



*Friends of Milwaukee County Parks*  
**Park People Summer 2017 Newsletter**

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**From the Executive Director**

Hello Everyone,

I'm writing to say thank you for the warm welcome extended to me by the many Friends Groups and members I've had the pleasure of meeting these past few months. Your energy and passion for the parks in Milwaukee County are a great asset, and I thank you for sharing that with me as I take on this new responsibility. It's extremely humbling to be following in Jim Goulee's footsteps, who retired at the end of May, and I'm grateful for your support as we work together to fulfill the mission of the Park People.

I spent most of my career here in Wisconsin, leaving just a little over 3 years ago for an opportunity out West. Missing family and friends, I began looking for the right opportunity to return home. I'm extremely excited to join the Park People community, and want to thank the search committee and the Board of Directors for the responsibility they have entrusted to me. I have been overwhelmed by the support everyone has shown me, and I look forward to getting to know each of you better in the days and months ahead.

To that end, please join me the evening of Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> as the Board Members of the Park People of Milwaukee County, Inc. hosts a combined Annual Membership Meeting and Annual Friends Group Meeting followed by a special opportunity for you and your family to visit China Lights at Boerner Botanical Gardens. The meeting will begin promptly at 5:30pm (feel free to arrive between 5:00 – 5:30pm) and will conclude at 6:15pm allowing you time to enjoy China Lights afterwards. No admission coupon is required for you to see China Lights that evening.

Please watch for your invitation in the mail this week. I look forward to meeting you there!

## Annual Oak Leaf Discovery Tour Passport Party and Prize Drawing, Saturday Oct. 7 at The Landing at Hoyt Park Beer Garden

Have you got your 2017 Oak Leaf Discovery Tour (OLDT) Passport yet? If not, it's time to get on board. This year we have a New Corridor called "Off the Beaten Trail". Those 3 parks are not on the Oak Leaf Trail, but they're worth a drive to discover their interesting hiking trails in the County Parks Forked Aster nature trail system.

You can download your FREE OLDLT PASSPORT at [www.parkpeoplemke.org](http://www.parkpeoplemke.org). Click on the OLDLT logo and scroll down to where it says: oldt zine v1(1).pdf. Click on it to get your downloadable copy. You can print it in color or black and white. Above that link is a video demonstration of how to assemble your passport.



You can bike, drive, walk, skateboard, or wheel chair to the Keyword locations to easily capture the ten keywords out of 26 possibilities that you need to register for a free beer and the drawing at the October 7th Party. You can register on line, easy to do, or bring your passport with the keywords to the party. If you register on line, you must register by October 4th.

On the Park People website there are also CLUES giving you the exact location of all the keywords. As you know, some of our parks are huge, so we wanted to give you a little help. Also, if you friend Oak Leaf Discovery Tour on Facebook, you will find a collection of almost weekly photos and hints for finding the keyword signs. Note: click on Oak Leaf Discovery Tour – Home to get the correct Facebook page.



Happy trails and have fun. Contact Dawn St. George @ 414-273-7275 or [dawn@parkpeoplemke.org](mailto:dawn@parkpeoplemke.org) if you'd like to join the OLDLT committee.

Written by Cheri Briscoe, committee member

Please patronize our 2017 OLDLT sponsors: *Wheel & Sprocket, South Shore Cyclery, Rainbow Jersey Bicycles, The Landing at Hoyt Park, Johnson's Cyclery and Fitness, Friends of Hank Aaron State Trail, Estabrook Beer Garden, Beans & Barley, Badgerland Striders, Milwaukee County Parks, and The Park People.*

### Music Series Presented by the Friends of Center Street Park

[Center Street Park](#) is located on the border between Milwaukee and Wauwatosa at 6420 W Clarke Street. Friends of Center Street Park (FOCSP) was founded just 3 years ago in 2014 by neighborhood residents. This group works closely with both private and public stakeholders in an effort to increase resources, facilitate usage of and advocate on behalf of Center Street Park and its neighborhood residents.

Since its founding, FOCSP has focused on increasing usage of the park by hosting many exciting and successful events including a popular fall festival, a summer BBQ competition, theater in the park, and

opportunity for park and live music lovers to gather together to share good company and food. Soon, we will also know if temperatures are cold enough to flood the park creating 2 free public ice-skating rinks. All of this activity has helped increase community interest in, and ownership of, Center St Park. You can keep up-to-date easily through their website and Facebook pages which are a great way to keep people updated on events and changes.

Finally, FOCSP has some very exciting news to share. There are fully funded plans for re-doing the park's ball field in partnership with Tosa Fastpitch—with hopes of hosting softball games during the summer of 2018. There is no time off as fundraising will begin this fall for a new, expanded playground.

**Thank you for all that you do, FOCSP!**

### **3rd Annual Joint Parks' Friends Discussion**

South Shore Parks Friends, which includes, Sheridan Park, South Shore, [Grant](#), Mill Pond, Pulaski (Cudahy) [Humboldt](#) and Wilson Friends are hosting their 3d annual joint Parks' Friends Discussion at South Shore Pavilion on **Thur. Sept. 21 at 6:30 pm**. This meeting is convened to give information and generate discussions about the value of our parks and how to promote these values to Milwaukee area citizens and elected officials.

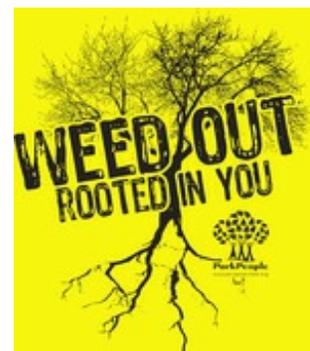
The evening will start with 30 minutes of presentations by each Friends Groups on activities in their respective park followed by reports from Supervisor Jason Haas, Chairman of Parks, and John Dargle, Parks Director. Finally, a citizens' panel of known Park Advocates will discuss: Public Parks: Venue for Recreation and Entertainment or Green Space for Conservation and Preservation. Then attendees will be given an opportunity to ask questions of the panel.

Join South Shore Parks Friends for a stimulating evening of information and contemplation.

Written by Pat Jursik

### **Weed-Out® : Fun, Rewarding, and Convenient!**

Are you looking for a fun, rewarding, and convenient way to help our parks? If so, the Weed-Out® program is the place for you. The purpose of Weed-Out® is to advance the preservation and restoration of high-quality natural areas in the Milwaukee County Park System, in cooperation with park staff, by removing invasive plants and trees. I know – at first blush, it might not sound thrilling...but as a Weed-Out® volunteer, I can tell you it's led me to some wonderful parks, and some wonderful people.



My first experience with the program was nearly two years ago, in Grant Park. Although I had no knowledge of invasive plants or the threat they pose, I decided to give Weed-Out® a try. I soon learned that invasive plants are non-native plants, which multiply in great numbers. They shade out native wildflowers, shrubs, and young trees. Yikes!

Invasive trees, such as buckthorn and honeysuckle, eliminate new tree growth and weaken established trees, such as oaks, by directly competing with them for water and nutrients. In time, invasive plants and trees will cause Milwaukee County to see a serious reduction in spring wildflower display, fall colors, and wildlife. I knew I couldn't let that happen, and two years later, I'm still working toward that goal as a Weed-Out® volunteer.

site, so no prior experience is needed, and the locations vary, so you can volunteer at a park close to you. Personally, the Weed-Out® program gives me a reason to explore unfamiliar parks, meet new people, and learn about Wisconsin's native and non-native plants in the process.

I enjoy the sense of community the Weed-Out® program provides, the ability to enjoy and enhance nature, and the spontaneous wildlife sightings. Last fall, my Weed-Out® companion was a rather persistent woodpecker, working just above my head. I know this year's program will bring even more surprises, and I can't wait to get weeding!

By Natalie Fairbanks, Park People Board Member

To become a Weed-Out® volunteer, look at the schedule below and give us a call!

### **Fall Weed-Out® Dates**

Volunteers Needed! Group and Company Participation Welcome!

September 30 Grant Park- Meet at Area 5A Parking

October 1 Estabrook Park- Meet at the lot near the Beer Garden

October 7 Grant Park- Meet at Area 5A Parking

October 14 Cooper Park

October 14 Lincoln Park- Meet near the first bridge north of Hampton on the Milwaukee River Parkway

October 21 Brown Deer Park- Meet at area between boathouse & lagoon - Also planting daffodils

October 22 Estabrook Park- Meet at the lot near the Beer Garden

October 28 Doctors Park- Meet at the parking lot

October 28 Lincoln Park- Meet near first bridge north of Hampton on the Milwaukee River Parkway

November 12 Estabrook Park- Meet at the lot near the Beer Garden

November 18 Brown Deer Park- Meet at area between boathouse & lagoon - Also planting daffodils



**All sessions nine to noon unless stated otherwise. For more information on The Park People Weed-Out®, please call 414-273-7275**

## **Milwaukee County Parks Department Plans Friends Groups Mini-Series**

August Ball, Milwaukee County Parks Volunteer Services Coordinator, is planning a Friends Group Mini-Series that will convene this October and run through December. These capacity building workshops are an opportunity to meet fellow Friends, get inspired by their successes and benefit from lessons learned.

October - Grant Writing & Fundraising

Friends groups with pavilions in their respective parks are encouraged to host sessions. This fall will focus on specific topics, such as Grant Writing, Fundraising, Volunteer Recruitment & Retention and Land Management. Discussions will follow presentations.

Presenters are confirmed for Fall but if you or your group would like to present or host a spring session, contact August Ball: [August.Ball@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:August.Ball@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

Friends Group members are encouraged to attend these sessions to see other Milwaukee County Parks and learn what other groups are doing. This is a great opportunity to share your successes and failures with others. This is also another opportunity to connect with Parks Department Staff and ask questions about your concerns.

Check the [Milwaukee County Parks Website](#) and the [Park People Website](#), for updates and locations for these mini-series.

### **\*\*Save the Date for our 40th Anniversary Celebration\*\***

In 2018, Park People will be celebrating 40 years improving and enhancing Milwaukee County Parks. To mark this milestone, plans are underway to hold a gala on November 10, 2018 at Boerner Botanical Gardens. Save-the-dates have already been shared with our friends groups who without their dedication and support, Park People and the parks would not be what they are today. If you would like more information or to be involved in the planning, please contact our office.

Thanks for making it to the end! We'll be back soon with another newsletter.

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