



ParkPeopleNews

Creating Citizen Connections to Our Parks

Spring 2014 Park People Newsletter

Park People to co-sponsor a new event - Performing Arts in the Parks

We invite you to join us on **Saturday May 10th at 10:00am** as Next Generation UPAF presents Performing Arts in the Park in partnership with **The Park People of Milwaukee County**. Four UPAF Member Groups will perform throughout Milwaukee County at four of our beautiful Milwaukee County Parks.



This family-friendly event will feature performances and/or interactive workshops at Humboldt Park Pavilion with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Wilson Park Pavilion with First Stage Children's Theater, Greenfield Park Pavilion with Milwaukee Children's Choir, and Dineen Park Pavilion with Danceworks.

Space is limited; doors will open at 9:30 a.m.

President's Perspective - Sue Spoerk

April showers bring May flowers! After a very long winter, spring has arrived and there is no better place to celebrate the warmth of the sun and the longer days than our Milwaukee County Parks. Come see the tulips blossom at Boerner, walk across the bridges at Grant, go for a bike ride on the Oak Leaf Trail or watch the waves crash at

Veteran's Park.

Friends Groups continue to drive the success of the Milwaukee County Parks and I was able to attend the 100th Anniversary of Sheridan Park. The Friends of Sheridan are an active group and hosted a wonderful celebration. They recognized the legacy and also made a vow to take responsibility for the next 100 years to continue the dedication of community advocates. The best part of the evening was the "We Remember Sheridan Park" where park users shared their favorite memories of Sheridan Park. While their memories were about Sheridan Park there was a shared experience of community, gathering and nature and the citizens could have been talking about any park.



Parks nurture our souls and give us a place to play. It doesn't matter if you are a kid or a kid at heart, we all need to play. We are very lucky in Milwaukee to have this amazing park system. Taxes and user fees help to support the parks, but in today's fiscal environment with demands on every tax dollar, taxes and user fees only go so far. Consider what you can do to enhance our parks by volunteering, getting involved in a local Friends Group, or by making a donation to The Park People.

The 3rd Annual Oak Leaf Discovery Tour starts May 1st

Celebrate May Day by collecting some 2014 Oak Leaf Discovery Tour (OLDT) Passport stamps or

Keywords. Get your family and friends involved in some healthy outdoor goals for 2014. You have until Oct. 8th to collect 8 or more unique stamps and keywords for prizes.



New Improvements to the OLDLT passport:

You can now register your passport stamps & keywords on the web. It's convenient and easy.

Then you don't have to send your passport into The Park People office or take it to the Parks Administration building. Go to parkpeoplemke.org to learn where you can get your 2014 passports, and learn about our wonderful prizes, including two \$500 bikes and two \$250 bike shop gift certificates and numerous parks amenities passes, and to activate your passport.

The Oak Leaf Discovery Tour passport committee listened to suggestions, then reorganized our 2014 passport into five corridors, making it easier for families and friends to plan short bike rides along the Oak Leaf Trail. The corridors are on asphalt trails and parkways with distances ranging from 6.2 miles to 16.6 miles. Plus we have included a color coded foldout map in the passport so you can quickly locate the five corridors. Thank you to Amelia Kegel for reorganizing the new passport and laying out the corridors map and Jim Goulee for setting up the activation and registration site.

The OLDLT has two new locations for you to explore: Mitchell Park Domes which you can now access from the Three Bridges Park and Froemming Park which includes a delightful wooden walkway/bikeway over a wetland area.

Remember, we don't care how you get there, we want you to explore some new places in our parks.

You can also friend Oak Leaf Discovery Tour on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/OakLeafDiscoveryTour>, and add some photos or stories

about your discoveries. You can also learn about other participants' adventures and get tips regarding occasional trail difficulties.

Well City Milwaukee Features Oak Leaf Discovery Tour Passport at Breakfast Celebration



Well City Milwaukee was launched in 2007 by the City of Milwaukee, Greater Milwaukee Committee, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, YMCA of Metro Milwaukee, and Wellness Council of Milwaukee. Over sixty employers who collectively employ over 125,000 area employees have taken the lead to help Milwaukee become the first city to earn the Well City USA designation twice for reaching out to 30% of the workforce through Well City USA efforts.

This year the Oak Leaf Discovery Tour (OLDT) passport was chosen to be the Well City table gift for the 270 people who attended the Annual Well City Celebration Breakfast. City of Milwaukee Commissioner of Health, Bevan Baker promoted our OLDT passport as an opportunity for employers, employees, and their families to get out, get active, set wellness goals and be healthy.

For more information see <http://www.wellcitymilwaukee.org/about/today>

Last year 5 corporations bought discounted packages for our OLDT passports to give to their employees as part of their wellness efforts. We anticipate more will do it this year. Do you work for a corporation or business that might be interested in using our OLDT passport as part of their wellness program? Contact Jim Goulee, jim@parkpeoplemke.org or 414-723-7275.

2014 Spring Weed-Out

With due respect to Tennyson, in spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of garlic mustard! Not lightly, and certainly not love! Not love of garlic mustard! Perhaps Tennyson meant love of his parks. We can relate to that. While our dedicated park workers diligently toil away there's no time for them to remove weeds from the natural areas. That's why Weed Out was started, allowing neighbors the opportunity to join in and help protect our valuable natural resources.

Please check our website for the spring schedule as it evolves. If your favorite park isn't on the list let us know and we'll help you get started.



Thanks! This spring take steps to love your park just a little bit more.

Featured Friends Group - Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens



In 2014, the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens (FBBG), a private, self-funded non-profit organization, founded in 1984 to support historic Boerner through programming for all ages, community advocacy and fundraising, celebrates 30 years!

From January through December each year, FBBG hosts a broad variety of nature driven programs, garden walks, classes and special events for adults, children and families, promoting the many attractions at Boerner. From 1998 to 2003 FBBG led a capital campaign to build Boerner's Education and Visitor Center which opened in 2003. The center offers a cafe, Sunday brunches, seasonal Friday fish fries, FBBG run gift shop and horticulture library (the largest in Southeastern Wisconsin), FBBG's fun and interesting classes on a wide variety of nature, garden and environmental topics and family workshops. In the center and in the gardens, FBBG also plans and facilitates year 'round, multi session, outcomes based plant science and environmental classes for over 17,000 K through 12 students in the Greater Milwaukee Area and surrounding communities.

Annual Friends Group Gathering

Thank you to all who attended our Annual Friends Group meeting. It was held on March 27, 2014 at the North Point Lighthouse. With over 70 in attendance, we enjoyed an evening of conversation and connection in one of Milwaukee County Park's historic gems. In spite of the cold, foggy evening (perfect for a lighthouse) representatives from over twenty friends groups including some of our the newer groups like Friends of Moody Park and Friends of Noyes Pool came out to participate in the event.



Parks Director John Dargle and other County Parks staff attended to express their appreciation for the contributions by the many friends groups of Milwaukee County's Parks. Many groups shared their planned activities for the coming year and all enjoyed the opportunity to network with each other and share best practices.

TPP Welcomes a New Board Member

The Park People is thrilled to announce our newest board member, Barbara Ali. Barb is a local author of *101 Things to do in Milwaukee Parks* and blogs about the Milwaukee area parks at www.milwaukeekeeparks.blogspot.com. She holds degrees in Psychology and Safety. A retired US Air Force officer, she moved to Milwaukee in 2004. Her introduction

to the parks came from joining a moms' group that visited different Milwaukee parks every Friday during the summer, when her son Omar was younger. Her favorite park during the summer is South Shore Park on a Saturday morning, where she says there is a "real sense of community" with live music, fresh crepes, and a variety of healthy food choices at the farmer's market. During winter, she loves snowshoeing and greeting the sled dogs at Whitnall Park.

Welcome new Park People members

The Park People would like to cordially welcome the following new members who joined us since the start of the calendar year. We sincerely thank you for your membership and support of your Milwaukee County Parks. Cheers to another year of enjoying all your county parks have to offer!

Welcome New Members

Barbara Ali

Matthew & Brittani Clark

Shirley Conlon

Gloria M. Johnson

Kate Marath

Thomas Warner
