



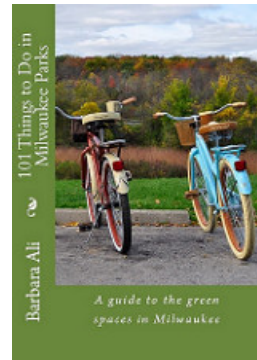
Fall 2014 Park People Newsletter

Park People Membership

The Park People board and staff thank all of our wonderful members for their continued support!

For those readers who are not currently members, we are now offering an incentive to join us as a "Citizen Steward of the Milwaukee County Parks". Join as a new member at the \$35 Individual Steward level or higher and receive a copy of Barbara Ali's book "[101 Things to do in Milwaukee Parks](#)". This book is currently listed on Amazon for \$18.95. For those looking for additional things to do in our parks please follow [Barbara's Park Blog](#).

[To become a member click here.](#)



President's Perspective- Our Parks are Not for Sale

Parks are priceless. That means there is no price tag on any of our 147 parks. Since our tax dollars and user fees don't fully fund the parks to restore them to their past glory, The Park People work with volunteers and donors to help enhance our parks. It would be a much easier to sell off some parks or portions of parks to fund the overall park system, but "easier" is not better. We do not sell parks.



During the recent hearings on the proposal to sell O'Donnell Park, it was energizing to see all the park advocates who spoke up to protect the park. And even those who were in favor of selling the park were "for the parks" and justified the sale for "this one instance". However, once we open that door, and start applying a cost-benefit analysis to parks, the park system as we know it will be changed forever.

The hearing also was a good reminder of the significance of starting Friends Groups to protect individual parks. These groups are important to our parks as they act as advocates for their park; raising funds as well as organizing Weed

Outs and other volunteer efforts aimed at park enhancement. A few who spoke in favor of selling the park mentioned the park "could be better" and let's hope the recent spotlight on O'Donnell reminds all park patrons if they feel there is room for improvement to join a Friends Group or volunteer in their local parks. The fact this hearing even took place validates the reason The Park People was established in 1972 by Joy Teschner. She realized once the Park Commission folded and the parks were put under the County Budget we'd need citizen advocates to protect the parks.

Our parks are not for sale.

Fall in the Parks

The official beginning of autumn was Monday, September 22. As school has already resumed and as the days shorten and temperatures continue to drop, we are reminded that winter nears. Many of us are reminded of this simply by the changing colors of the leaves that fall brings. At

www.travelwisconsin.com, you can find the fall color reports for the state. In Milwaukee, it is estimated that the third week of October will be our peak viewing time, which makes it a perfect time for a stroll through a park or a bike ride along a trail. Please keep in mind too that the TPP website has downloadable nature trail maps that can be used for walks during this very colorful time of year.



[Trail Maps here.](#)

Changing seasons also has birds beginning their migration south. In Grant Park, raptors may be visible from a lakeshore overlook in Area 5. In Lake Park on Saturday mornings, Warbler Walks take place where experienced bird watchers point out the best birding spots and encourage discussion about environmental issues. Doctors Park Friends are working to fundraise 100 trees to plant in effort to reforest Area 1 to improve habitat for birds.

There are still farmers markets that remain active in the area through much of October. Some of these can be found within our parks. The East Town Market is at Cathedral Square on Saturdays through October 4. South Shore Parks hosts another farmers market also on Saturdays through October 11. Walkers Square Park hosts a market both Tuesdays

and Thursdays until October 30.



For Oak Leaf Trail Passport participants, the End of Summer celebration will take place at Estabrook Park on October 12 with live music and a drawing for prizes. Further details on this program can be found [here](#).

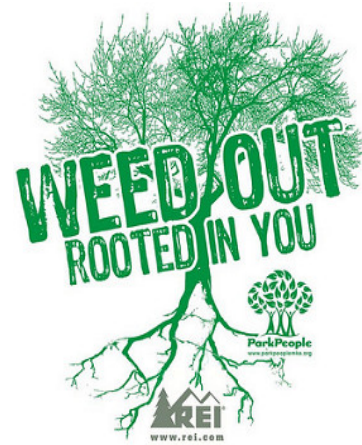
If you are looking for some exercise in addition to your time outdoors, please consider participating in one of many fall Weed Outs to help rid our parks of pesky invasive species. Check the [schedule](#) for locations and

times.

There are many things going on within Milwaukee County Parks this fall. We hope that you enjoy the season and a park or two!

Fall Weed Out

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 tools and know how! There is work to be done at all ability levels. Check the [schedule](#) to see if there is a day you can help contribute to a naturally healthier park.



Oak Leaf Discovery Tour - Season Ending PARTY!



With summer winding to an end and the first shades of yellow and orange starting to peek through the foliage, be sure to mark your calendars for Oak Leaf Discovery Tour's End of Summer Party at beautiful Estabrook Park on October 12, 2014 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. There's only a short time left to finish biking, hiking or strolling through our bountiful Milwaukee County parks to collect your required stamps or keywords on the OLDT passport. Completed passports had to be submitted by October 9th to be eligible for the prize drawing that will include great bikes, biking supplies and gift certificates

for fantastic local businesses.

Come join us as we celebrate the end of another memorable summer and OLDT Passport tour of the parks.

Featured Friends Group - Friends of Estabrook Park

The Friends of Estabrook Park (FOE) are dedicated to protecting the environment and enhancing the quality of Estabrook Park. A few years back, Estabrook Park was seen as a rather unsavory place where many adults were uncomfortable and parents discouraged their children from visiting. If people visited the park at all, it was to use the parkway as a connector between Hampton Avenue and Capitol Drive. Today, Estabrook Park has a much more positive image and has become a destination park. While many forces combined to effect this change, FOE likes to believe it has had a significant role..

FOE had input into building the Dog Exercise Area, establishing the Estabrook Biergarten, constructing the disc golf course and assisted in fund raising for a new roof on the Benjamin Church House. Members have constructed new trails in the park, reduced the presence of invasive species, conducted bird and flower walks, and performed park cleanups. In cooperation with Dave Engleman and his staff, FOE has substantially improved the appearance of the south entrance to park. Work continues on improving the grounds around the maintenance building and the Church House.



The historic Benjamin Church House in Estabrook Park originally built in 1844 and moved to Estabrook in 1938.



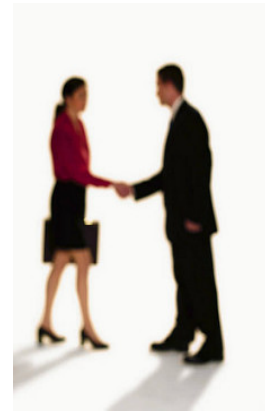
FOE has a fund raising arrangement with the Estabrook Biergarten that has netted them several thousand dollars over the past two years. FOE designs and purchases beer mugs that the biergarten sells to patrons at \$15 each, the same amount the biergarten gives back to FOE. Patrons receive a mug of beer and the promise of a dollar off subsequent beers using that mug, while the biergarten gives back to the park and saves money on missing glassware. FOE is most appreciative of the biergarten's generosity. This year FOE has been able to use this money to purchase tools needed to maintain the appearance of the park, to purchase trees and plants, and to fund an attendant for the Benjamin Church House so that it can be open to the public. FOE is also considering funding of more substantial projects in the near future.

Please come visit Estabrook Park - enjoy the biergarten, the disc golf, skateboarding, fishing, playgrounds, and soccer fields. If you seek solitude, view the waterfall or hike the trails along the river and pond. Estabrook Park has it all.

The Park People Welcomes a Renewed Partnership with Milwaukee County Parks in Supporting Friends Groups

TPP has always known that friends groups are integral to success of Milwaukee County Parks. As we continue to learn more about friends groups' priorities and successes, we strive to provide better support to their efforts.

For example, TPP acts as fiscal sponsor for many starter friends groups. Fiscal sponsorship provides organizational support, 501(c)3 usage, and liability insurance to new groups. TPP also supports all FG through publicity on our website and social media platforms (nudge: please send us your events!) and networking opportunities. In 2007 TPP started an annual Friends Group Gathering to bring Friends Groups together to learn from one another. This past year, we had record attendance and invigorating conversations about individual parks, as well as Milwaukee County Parks, as a system.



The Parks Department, in recognizing the importance of friends groups, appointed Erin Fischer to the position of Outreach Specialist. Her job will be dedicated to helping friends groups. She will be working with our Executive Director, Jim Goulee, to promote citizen stewardship of Milwaukee County Parks.

In an effort to enhance our own support of friends groups, TPP also has implemented a new liaison program. Board Members have volunteered to serve as a Liaison to our friends groups, in order to connect groups to TPP resources and advice, as well as other groups. If you are a friends group member, and you would like technical assistance, advice or moral support, please let your Board Liaison know. If you don't know who your TPP Board Liaison is, please contact Nadine or Katie and we will connect you.

Erin graciously attended our September TPP Board Meeting to **pledge her support** to help friends groups. We look forward to working with her more in the future to support YOUR efforts as citizen stewards of Milwaukee County Parks.

Together we can do more....

Mark your calendar for Oct 14 or Oct. 16th.

Please attend the Cultural & Entertainment Capital Needs (CECN) Task Force Listening Sessions and tell the task force members "our parks are a necessary part of any public funding plans they may promote in the near future."

Public Listening Sessions will be:

October 14, 9:30 to 11:00 am. at the Zoofari Conference Center, 9715 W. Blue Mound Road.

October 16, 6 to 7:30 pm. at the Frank L. Weyenberg Library, 113435 N. Cedarburg Rd., Mequon

The CECN Task Force was created by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC) to study & promote the building of a new arena to replace the Bradley Arena due to a National Basketball Association ultimatum. They then expanded to include 5 of our major cultural venues to make their funding plans more appealing to the public. However, they initially left out a major cultural recreational and entertainment resource when they failed to include parks in their earlier discussions.

Public Policy Forum studies showed that the other cities/counties they analyzed did include parks and transit in their public funding plans.

In their most recent presentation of costs and funding options presented by the Data Curating Team on Sept. 29 (see: <http://www.culturalneedstaskforce.com/meeting-minutes/>) they did include Parks as an "add on" potential use for their proposed public funding budget. They must understand that our county parks are not an "add on". They are a necessary quality of life cultural, recreational and entertainment venue available for all citizens and taxpayers of our whole metropolitan area. They are readily available to people who do not have easy or free access to the downtown area.

If ever we are going to secure segregated funding for our parks, it is now. We must bring the MMAC and other well connected lobbying organizations on board to include parks through this task force.

We can do it!! Please attend one of these listening sessions. And wear a green shirt...show your colors.

Annual Meeting Brings Together The Park People Membership

Perfect weather, good news, the company of park friends, and the best brats grilled on this side of the world- that pretty much sums up the annual TPP membership meeting. Held at Dretzka Park in late June, we reviewed a number of accomplishments. We have a brand that is being used in all of our materials. We've had some successful events



such as Run for the Parks, the Oak Leaf Discovery Tour, and Performing Arts in the Parks. We've added new people to the board and done some park promotion through a blog and a new book about Milwaukee Parks. People are checking into our website, Facebook page, and following our tweets. We can all be proud! Thanks to everyone who attended and to all who support our efforts on a continuing basis!

