



Park People News

Creating Citizen Connections to Our Parks

Fall 2012 Newsletter

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Enjoy Fall Colors While Hiking in a Park



As fall continues to make its impression on the coming days and months there will many days where it is cold, damp and rainy; days that are better spent indoors. Alternatively, there are those days when the sun is shining, skies are deep blue and the air is crisp. Those are the days that invigorate us as Mother Nature presents a "pay it forward" reward for the oftentimes long and seemingly endless winter months to come.

This fall when you are presented with one of those beautiful days and feel the need to get out and enjoy the colors blanketing our woods why not think local and plan a hike in one of our Milwaukee County Parks natural areas. You don't have to travel to the north woods or Kettle Moraine to enjoy nature's best colorama, it is available right here and closer than you may think.

The following is a sampling of parks and parkways where you and the family can hike and take in spectacular fall colors. Many of these parks have walking trails that wind through the woods.

- Magnan Woods** - Near Whitnall Golf. There is a trail head is behind Ross Lodge, 6750 S. 92nd St., Greendale
- 7 Bridges** - Grant Park - 100 Hawthorne Ave., South Milwaukee
- Doctors Park** - 1870 E. Fox Lane, Fox Point
- Cambridge Woods** - North of Locust along the Milwaukee River
- Bender Park** - 4503 E. Ryan Rd., Oak Creek
- Riverside Park** - South of Locust on the Milwaukee River
- Falk Park** - 2013 W. Rawson Ave., Oak Creek

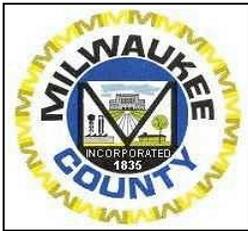


Greenfield Park - 2028 S. 124th St., Greenfield

Brian Russart, Parks Natural Areas Coordinator and his crew have been very busy creating hiking trails in a number of Park Dept's Natural Areas over the last few years and have maps that may be of assistance when planning a day trip. As of this writing, over 40 miles of sustainable hiking trails traverse the natural areas within Milwaukee County. The Park People website has a sampling of the hiking maps available here: <http://www.parkpeoplesmke.org/hiking-trails-milwaukee-county-parks>

If your favorite park is not offered on our website please contact Brian at **Brian.Russart@milwcnty.com** for trail maps of additional parks.

2013 Parks Budget Proposed



Recently, County Executive Chris Abele released his proposed County budget and as opposed to last year he is proposing an increased budget for 2013 for our beleaguered Park System. If you will remember, last year we were unpleasantly surprised to see a proposed 3 million dollar decrease for the Parks.

For 2013 Abele is proposing a \$1.3 million increase in operational funding and a reduction in the target revenue expectation of \$700,000. The reduction in revenue is, in reality, a very good thing for the parks budget as our parks dept. has had to reduce their overall spending in years past due to an unattainable revenue target. This means that the Parks Dept. may be able to hire more seasonal staff next year as that is where they have had to cut expenses to offset unreasonable revenue expectations and finish the year in the black.

The budget is now in the hands of the County Board of Supervisors. They have until the end of the month to add, delete or otherwise manipulate Abele's numbers before they vote on the final 2013 County budget.

Oak Leaf Discovery Tour (OLDT) Passport Chairperson thanks committee members and sponsors:

The Park People has always been a volunteer driven organization with a goal of preserving and protecting our parks. With the ever diminishing Park Dept. budget, volunteers creating events to raise dollars and awareness for our parks are more important than ever.

The concept for the OLDT was to promote our Milwaukee County Park Trail System as a tourist destination, a valuable wellness opportunity for families and metropolitan workers, and an economic opportunity. The summer long event ran from June 2 until September 15th.

Cheri Briscoe, Chairperson of the Oak Leaf Discovery Tour Committee wishes to thank the following OLDT committee members; Barb Barbian, Brad Dobbs, Marti Fine, Keith Holt, Tom Scheer, Harold Schmidt, and Marty Weigel. She also thanks park staff who served on the committee: Ramsey Radaovich, Jeff Baudry, Doris Maki and Emily Heller. Acknowledgement must also be given to Parks Graphics Designer Marie Kerzner who designed the logo and the passport.



A special thanks goes to Jim Goulee, our Executive Director, who was already giving 100% and then we took on this one more project, and he managed to fit it in, making contacts, offering expertise and design of stamping kiosks, brochures and posters as well as distribution these items.

Ultimately, we could not have done this project without sponsorship dollars, or in-kind offerings that otherwise would have had to been bought. Please patronize our sponsors. They care about our parks and park trails.

Presenting Sponsor (\$3000 +) : Wheel & Sprocket

Willow Leaf Sponsors (\$500): Benno's Genuine Bar & Grill, Ben's Cycle, Cory The Bike Fixer, Estabrook Park Beer Garden, Preserve Our Parks, Rainbow Jersey Bicycles,

Oak Leaf Sponsors: (\$335): Beans & Barley, Friends of Hank Aaron State Trail, MacPyles McDonalds on Siver Spring Dr., Outpost Natural Foods, Sierra Club-Great Waters Group, Schwaab, Inc.,

Maple Leaf Sponsor (\$200): Laacke & joys

Birch Leaf Sponsor (\$100): Be U Barbershop and Salon, Milwaukee Metro Mountain Bikers, and Via Downer.

As a result of the Oak Leaf Discovery Tour the Park People will contribute the net proceeds of the event, expected to be near \$4000 for trail improvements to the Oak Leaf Trail.

We are planning a bigger and better OLDT for 2013!

Park People benefit from Whole Foods Community Day

Whole Foods Market actively supports the Milwaukee community through donating goods and services to local organizations and sponsoring community events. Another way the company supports organizations is through its Community Support Days.

On designated days throughout the year a total of 5% of the day's net sales are donated to local 501c3 non-profit organizations. Customers help support our selected organizations just by shopping on these 5% Days.

On **June 26**, the Park People was the recipient of 5% of the days net sales. We received almost \$4000! Jim Goulee, Park People Executive Director, and Cheri Briscoe, a board member, hosted an information table throughout the day and had a great day meeting many of Whole Foods customers and staff. Many supporters and board members stopped by to do their weekly shopping including Sue Spoerk, Dan Cody, Nadine Weske, and Casey Renn. A big "thanks" to everyone who shopped to show their support!



Story Time in the Park 2012



The Park People Story Time in the Park series presented two highly imaginative and entertaining programs this summer from First Stage and the Pink Banana Theater Company at LaFollette and Jacobus Parks. The well-attended summer series featured storytelling and theatrical workshops for children between the ages of four and ten. Thanks to James Boland of Pink Banana and Julia Magnasco and Kim Cieszykowski of First Stage for putting on the wonderful programs.

Stay tuned for next year's offering!

Update on Friends Groups

The Park People annual Friends Group Gathering was held earlier this year at Greenfield Park and welcomed approximately 40 Friends Group leaders from throughout Milwaukee County. Former Parks Director, Sue Black, reminded everyone how important friends groups are to the success of the Milwaukee County Parks and thanked Friends Group leaders for their involvement.

Keith Holt was introduced as the incoming Friends Group Co-Chair along with Nadine Weske. Friends Group leaders were encouraged to contact either of these board members with questions or concerns regarding their group.

Laurie Albano, retired Milwaukee County Parks Landscape Architect, who wrote a pictorial history book of the Milwaukee County Park System was the featured speaker and presented a history of the work by the CCC and WPA in our parks

Jim Goulee, Executive Director of the Park People, welcomed Doctors Park into the circle of Friends. This is a very hard working and dedicated group of individuals who banded together in an effort to improve the quality of this park. Some projects include a master plan for the park, major improvements to the beach house, and invasive plant removal. Fundraising efforts have begun for new picnic tables.

Lastly, the Park People presented their annual Friends Group of the Year award to the Friends of Hoyt Park and Pool. Their Board of Directors and community volunteers worked tirelessly to raise \$8 million dollars for the renovation and re-imagination of the pool at Hoyt Park. These dollars not only covered the extensive costs for the removal of the old pool through the building of the new pool but also the preservation of the historic bathhouse first built in the late thirties. The award was accepted on behalf of the Hoyt Park friends group by Kit Slawski, Executive Director.

Fall Weed-Out in Full Swing

Come on out and help The Park People rid our parks of buckthorn and honeysuckle. Even though we are well into our schedule there are many upcoming dates for you to volunteer your time and effort. All you have to do is show up ready for work. We provide the tool and know how! Click on the following link to see if there is a day you can contribute to a naturally healthier park:

<http://www.parkpeoplemke.org/weedout/schedule>

