Park	595.53	10-6-03	Palos/Sag Valley

44 = Resident Watchman Facilities
33 = Occupied on 12/31/2020
11 = Vacant as of 12/31/2019
2 = Moved out during the year

Please note two residences, 525 and 1141 are listed twice due to a Resident Watchman vacating the residence during the year.

Attachment C

SALARY RANGE OF RESIDENT WATCHMEN/WOMEN

Name	Dept.	Title	2020 Salary	House #
Anthony Banas	Landscape	Assistant Division Superintendent	70,532.80	101A
Brian Winters	CEP	Naturalist II	76,190.40	103
Rob Klamczynski	CEP	Naturalist I	64,854.40	105A
John McCabe	RM	Director of Resource Management	120,020.16	110
Lindsay Ivanyi	Landscape	Division Superintendent	75,379.20	113A
Sebastian Rusin	Landscape	Serviceman	51,812.80	114B
Nicholas Kuhn	RM	Resource Operations Manager	99,798.40	135
Paul Stiller	Police	Police Officer	73,236.80	136
Mark Hildebrandt	Landscape	Division Superintendent	87,172.80	195
Matt Skoflanc	RM	Senior Resource Technician	61,214.40	203
Gilbert Rosario	Landscape	Assistant Division Superintendent	67,246.40	301
Adam Kessel	CEP	Naturalist I	70,532.80	304
Kevin Neary	RM	Resource Supervisor	88,930.00	423
Brenda Occhuizzo	RM	Assistant Resource Project Mgr	79,913.60	521
Brendon Jones	RM	Senior Resource Technician	59,508.80	525
Mark Jaeger	Landscape	Serviceman I	51,812.80	601B
Steve Smith	RM	Resource Technician	54,745.60	602B
Jameal Mathis	LM	Assistant Division Superintendent	70,532.80	624
Daniel O'Rourke	RM	Resource Technician	54,454.40	649
Sandra Daniels	Landscape	Laborer	49,420.80	650
Michael Parzygnat	Police	Police Officer	67,722.72	770
Timothy Paluch	Landscape	Laborer	50,419.20	801A
John Jackson	RM	Senior Resource Technician	61,214.40	802A
Michael Pogwizd	Facilities	Maintenance Equipment Operator	78,374.40	803
Joel Rosario	RM	Resource Supervisor	88,067.20	901
Julio Irizarry	Police	Police Officer	82,332.64	906
Michael Soverino	FF	Maintenance Mechanic	76,398.40	1005
Kelvin Boyd	LM	Laborer	47,528.00	1101
Matthew Yanz	RM	Resource Technician	55,016	1103
James Phillips	RM	Fisheries Biologist II	76,190.40	1122
John Pellegrino	RM	Resource Supervisor	88,920.00	1124B
James Lee	RM	Resource Technician	56,680	1141
Jeanette Louis	CEP	Naturalist II	76,190.40	1144
Mike Hart	RM	Trails Manager	97,676.80	1145
		Median Salary	71,471.79	