

Fall 2026

Volume XXVI, No. 4

Watterson Park Word

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF WATTERSON PARK, KENTUCKY

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Living with Wildlife

We have received an increase in reports of coyotes roaming throughout our City.

According to the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife, coyote sightings increase during certain times of the year. Coyotes roam more as breeding season begins in January and February. Their visibility continues into July as they care for their new pups. Sightings pick up again in the fall, when juveniles disperse to find their own territories.

Coyotes may be less tolerant of people around their dens while they are raising pups. They are adaptable animals that can use a variety of dens, including hollow trees or logs, rock crevices, brush piles, abandoned groundhog burrows, self-excavated holes, abandoned buildings, or junk piles.

Terri Brunjes with the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources provided us with several links to materials we can use to educate ourselves on how to safely live with coyotes – and with wildlife in general. You can find these links on our website: WattersonParkKy.com.



Watterson Park Council & Officers

Mayor	Linda Chesser
Councilman	Jay Bourke
Councilwoman	Shelia Bumphus
Councilwoman	Becky Ewan
Councilman	Steve Fortwengler
Councilwoman	Gina Garrett
Councilman	Todd O'Bryan
Treasurer	Jean Hall
Clerk	Aggie Keefe

From the Mayor



Your City Council has some exciting news to share with you!

We previously informed you that we had purchased five acres of undeveloped land at 1391 Gardiner Lane. We have now begun construction on a City park at that site. See **page 3** for more information on **The Preserve at Watterson Park**.

Below are additional highlights of what your City Council has accomplished over the past several months.

- ♦ We have once again lowered your real property tax rate – from 5.1¢ to **5¢ per \$100** of valuation. The tax rates for tangible personal property and motor vehicles/watercraft remained the same, at 5¢ and 7¢, respectively. It's interesting to note that since the inception of our City in 1981, the real property tax rate has been reduced from 16¢ to the current 5¢ — down by 68%. See **page 2** for how Watterson Park's 2025 tax rates compared with other cities in Jefferson County and in the state as well.
- ♦ We signed a contract with Republic Services to continue to provide sanitation services for our residents through June 30, 2028. You can find sanitation services guidelines and a collection calendar for the remainder of the year on **page 4**.
- ♦ Your City Council increased the contract hours with Louisville Code Enforcement & Mediation during peak months to further ensure that neighborhoods are maintained — thereby protecting property values and promoting the health, safety, and welfare of our residents.
- ♦ We increased the hours for off-duty police patrol through Kentuckiana Law Enforcement and amended our contract to include University of Louisville Police.
- ♦ We contracted with County Wide Lawn & Landscaping to mow our rights-of-way, clean curbs and gutters, remove dead trees and stumps, take care of our City-owned properties, and for overall tree/shrub maintenance for the 2026 season.
- ♦ Our Treasurer, City Attorney, and I worked together to draft a budget for fiscal year July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. It was presented to your City Council and approved in June.
- ♦ We received recertification as a Tree City USA from the Arbor Day Foundation for the twenty-third year. We are one of more than 30 cities in Kentucky to receive this recognition in 2026.

We encourage you to attend our monthly legislative meetings on the second Monday of each month at the Jefferson County Farm Bureau on Gardiner View Avenue. In addition, you can stay informed about what's going on in Watterson Park by visiting WattersonParkKy.com.

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful fall season!

Beginning with this issue, *Watterson Park Word* will be published **ONLINE ONLY**. You can find an interactive version on WattersonParkKy.com.

It's not too late to sign up!

A few years ago, Watterson Park contracted with REACH Alert so that we could immediately share important information with our residents and businesses via text message, voice call, or e-mail.

We want to thank those of you who have already signed up, and we encourage those who haven't to try it out. The sign-up process is simple, and you can opt out at any time.

Go to reachalert.com, or use your smart device to scan the QR code to the right. Click "Sign Up," type "Watterson Park" as the Network Name, and follow the prompts from there.



If you do not have access to the Internet or if you experience any difficulty registering, please contact REACH Alert at 877.307.9313 or e-mail wattersonparkinfo@att.net.



NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Check your voting status, find your polling location, or get a sample ballot by visiting Elections.JeffersonCountyClerk.org or by calling the Jefferson County Clerk's Office at 502.574.6100.

Your Voice, Your Vote!

How do our taxes compare with other cities?

As reported on the Jefferson County Property Valuation Administration (PVA) website, there are 83 incorporated taxing jurisdictions within Jefferson County, Kentucky. These municipalities are separate cities within the larger metropolitan city limits of Louisville. They have their own governments, with elected officials and councils.

According to the Commonwealth of Kentucky Office of the Secretary of State website, there are 411 active incorporated cities in Kentucky. These cities are divided into two classes: first class and home rule. Currently, Louisville is Kentucky's only designated "first class" city.

The tax rates listed below are from the *Commonwealth of Kentucky Property Tax Rates 2025*, an annual publication of the Kentucky Department of Revenue. (Rates are not yet available for 2026.) They are expressed in cents per \$100 dollars of assessed value.

Real Property Tax Rate

Real property taxes are assessed on land, buildings, and permanently attached structures.

- The real property tax rates for home rule cities in **Jefferson County** in 2025 ranged from 5.1¢ to 32.3¢.
- Of the 405 cities in **Kentucky** that reported, the average tax rate was 21.2¢.
- **Watterson Park's real property tax rate was 5.1¢.**

Tangible Personal Property Tax Rate

Tangible personal property is comprised of physical property owned by a business and includes items such as equipment, furniture, and vehicles.

- The tangible property tax rate for home-rule cities in **Jefferson County** in 2025 that imposed this tax ranged from 5.0¢ to 37.7¢.
- Of the home rule cities in **Kentucky** that reported, the average rate was 22.5¢.
- **Watterson Park's tangible rate was 5.0¢.**

Personal Property Tax on Motor Vehicles and Watercraft

The Property Valuation Administrator lists, values, and assesses the property tax on motor vehicles and watercraft as of January 1 each year.

- The personal property tax rate for home-rule cities in **Jefferson County** that imposed this tax ranged from 7.0¢ to 37.7¢.
- For home rule cities in **Kentucky**, the average rate was 16.6¢.
- **Watterson Park's personal property tax rate was 7¢.**

Your City Council strives to be a good steward of our financial resources. Services you receive include trash, recycle, and yard waste pickup for residential properties; street light installation and rental; maintaining City-owned properties and rights-of-way; tree planting and maintenance; street and boundary signs; road and sidewalk paving and repairs; code enforcement services; off-duty police patrol; and snow removal.

We are proud of the fact that we can reduce your tax burden yet still offer the numerous services that our residents and businesses deserve and to which they have become accustomed.

When significant snowfall or ice is forecast, please park your vehicle in your driveway so that brine can be applied and/or snow can be removed safely and quickly.

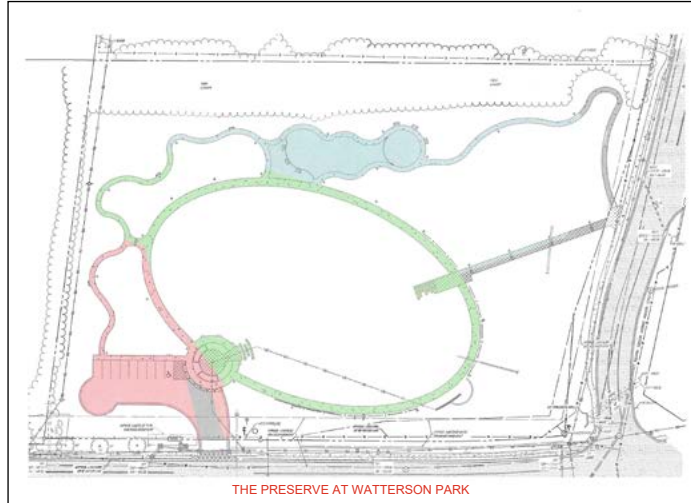
Thank you!



The Preserve at Watterson Park

In March of 2024, Watterson Park purchased a five-acre tract of undeveloped land at 1391 Gardiner Lane. After the property acquisition, we began looking at options to engage in a minimalist, natural setting development that would be an extension of our own park system, which includes the Lillian Wild Walking Path and The Norman Liebert Green. Ultimately, your City Council decided on a family park.

After City Attorney John Treitz researched engineering and landscape design firms for the project, he and Mayor Linda Chesser met with The Kleingers Group and were impressed with their expertise. Kleingers agreed to draw up designs to present at an upcoming City Council meeting. In July 2025, Kleingers presented three concept plans for Council's consideration. Each plan included a main entrance with sign, pedestrian plaza gateway, parking areas, shade structure walkways, ADA compliant paved trails and walkways, ADA compliant playground for children, bioswale, an open flex lawn, and no-mow grasses and native plantings.



Drawing of the approved park plans provided by Bornstein General Contracting.

the park. We also worked closely with MSD, LG&E, Louisville Metro Council, and Metro Planning and Zoning for the necessary permits, as well as Metro Parks Urban Forestry concerning tree plantings on the easements surrounding the park.

A special groundbreaking ceremony was held on the property on September 14 of this year. In attendance were Mayor Linda Chesser; Council members and officers; Attorney Duncan Crosby; Nima Mahmoodi with The Kleingers

Group; and Dawn Burba, BJ Nichols, and Kent Brown with Bornstein General Contracting. Excavation has already begun, with completion expected in mid-2027.

Mayor Chesser noted that it has taken some time to get the project up and running, but she feels the outcome will be enjoyed for many years.



Mayor Linda Chesser, Councilmembers and officers, Attorney Duncan Crosby, and representatives from The Kleingers Group and Bornstein General Contracting at the groundbreaking ceremony on September 14, 2026.



Midstates Recreation will supply the equipment for the children's ADA compliant playground.

In July 2025, Council approved one of the designs with some modifications, and Mayor Chesser signed a contract with The Kleingers Group. Kleingers suggested names for the park, with Council ultimately deciding on "The Preserve at Watterson Park." We then established a Property Development Subcommittee — consisting of the Mayor, two Council members, and a resident — to oversee the project.

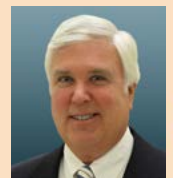
Over the course of the next year, members of this subcommittee, in collaboration with City Attorney Duncan Crosby, worked with The Kleingers Group on the development of the park. We contracted with Bornstein General Contracting to act as general contractor for the park, and The Kleingers Group continues to provide project management and oversight for

We would like to thank the following people who worked diligently on this project: City Attorney Duncan Crosby for his post-acquisition guidance and expertise; Nima Mahmoodi with The Kleingers Group; Dawn Burba with Bornstein General Contracting; and the members of Watterson Park's Property Development Subcommittee (Mayor Linda Chesser, Councilmembers Jay Bourke and Becky Ewan, and Watterson Park resident Alex Longino).

We would like to recognize

ATTORNEY JOHN G. TREITZ, JR.

John Treitz served as legal counsel for the City of Watterson Park from our inception in 1981 until his death in August 2025. His tireless efforts and dedication to Watterson Park were instrumental in the acquisition of this property. Watterson Park will honor Mr. Treitz by dedicating a special area in the park to him.



Republic Services

RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICE GUIDE

Effective July 1, 2026

Basic Services and Schedule

Trash Collection Is Weekly

Republic Services will provide residential homes with two (2) 95-gallon or comparable wheeled carts. Residents of Fort Bluegrass will be provided one (1) 95-gallon or comparable wheeled cart. Use of carts is required, as we are an automated service. Carts will be serviced at the curb and should be out the night before or by 6 a.m.

Recycling Collection Is Bi-Weekly on Friday

Republic Services will supply residential homes with one (1) 95-gallon or comparable wheeled cart. Service is every other week on Friday. Cart will be serviced at the curb and should be out the night before or by 6 a.m.

Yard Waste Collection Is Bi-Weekly on Friday

Republic Services will service yard waste every other week on Friday for residential homes. The collection week will be opposite the recycling week. Service will be at the curb and cart should be put out the night before or by 6 a.m.

Bulk Item Collection Is on Trash Day

One household bulk item is allowed per week. Items must be scheduled in advance by calling 502.638.9000 or through our Republic Services app.

Observed Holidays

New Year's Day, Labor Day, Independence Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day

If regular service falls on a holiday (not the observance but the actual holiday), service will be delayed one day.

Guidelines

Trash

Please bag all trash prior to placing in carts.

- Carts should be placed no less than 3 feet from any objects, including other carts.
- Do not lean or place other items against the carts.

Recycling

- Carts should be placed no less than 3 feet from any objects, including other carts.

Yard Waste

- Use provided cart, yard waste bags, or tied bundles not to exceed a total of 15. Bundles must not exceed 4 feet in length and 50 lbs.; limbs may not exceed 6 inches in diameter. Cart must be identified as yard waste. Stickers are available upon request. No plastic bags are allowed.

Acceptable Bulk Items

- Furniture and appliances: All mattresses, box springs, and upholstered furniture must be wrapped in plastic.
- White goods (A/C units, refrigerators, freezers, etc.) must have Freon® removed by a licensed technician and must be tagged.
- Outdoor goods such as patio furniture, grills, etc.
- Broken down boxes (bundled and tied).

Unacceptable Bulk Items:

- Commercially generated brush and landscape materials.
- Bricks, concrete, dirt, shingles, and tree trunks.
- Remodeling, construction, and demolition debris.
- Cardboard boxes filled with debris.

WATTERSON PARK SANITATION CALENDAR

October – December 2026

OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

■ Holidays
 ■ Recycling
 ■ Trash
 ■ Yard Waste

ALL PICKUPS ARE ON FRIDAY. Recycling is collected every other week. Yard waste is collected the opposite week. If regular service falls on a holiday, service will be delayed one day.