



Park People News

Creating Citizen Connections to Our Parks

Winter 2014 Park People Newsletter

Parks Amenity Matching Fund - A picnic in the park

Last year the Parks Advisory Commission (chaired by TPP board member Cheri Briscoe) recommended to the County Board the re-establishment of the Parks Amenity Matching Fund (AMF). The AMF was originally established in 1991 and was funded through 1993 as an equal match for funds donated by neighborhoods, businesses and community organizations for improvements to children's play grounds, recreation centers, monuments, statues or other existing park amenities. As a result of the action recommended by the Advisory Commission, the full County Board adopted the re-creation of the AMF for the 2013 budget year. The fund for 2013 would be derived from 25% of County land sales and Beer Garden revenue.



The Park People applied for a matching grant from the AMF for a donation of 130 picnic tables (\$30,000) in late October of last year and was rewarded with an additional \$30,000 allowing us to double our order to 260 tables.

If you frequent our Park's numerous picnic areas, you have probably noticed the need to replace many of the older wooden legged tables. These tables were made in-house years ago by Parks carpenters during the winter months until approximately 1995. Of course, that was back when there 10 carpenters employed by the parks. Their numbers dwindled considerably after 1995 and ultimately the Parks Department decided to outsource their picnic tables.

The Parks Amenity Matching Fund may be resurrected for 2014. Although it was not part of the 2014 budget the Parks Department will be pursuing funding for the AMF in the coming months.

TPP President's Perspective - Sue Spoerk

Winter is a lovely time to explore our Milwaukee County Parks by foot, car, sled, skates or skis!

I have been President now since Summer 2013 and I am enjoying working with a great group of people. We have an impressive Board of Directors and I encourage you to check out their bios on The Park People [website](#). I have served on several boards, but never had the pleasure to work with as diligent a secretary as Cheri Brisco who keeps meticulous minutes. I have worked with our Treasurer, Pat Hintz, on another board which is why I lobbied her heavily to join our board - her JD and CPA credentials, along with her non-profit experience are highly coveted. The rest of our board brings a unique set of talents and all are engaged.

One of the first major "changes" I made as President was to give our Executive Director a long overdue raise. Jim Goulee provides unbelievable value to this board and organization and has not had a pay bump since we hired him seven years ago. The motion passed unanimously.

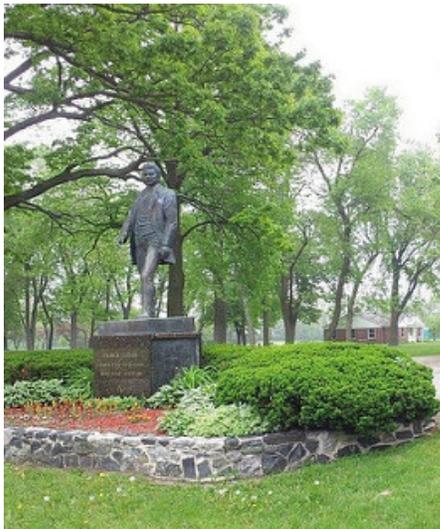


I also created a "one pager" to provide the board focus through four areas including: Friends Groups, Advocacy, Operations, Outreach. I consider the most important of these four to be our Friends Groups. While other non-profits in Milwaukee help to support the Parks, The Park People is the only non-profit that serves as an umbrella group for the various Friends Groups which are critical to the future of Milwaukee County Parks.

We are also mindful of external factors that while we can't control, do impact our efforts such as changes to the Milwaukee County Board, a new Parks Director, a flat parks budget and increased competition for donor dollars. We are a volunteer board with just one paid staff member and we will do our best to serve our mission of "Citizen Stewardship of Milwaukee County Parks."

Featured Friends Group - Sheridan Park Friends

Sheridan Park Friends and City of Cudahy to celebrate Sheridan Park Centennial on Valentine's Day.



In 2014, Sheridan Park Friends and neighbors will celebrate 100 years of the foresight of the City of Cudahy for purchasing Lakefront Land from the Cudahy Family to set aside the lakefront area for parkland, preserving it as green space for public use. The park, originally called "City Park" was later named Sheridan Park after the famous Civil War general. The City of Cudahy has recognized that our lakefront is a strategic asset for the City and a catalyst for economic development

On February 14, 2014 Sheridan Park Friends will rededicate the Patrick Cudahy statue in Sheridan Park and hold a Valentine's Day dinner celebration at Pulaski Inn. Activities to celebrate the Centennial will continue into Summer 2014 and may include a community picnic to mark the end of the school year, a tournament of children's games, history talks, a June "Love your Park" celebration, Jursik's bike ride on June 19th, and a spectacular Fourth of July commemoration of the Centennial. Through these events, the Sheridan Park Friends would like to improve infrastructure, connections, and lighting in the Park.

There will be other celebrations throughout the summer to celebrate the Sheridan Park Centennial and updates will be posted on Supervisor Pat Jursik's website: <http://www.milwaukee.gov/Jursik>. If you would like to volunteer or help with the

Centennial activities, please contact Supervisor Jursik at patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com or (414) 278-4231. Please contact Sylvia Gear, applegear0414@gmail.com for more information about raffle tickets or reservations for the celebration.

Book Launch at Boswell Book Company

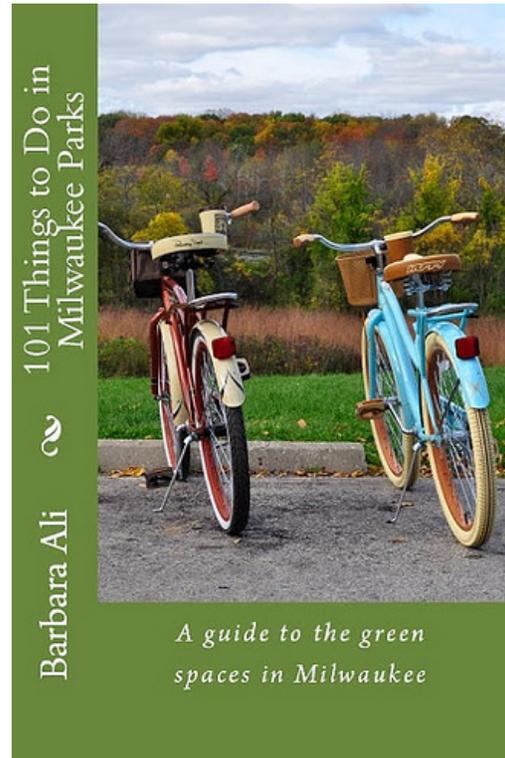
101 Things to Do in Milwaukee Parks: A guide to the green spaces in Milwaukee, by Barbara Ali

The Milwaukee County Parks are filled with an endless number of fun things to do. For the sake of a catchy title, however, Barbara Ali picked just 101 of those things to outline in her first book 101 Things to Do in Milwaukee Parks: A guide to the green spaces in Milwaukee. Ms. Ali's youngest son, Omar, was born with Down Syndrome and his love of the outdoors has been one source of Ms. Ali's inspiration for finding fun in the Milwaukee parks. In her book, Ms. Ali shares the places and activities she has discovered and enjoyed in Milwaukee area parks. To learn more about Ms. Ali and her family's personal adventures in the Milwaukee area green spaces, check out her blog at <http://www.milwaukee-parks.blogspot.com/>.

Ms. Ali will be launching her new book, 101 Things to Do in Milwaukee Parks, at Boswell Book Company at 2559 N. Downer Avenue on Friday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m. At the Boswell



Book Company book launch, you can pick up a copy of the book and have it signed by the author, grab a cup of coffee or tea at the adjoining Starbucks, and join others at the book launch who are interested in learning about the outdoor wonders that Milwaukee has to offer.



Public Policy Forum study offers thorough assessment of Milwaukee County Parks

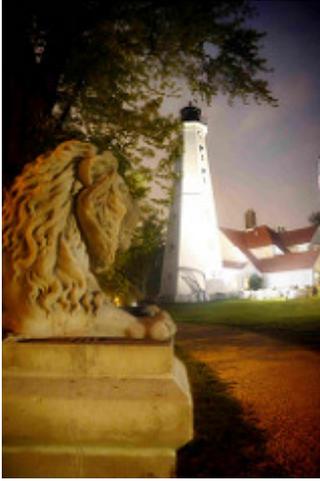
In December the Public Policy Forum, Milwaukee's independent, nonprofit governmental policy research group, completed a detailed analysis of the financial state of the region's primary cultural and recreational resources. The report, titled "Pulling Back the Curtain: Assessing the Needs of Major Arts, Cultural, Recreational and Entertainment Assets in Milwaukee County", included a hard look at the condition of the Milwaukee County Parks System. It is a detailed review of the parks and a useful read to anyone who is a parks support.

Here is the link to a PDF of the report; the County Parks section starts on page 84.

<http://publicpolicyforum.org/research/pulling-back-curtain-assessing-needs-major-arts-cultural-recreational-and-entertainment>

North Point Lighthouse Friends presents its Georgia Circle Workshop Series for Women, starting March 1, 2014

More than one hundred years ago, Georgia Stebbins served as the keeper of Milwaukee's North Point Lighthouse, faithfully lighting the way for ships and their passengers. Today, the Georgia Circle programs strive to shine light on the path for each new generation of



women to help each other chart a more vital life course.

North Point Lighthouse is proud to announce its upcoming 2014 Georgia Circle Workshop Series for women and invites you to attend.

March 1: Stir the Pot: Fulfilling Relationships - Learn strategies to help strengthen or renew your relationships.

May 3: Plant the Seeds: Goals and Gumption - Instead of settling for what you have and hunger for change, find ways to get going and growing.

July 12: Flexing Your Strengths - Identify your under-utilized strengths to refuel your life.

October 4: Let Your Thoughts Become Great Things - Learn how to put your ideas in motion.

For more information including pricing, please refer to the link below or contact Julie Henszey, ACC at 414-305-3113. Space is limited to the first 25 registrants. Phone-in participation is also available.

<http://northpointlighthouse.org/georgia-circle-workshop-series/>

Save the Date
March 27, Annual Friends Group Gathering

Please join us on March 27, 2014 at 6 PM for our Annual Friends Group Gathering at the North Point Lighthouse (2650 N. Wahl Avenue, Milwaukee). Barbara Ali, the author of 101 Things to do in Milwaukee Parks, will be our featured speaker.

We are planning for a warming dinner of chili and pie, contests and honoring our Friends Group of the Year.

We look forward to seeing you the North Point Lighthouse on March 27.

Barbara Ali has graciously offered to make her books available at cost for those in attendance.

