



Park People News

Creating Citizen Connections to Our Parks

Winter 2013 Newsletter

The Park People win award for Community Organizing

The Park People of Milwaukee County is very proud to announce being selected as one of the six recipients of the Nonprofit Excellence Award for outstanding organizations. Members of the TPP Board of Directors, Dan Cody, Susan Spoerk and Cheri Briscoe as well as Jim Goulee, Executive Director, attended the award ceremony. President Dan Cody accepted the award on behalf of TPP for Excellence in Community Organizing for work related to our Friends Group Initiative on December 6, 2013 at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee.

"This year we are showcasing true excellence in organizational management and mission achievement. All of the stories told with the nominations were tremendous, well representing the hundreds of nonprofits that serve the people of our community each and every day," said Leigh Kunde, Nonprofit Center Executive Director. Other winners include Beyond Vision, Milwaukee Public Theatre, The Parenting Network, St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care, and the Urban Ecology Center.



Jim Keegan, Interim Parks Director, Dan Cody, Board President and Jim Goulee, Executive Director

Try a Sled Dog Ride in our Parks this winter



The Door County Sled Dogs provide weekly dog sled rides at Milwaukee's Whitnall Park - a premier winter wonderland. These take place on Saturday and Sunday 11am to 1pm, November through March weather permitting. All rides are on a first-come first-served basis and are for all ages. The entire experience includes visiting with the dogs, question and answer time with the mushers, picture-taking time and an actual dog sled ride around the trail.

Feel what it's like to ride on an authentic freight sled, see the dogs pulling from behind, and know that this is the real thing!

Rides are only \$15 and take place at the Whitnall Park golf course warming house (5879 S. 92nd St. Franklin, Wisc.).

Also, remember that all group and special event rides take place on the beautiful Milwaukee Lakefront (Jan. thru Feb. only so book early). You can find out more about group and special event rides on the Door County Sled Dog [Education](#) page (clicking on this link will redirect you to their website). See you on the trail!

Change, Change, Change

Pat Hintz has recently joined the Board of Directors of The Park People as a new board member and will also serve as the group's treasurer going forward. Pat is a partner at Quarles & Brady LLP, where she counsels businesses, individuals and non-profit organizations on various legal and tax matters. In addition, Pat is a certified public accountant. We are grateful for the many skills that Pat brings to the picnic table and look forward to working with her in the coming years. Welcome aboard Pat!

With this exciting change, however, we also say good bye to our previous treasurer, Jim Ciurlik, who has served us exceptionally well for the past five years. We sincerely thank him for his hard work and dedication to ensure that our financials were in order. We wish you well, Jim!

Enjoy Winter Sports in your parks this winter!

Get off the couch and get active this winter. Our Parks are a veritable winter wonderland! The following is a summary of winter sports offered in our parks this winter. Click on the underlined text and your web browser will open and take you to the Parks Department's webpage. To return to the newsletter simply close the browser.



[Cross Country Skiing](#)
[Sledding and Tobogganing](#)
[Ice Fishing](#)
[Ice Skating](#)

[Full listing of winter sports opportunities](#)

Whatever you do outside this winter please remember to dress for the weather and be safe!

2013 The Park People Calendars

The Park People is pleased to offer a free calendar to our loyal members and supporters who are on our e-mail distribution list. The cost of the calendar was underwritten by Wheel & Sprocket and 100% of the proceeds assists with the operating costs of The Park People. If you would like your free copy please contact Jim Goulee at The Park People. Also, if you are a Friends Group Leader and would like extra copies to share at your next Friends Group meeting let Jim know. The calendar has beautiful photography of Milwaukee County Parks on the Oak Leaf Trail. There are over \$60 in Park Coupons including a discount on the Oak Leaf Discovery Tour Passport, Buy One Get one Free to The Domes, Boerner Botanical Gardens, and golfing. The calendar also has monthly listings of great park events. \$5.00 donations are also greatly appreciated for the calendar.



Oak Leaf Discovery Tour Passport Committee Planning for 2013

Nearly 2000 passports were bought or distributed last summer. Many of them were families who discovered new places along the trail as they rode, walked and ran in the 14 parks locations with stamping stations last year.

This year we will have 16 stamping stations plus additional discovery locations with key words for you to record in your passport. Did you know that our parks have wild unpaved trails just waiting for you to take a hike? How many urban counties have trails where you can forget you're near a big city? You might even see a deer, a fox, a turkey or even a snake if you're quiet and stealthy. And runners, here's your chance to get off the beaten path and run up and down some hills.

The Oak Leaf Discovery Tour (OLDT) Committee usually meets on Tuesdays at noon at 1845 N. Farwell Ave. Meetings last pretty close to an hour. We could use a few more folks to help us sell sponsorships



and help with marketing and selling passports and perhaps, to plan some riding, running, walking events. Do you know the names of some potential passport sponsors? Our 2013 Oak Leaf Discovery Tour passport is designed to encourage people to get out, get active, and stay healthy.

The 2013 passport will go on sale this spring on April 4th at the Wheel & Sprocket Expo and other sponsor locations. Stamping stations will be ready for your stamps the following week on April 13.

We will officially end with a party and drawing for prizes on October 12.

If you wish to follow newsbreaks as we plan, you can "Friend" Oak Leaf Discovery Tour on facebook. And don't forget to add some photos of our Oak Leaf Trail to our facebook page.

Contact Cheri Briscoe, cherib@wi.rr.com or 414-239-7883 if you wish to serve on the Oak Leaf Discovery Tour Committee and or lead some Oak Leaf Trail excursions.

Milwaukee County Parks History

Our parks once were home to returning WWII veterans and their families

During World War II many men from outside of Milwaukee County migrated to the city with their families, taking jobs in defense industries. They made their homes in the houses which had been vacated by the men who answered the call to arms. After the close of the war, for the most part, they remained to make Milwaukee their permanent home.

At the cessation of hostilities, our great military machine was demobilized to peacetime strength almost overnight. The now ex-serviceman returned, only to find that living quarters were unobtainable. Their only alternative was to double up with relatives or friends who would be willing to accept them and their families. The housing situation became a very serious problem within a very short time.

Milwaukee County, other communities, and the State of Wisconsin recognized this serious condition and took action. In the latter part of 1946, the State Legislature enacted measures empowering Milwaukee County to enter the field of public housing and to inaugurate a program which would bring about a speedy relief for the veterans.

There were few houses constructed during the war, for materials were diverted to other war time channels. At this time there remained a critical shortage of materials, as well as labor, which posed a great problem as to the method in which the housing situation could be relieved. To construct the conventional type of house would only prolong and aggravate an already serious situation because of the time element. Therefore, after much deliberation, the County Board of Supervisors chose the house trailer and prefabricated type of house, these two types being most readily available.

The County Board delegated the Milwaukee County Park Commission to execute the temporary veterans' housing program. The Red Cross was chosen as the agency to select and certify veterans to the Park Commission for tenancy.

To the Regional Planning Department fell the task of preparing plans for the sites, each type of housing having its individual problems. Trailer sites required community buildings to provide toilet, lavatory, shower, waste water disposal, laundry, and fresh water facility centers for the tenants. Roads, walks, electrical services and fire prevention were essentials. On one of the sites three wells had to be drilled to assure a sufficient water supply. It would not have been feasible to make direct sewer and water connections to the trailers because of the installation cost and maintenance problem. In the prefabricated type of house site, the conventional sewer and water connections were made. In order that the Planning Department would have time to complete technical plans, it was decided to place the trailers in parks which operated swimming pools,



Wilson Park temporary housing on the site of the current Wilson Park Rec Center

these parks having the toilet and shower facilities in the bath houses necessary for a trailer community.

On December 26, 1946, the orders for 407 trailers were placed. Within ninety days from that date all trailers were occupied. Also, on that same date, orders were placed for 200 Wingfoot type houses, and these were occupied within six months from that date. The ever increasing demand for housing led to the purchase of 500 more trailers in July of 1947. These were also placed in parks temporarily and were completely occupied within four months.

In August, 1947, the housing picture became clearer, culminating in the decision that Milwaukee County would confine its program to temporary housing. The City of Milwaukee turned to permanent housing.

Demand for housing not having been reduced by September of 1947, authority for the purchase of 184 more Wingfoot houses and 374 Harnischfeger houses was given. Orders were placed in October, and by November of the following year all of these units were occupied.

In September of 1948, the five permanent trailer sites were ready for the trailers which had been placed temporarily in parks. All 902 units were moved to these sites by the end of the month. The six prefabricated housing sites were constructed on a permanent basis at their present locations. The number of trailers originally contemplated as a permanent installation at Lincoln Park was reduced during 1950 to 125 units, in order to make room for a lighted baseball field and football gridiron. The 85 trailers which were removed were transferred to Greenfield Trailer Park.

A total of 5,000 families lived in the 1,663 housing units during the four year period.

The Parks that hosted the temporary living quarters were:

Warnimont - In the area of the Warnimont Golf Course - 187 wingfoot homes

Carver Park - 22 trailers

McCarty Park - 50 Wingfoot homes

Wahl Park - 94 trailers and 50 wingfoot homes

Lincoln Park - 125 trailers

Greene Park - 184 trailers

Manitoba Park - 50 wingfoot homes

Rawson Park - In the area that now is home to the South Milwaukee High School - 50 wingfoot homes

Wilson Park - Where the Wilson Rec Center now sits - 374 Harnischfeger prefab homes (pictured above)

Please note: There was one additional site that was not on park property, the Greenfield Trailer Park, on a site where the Sam's Club currently sits just south of Greenfield Ave. This site hosted 477 trailers