



WARSON WOODS

New Resident Welcome Packet

City of Warson Woods

by residents, for residents
October 2021 Draft

This packet is an unofficial welcome packet for residents who are new to Warson Woods.
It was created by the all-volunteer Warson Woods Communication Committee.

We welcome corrections and suggestions to be sent to cityhall@warsonwoods.com
to be incorporated in our next edition.

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Welcome Letter from Board of Alderman

Greetings New Warson Woods Resident:

From all of us on the Warson Woods Board of Aldermen and at Warson Woods City Hall, we want to welcome you to this incredible community of Warson Woods. Whether you are moving here from out of state or a neighboring municipality just next door, we hope this packet will provide you with some information and tips that will help make your arrival in our community as seamless as possible.

One important hallmark of Warson Woods is our status as a Proud Tree City as conferred by the National Arbor Day Foundation. We have an extraordinary diversity of trees and beautiful landscaping in our parks and common areas that are for all residents to enjoy. We work hard to with nature to create a serene, peaceful environment for our residents.

One of our recent large projects was the construction of the new pavilion at Royal Oak Park near the Warson Woods Swim Club (900 Warson Woods Drive). Our community lives and thrives in that space throughout the year with pickup tennis and basketball games, the community fire pit, and the lovely playground. The pavilion has a lovely fireplace, ample seating, restrooms, and a gorgeous view of the rest of the park. Residents can enjoy this pavilion for your own private events and rarely a weekend goes by in fair weather when there aren't a few reservations for the pavilion.

This packet provides information about how to get connected to the From the Woods monthly newsletter for Warson Woods residents, annual traditions like our Fourth of July Parades and Games and the annual Fall Festival, and logistical information like waste pickup details. We hope this packet will be helpful to you as you settle.

We welcome you to this community and we hope you'll join us in the spirit of crafting a true community by waving at neighbors, taking an evening stroll to say hello to some of your new neighbors, and getting involved in our local government by attending a City event or meeting.

Welcome to Warson Woods. It is our pleasure to serve this fine community!

Laurance M. Howe - Mayor

Warson Woods Resident since 1990

Dawn Bickford - Ward 1 Alderwoman

Warson Woods Resident since 1983

Hannah Mayer - Ward 1 Alderwoman

Warson Woods Resident since 2009

George P. Dorris, IV - Ward 2 Alderman

Warson Woods Resident since 2011

Lucy Pfyl - Ward 2 Alderwoman

Warson Woods Resident since 2016

George Bruenning - Ward 3 Alderman

Warson Woods Resident since 1995

Charlie Luisetti - Ward 3 Alderman

Warson Woods Resident since 2000

Michael Dell'Orco - Ward 4 Alderman

Warson Woods Resident since 2004

Jim Newman - Ward 4 Alderman

Warson Woods Resident since 2009

How to Get and Stay Connected with Warson Woods

City Website: Visit www.warsonwoods.com to get up to date on city happenings and governance.

Monthly Newsletter: Subscribe to our monthly From the Woods newsletter at [this link](#) or click the “From the Woods Newsletter” subpage on our city website to get subscribed. You can see past versions of the newsletter [here](#).

Social Media: You can follow the City of Warson Woods on the following social media sites:

- Instagram: @warsonwoods_mo ([link](#))
- Twitter: @WarsonWoodsMO ([link](#))
- Facebook: @warsonwoodsmo ([link](#))

Facebook Groups: Here are a couple of Facebook groups that many residents are in that relate to WW:

- [In the Woods](#) (private group)
- [Warson Woods](#) (public group)

NextDoor: Warson Woods does have a relatively active NextDoor community if you prefer non-Facebook groups. To join, go to nextdoor.com and you'll verify your address to join the Warson Woods Group or you can use this [link](#).

"Get to Know Warson Woods" Scavenger Hunt

*Fill this out and take it along with the agenda and leaves (explained below) to Kathy Maheny at City Hall for a prize!

How many slides are at Rohan Woods playground? _____

What year did the Warson Woods Swim Club open? (hint: look for plaque) _____

How many legs are on the pavilion at Royal Oak Park? _____

What color is the bridge for secret passage that connects Flanders & Beauclaire?

Visit the walking path at Dreher Park. How many steps does it take you from start to finish (approximately)? _____

What year did Warson Woods become a municipality? _____

Warson Woods is a Proud Tree City. What are 4 things you need to have to become a Tree City USA? _____

When does city council meet? _____

Go to one of their meetings and collect an agenda to turn in.

Identify three varieties of trees or flowers in Warson Woods. Collect their leaves.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Who is the current Mayor? _____

What ward do you live in? _____

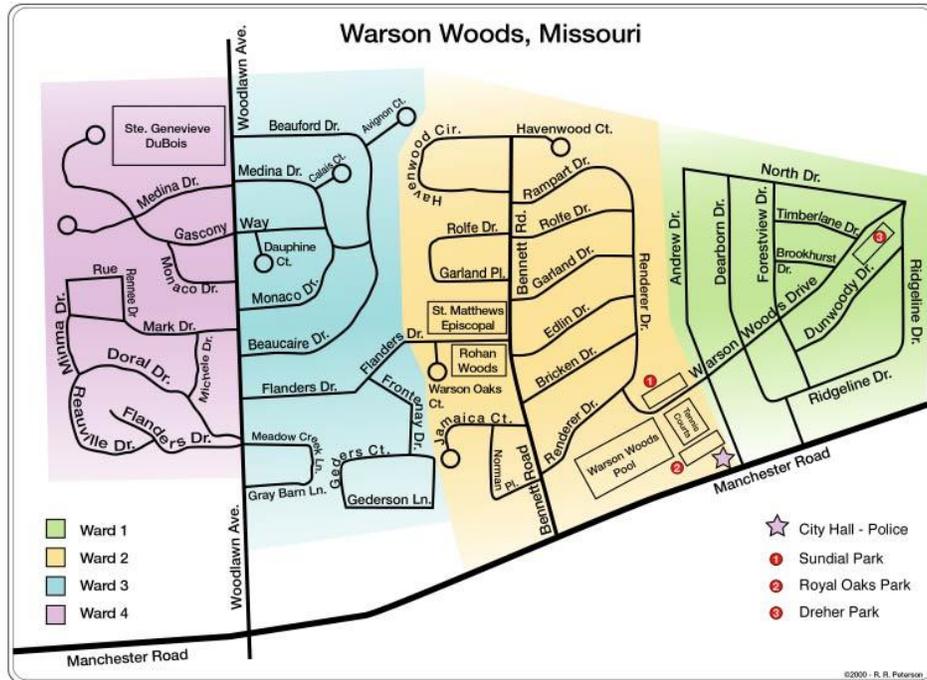
What are the names of your current alderpeople? _____

Visit the police station and get a signature from a Warson Woods Police Officer _____

Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

Which ward do I live in?

Warson Woods is made up of four wards starting with Ward 1 on the east side of the neighborhood ending with Ward 4 which is the part of Warson Woods on the west side of Woodlawn. You can find your ward designation on this map:



How do I reserve the pavilion?

Visit City Hall during opening hours and bring a check for your refundable deposit. Kathy Maheny (City Staff) can confirm if it is open on the schedule and you can fill out the form there and give them your security deposit (which is shredded as long as you don't cause damage). The cost is \$0 for residents (plus refundable security deposit)

How can I meet people?

We recommend connecting on Facebook groups or Next Door and posting your interests to see if others are interested in joining. If you love dogs, plan a meetup for neighborhood dogs in a fenced backyard. If you like walking at 7am every day, post to invite others to join you. This is a very social neighborhood and if you are interested in something, we bet others are, too.

What do kids do around here in the summer?

Many kids take part in the Warson Woods Swim Club Swim Team and there are tennis lessons at the courts many mornings. Keep an eye on the Facebook Group and From the Woods Newsletter for more details. Swim Team details can be found [here](#). Almost every week we see lemonade stands up and kids are constantly biking around the neighborhood enjoying our parks and meeting up with friends or playing ball. There are some older kids who plan half day camps for the younger kids, as well. It changes each year and most info is posted on Facebook to get the word out.

Who is writing this New Resident Packet?

Our names are Hannah Mayer, Rebecca Dohrman and Paul Rost and together we make up the all-volunteer Warson Woods Communication Committee. Special thanks to Ward 1 resident Tony Potts for helping us add design to the document. Our goal is to help welcome new residents by documenting some of the things that the insiders of the neighborhood learn over the years. We hope this is helpful.

Top 10 List of Things to Love About Warson Woods

*This post was written in 2012 by Warson Woods Resident Rebecca Dohrman after one year of living here. It was originally posted on a Warson Woods blog that is no longer active, but a lot of the little details still hold true.

Top 10 Things I Love About Warson Woods A 1-Year Retrospective

I have fallen in love with the Warson Woods community, so I thought this sort of blog post cataloguing ten things I have grown to love about Warson Woods might be fun.

- 1. The Warson Woods Swim Club:** This is a pool that folks that live in the neighborhood can join each summer. It's a place where I know I'll always see a neighbor and where our kids can spend their events literally just hanging out. Many families order delivery or bring dinner up to the pool and the Pool Board hosts events all summer long. (By the way, we are also thankful for The Warson Woods Swim Team: My son did the pre-swim program which is a three times per week swim lesson for the six weeks of swim team. The swim team practices almost every weekday and I always see kids riding their bikes down for swim team in the morning.
- 2. The Warson Woods Running Club:** This group runs a few times a week after meeting in the pool parking lot. Keep an eye on the Facebook group for details. This group also hosts the Trot through the Woods 5K the Saturday after Thanksgiving every year.
- 3. The Warson Woods Fall Festival:** My son has never been so happy as he was at this event (held the first Friday in October at the tennis courts/park/pool parking lot. We were surrounded by dancing music from the DJ, a bounce house from the Glendale Fire Station, two great rides that were full all night, a hayride, a bonfire, and lots of good friends. It was community living at its finest. (Other annual events include the Ladies Ornament Exchange, Opening Party at the Pool, and the nearby Rock Hill Fall Parade)
- 4. Delicious Nearby Restaurants:** We are within a few miles of several great restaurants: Katie's Pizza and Pasta, Farottos, Hacienda, Nacho Mamas, one of the four Amighettis' sandwich shops, Breadsmiths for coffee and breads, Robust, The Block .and several others in nearby downtown Kirkwood, Ladue, Frontenac, Brentwood, and Webster Groves.

5. **Being Within Walking Distance** of....many things, including a Dierbergs, a pub, a coffeeshop, several resale stores, a nail shop, a barber, a craft store, and a dollar store (where they have Mylar balloons for \$1! I can't tell you how many I've gotten on the way to birthday parties!)

6. **Neighbor Events:** Having Spontaneous and Planned Events with neighbors all year long is one of the most special things about Warson Woods. My neighbors are a real community for our family. We see them at the pool, grocery store, school, and at stores nearby. We are constantly running into each other outside of our houses and many an evening has been spent just hanging out in someone's driveway. Potluck happy hours are the best.

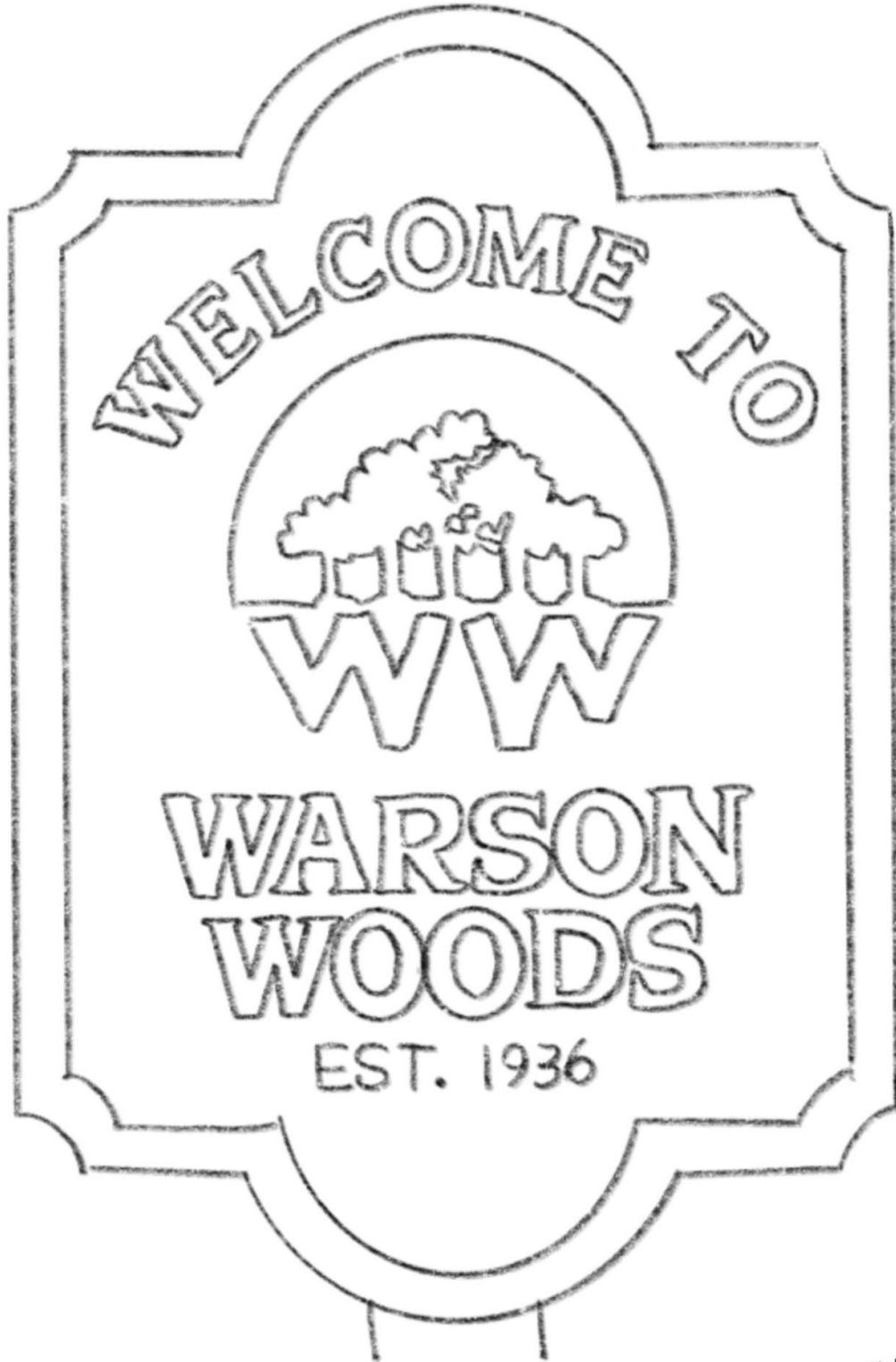
7. **The Scenery:** They don't call us "woods" for nothing. I can't help but notice nature every time I drive or walk up Warson Woods Drive. It is stunning and it is even more wonderful to be in the middle of a large city with such beautiful surroundings. We really have the best of both worlds.

8. **Living Near Great Schools:** Public (Hudson/Webster or Tillman/Kirkwood schools)/Catholic (Ste. Genevieve du Bois)/Independent (Rohan Woods)....we have excellent schools nestled in the neighborhood and within walking distance, plus a couple of great preschools (Carmelite, CCLS) What more could we ask for our kids' childhood to be filled with memories from an honest to goodness neighborhood school?

9. **Daily Walks:** When I first moved in and didn't see many sidewalks on my side of the neighborhood, I wondered if no one took walks. Within 24 hours of being in my house, however, I realized that literally a hundred people walk by my house on any given day. It is honestly inspiring how many people take daily walks in the neighborhood. There is a constant stream of adults and kids going up and down the streets. It's healthy living at its finest!

10. **Church Bells:** The church bells from St. Gen (as Ste. Genevieve du Bois is commonly called around the neighborhood) ring every day at 12noon. It always makes me smile.

Warson Woods Coloring Page
Created by Ryan Scott (Ward 2 Resident)



RSCT

A Brief History of Warson Woods

On July 15, 1936, a number of residents in the 1400 and 1500 block of Andrew Drive and Inter Drive (now known as Warson Woods Drive) incorporated into the Town of Royal Oak. The original Trustees were appointed by the St. Louis County Court and their first business act was to select the site of the first City Hall in a building at the corner of Dearborn and Manchester Road. These same Trustees were then elected at the first election held on April 5, 1938.

Mail for the original residents on Andrew Drive was addressed to Rural Route #4, Webster Groves, Missouri, and was delivered to mail boxes at the south end of Andrew on what is now Manchester Road. Until March, 1937, the closest telephone service for Andrew Drive residents was at Boss's Garage, now the site of Dierbergs Market.

In April and May 1939, the northward expansion of Andrew Drive and Forest View was finished and a portion of Timberlane was developed. In 1941, a delay was placed on the issuance of new building permits; however, additional gas furnace permits were being issued, reportedly due to labor problems. Joseph H. White and Hanna M. White built most of the homes in this area.

Also in 1941, because of confusion with Royal Oaks, Michigan, the Board of Trustees voted to change the name of their town to the Village of Warson Woods. This was done by resolution on November 10, 1941.

In the early 1940's, the Warson Woods pioneers rode the "jitney" to Rock Hill for five cents to shop at Hoch's Grocery, Country Hill Grocery or Mrs. Grosheim's Hardware Store. A beauty shop, blacksmith shop and drug store were also in Rock Hill. Maplewood could also be reached on the same jitney for ten cents and with fifteen cents a trip to downtown St. Louis was available.

As time passed, a grocery store, Vogelgesang's Service Station and Hardesty Grocery entered the Village. To the west in Kirkwood at Manchester and Woodlawn, Linder's Market opened.

The Bennett Hills section of Warson Woods was built in the early 1950's and Warson Woods Drive was extended from Andrew Drive to join Renderer Drive. This property was part of the McMannus Estate, which had a race track for horses, lakes and a forest.

There was a spring-fed lake surrounded by blackberry bushes and other wild shrubs. In the middle of the lake there was a small island covered with violets (in season). In this area now, the city has Royal Oak Park with playground equipment, two tennis courts, a basketball court, pavilion and swimming pool. This area was purchased from Joseph H. White and Wymetta Drive was vacated. Title was conveyed so that it will forever be a park.

In 1948, Joseph H. White began building the Warson Village Shopping Center, with the second section commencing in 1952. This was the first strip shopping center built in St. Louis County and was quite a novelty in those days. When the shopping center was completed, Dearborn Drive was closed off from Manchester Road and a new street called Warson Woods Boulevard came off Manchester to join with Ridgeline Drive for access to Dearborn Drive and Forest View.

The census figures showed that the Village was growing and something was needed to enable the Village to continue to exist. An election was held on August 7, 1957, asking the citizens to approve the Village becoming a 4th class city. The voters approved the proposal, allowing more taxes to be generated and the residents to have more control over their government.

All commercial building had ceased until 1994 when Dierbergs Markets and Capitol Land, in a joint venture, purchased Warson Village Shopping Center and approached the Board of Aldermen with plans for the new Warson Woods Shopping Center. Their plans included demolishing the buildings between the city limits and Warson Woods Boulevard and building a new strip of stores. Demolition began by removing the center section of the shopping center. With this building gone, construction began on the new strip center. Most of the existing merchants moved to vacancies in the buildings west of Warson Woods Boulevard or into the new strip of buildings which opened in the spring of 1995.

As all merchants were now relocated into their permanent spaces, demolition began on the buildings on the eastern border of Warson Woods and construction of the new Dierbergs Market began, with its completion in January of 1996.

Below is a picture of what the Warson Woods Plaza used to look like. I'm sure more than a few of you can remember this era...



*Editor's Note: This is from the Warson Woods website. If anyone knows who wrote it, please email us at cityhall@warsonwoods.com. We would love to give them credit!

Warson Woods Traditions

Warson Woods Fall Festival: The Fall Festival is a wonderful evening (typically the first Friday in October) where the community gathers at Royal Oak Park for a hayride, amusement park rides (3-4), a bounce house from the Glendale Fire Department, and assorted food and drinks. It's a wonderful community tradition that we look forward to every year.

4th of July Parades: There are two 4th of July parades around 10 or 10:30am on the 4th. One is held in Ward 1 near the intersection of Timberlane and Forest View. The other is held in Ward 4. Keep an eye on the In the Woods Facebook group for more details.

Ladies Ornament Exchange: Each year, a few households come together to host a ladies ornament exchange in early December at someone's home. It is a lovely tradition. You bring a wrapped ornament and put it under the tree and then on your way out of the party, you take someone else's ornaments. You never know what you'll get!

Pool Parties: The Opening Day party each year at Warson Woods Swim Club is open to all Warson Woods residents. This is a wonderful chance to see the pool up close and get to meet some new friends in the community. The pool also hosts a series of events like Guys/Girls Nights Out, Adult Night Out, Swim Meets/Team, and a huge 4th of July potluck.

Ste. Genevieve Carnival: Ste. Genevieve du Bois is the Catholic parish in this area and their annual school picnic is a frequent favorite of many neighborhood kids.

The Secret Passage: There is a secret passage/sidewalk in the neighborhood that connects Flanders with Beaucaire. You can enter it on Flanders just west of Warson Oaks Court on the opposite side of the street. The children delight in visiting the secret passage.

Tree City/Parks

TREE CITY:

Warson Woods is a Proud Tree City as honored by the National Arbor Day Foundation. More information about trees in our city [here](#).

PARKS:

Royal Oak Park: Royal Oak Park sits behind the tennis and basketball courts and just a stones throw from the pool. It features a pavilion with fireplace available for rental, as well as a fire pit.

Dreher Park: This park is a wonderful park located at Warson Woods Drive and Ridgeline. It features a full playground with plenty of room for fun events!

Sundial Park/Bergfeld Park: This park is a great place to sit and read a book or just relax. It is located across the entrance to Royal Oak Park.

Green Space at Flanders and Bennett (Formerly St. Matt's): A great open space for families, pets and exercise groups.

CREEKS AND STREAMS:

Warson Woods has two creeks that traverse the city. Both are tributaries of Deer Creek and part of the Deer Creek Watershed. When heavy rain occurs, sometimes the creeks can fill with drainage and runoff. Please be cautious around these areas during heavy rainfall or after heavy snow melts. Remember – safety first.

Local Government Explainer

The City of Warson Woods is split into four wards. Each ward elects two alderpeople. The entire town elects a mayor to serve the entire city. The Board of Alderman meets at 7pm on the third Tuesday of every month at Warson Woods City Hall. Their meetings are currently also streamed on Zoom. Information for joining and agendas are posted on the WarsonWoods.com website.

The city also has a variety of committees like the Parks Committee, Finance Committee, Board of Public Safety, Public Works Committee, Board of Adjustment, and the Planning & Zoning Commission, which are made up of mostly citizen volunteers. More information can be found on those [here](#). If you are interested in serving on a committee, talk to your alderperson.

Warson Woods is also served by two different public school districts, [Webster Groves School District](#) and [Kirkwood School District](#). The WGSD serves the area of the City east of Woodlawn (Wards One, Two and Three) and KSD serves the area west of Woodlawn (Ward Four).

Warson Woods Swim Club

Warson Woods Swim Club is a private pool that serves many of our residents all summer long. Membership fees in 2021 were \$550/year for a resident family and \$380/year for an individual. Full membership fees from 2021 are below.

The swim club hosts a series of social events for families, children, and adults throughout the summer. View the swim club website [here](#) for details about membership.

- Couple - \$435.00 (USD)**
Bundle (up to 2 members)
Subscription period: 1 year, on: May 1st
No automatically recurring payments
- Family - \$550.00 (USD)**
Bundle (unlimited)
Subscription period: 1 year, on: May 1st
No automatically recurring payments
At least one adult over 18 and at least one child living in the household.
- Individual - \$380.00 (USD)**
Subscription period: 1 year, on: May 1st
No automatically recurring payments
- Reward - \$225.00 (USD)**
Bundle (up to 2 members)
Subscription period: 1 year, on: May 1st
No automatically recurring payments
Limited to two members both over 55 and at least one of them being a member for no less than 8 years. No children living at home. Must be a Warson Woods resident.

Local Businesses and Shops

Warson Woods is host to several local businesses that largely constitute our commercial district along Manchester Road. A full list of businesses can be viewed [here](#) on the City Website under For Residents.

Local School Options

Public Elementary Schools

Tillman Elementary (Kirkwood SD)
230 Quan Ave.
Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-213-6150

Hudson Elementary (Webster SD)
9825 Hudson Ave.
Rock Hill, MO 63119
314-963-6466

Private Elementary Schools

Rohan Woods School
1515 Bennett Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63122
314-821-6270

Ste. Genevieve DuBois Catholic School
1575 North Woodlawn Ave.
Warson Woods, MO 63122
314-821-4245

Public Middle Schools

North Kirkwood Middle School (KSD)
11287 Manchester
Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-213-6170

Hixson Junior High School (WGSD)
630 S. Elm
Rock Hill, MO 63119
314-963-6450

Private Middle Schools

Ste. Genevieve DuBois Catholic School
1575 North Woodlawn Ave.
Warson Woods, MO 63122
314-821-4245

Public High Schools

Kirkwood High School
801 W. Essex Ave.
Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-213-6110

Webster Groves High School
400 E. Lockwood Ave
Webster, MO 63119
314-961-1240

Private High Schools: Varies

*There are many other wonderful options for all levels of schools in the St. Louis community and several neighborhood families take advantage of them.

Trash Pickup Options

Recycling

The City licenses its solid waste hauler to provide “Single Stream” curbside recycling. Use our “Recycle Wizard” to learn how to properly dispose of items: [Recycle Wizard - St. Louis County Website \(stlouiscountymo.gov\)](#)

Solid Waste Collection

Warson Woods has a contract with [Waste Connections](#) as the sole licensed trash collector for residents. Waste Connections bills each home owner for the service.

The pickup schedules for trash, yard waste, and recyclables are as follows:

Monday – No service

Tuesdays – Weekly trash pick up for Wards 1 and 2. Trash pick up for selected homes in Wards 3 and 4 opting for 2x weekly pickups.

Wednesday – Yard waste city wide

Thursday – Recycling pickup city wide

Friday – Weekly trash pick up for Wards 3 and 4. Trash pick up for selected homes in Wards 1 and 2 opting for 2x weekly pickups. Bulk pickups are also available on Fridays by calling Waste Management in advance at (636) 321-2100.

Saturday – 2nd yard waste pick-up Saturdays October 15th thru December 15th

Sunday – no service

Place your container at the edge of your property with the unhinged side facing the Street.

No collections on these six (6) holidays:

- New Year’s Day
- Memorial Day
- 4th of July
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

Each pick-up day of the holiday week after the holiday will be serviced one (1) day later.