



# ParkPeopleNews

Creating Citizen Connections to Our Parks

## Fall 2016 Park People Newsletter

---

### President's Perspective

Cheers! At this past Annual Meeting I passed the torch for the Presidency to Kate Circulik. The Park People, like any organization, should be more about the entity than about the people who come and go. We are simply the stewards of the moment, there to help move the organization forward. In the instance of The Park People, to preserve, support, and enhance Milwaukee County Parks while building an effective volunteer organization. Our newly minted Mission Statement (thanks to Kate's wordsmithing) is to support Milwaukee County Parks by educating stakeholders about Milwaukee County parks, encouraging park improvement through Friends Groups, coordinating Weed-Out® programs and accepting and honoring donor intent of charitable contributions while balancing long term park viability. It has been an honor to lead this charge.



As I reflect upon the three years I served as board President the biggest challenge the board took on was to refine our mission which included ceding advocacy to Preserve Our Parks (POP). Our reasons were to divide and conquer trusting that POP will continue to "fight the good fight" to protect parks while we concentrate on raising Friends (Friends Groups and Members) and Funds. Our goal of a Friends Group in every park has yet to be met, but we are glad over one-third of our parks have a Friends Group. Our membership goal of 1% of adults in Milwaukee County is also yet to be met; however, with our new Park Perks this goal is attainable. Meeting this goal would fund our entire operating budget, allowing revenue that surpasses that goal to go back to Park improvements. Keep in minds that like any non-profit, operating costs are different than donor funds that are earmarked for park projects.

Why did I attend over 100 Park People board meetings over this past decade and why do I encourage you to be a member? It was because of my dedication to our treasured parks. I am willing to pitch in beyond what my tax dollars buy me and user fees cover so I can help maintain and enhance our amazing park system. This past year I golfed at Grant, swam at Wilson, walked at Jackson, tipped a pint at Estabrook, grooved at Cathedral Square, skied at Whitnall, biked the Oak Leaf, roller bladed at Veteran's, and dipped my toes in the sand at Bradford. What are your gems in our Emerald Necklace? And are they worth your time and money? If yes, please become a member of The Park People.

---

### **Come, be enchanted by the China Lights this autumn at the Boerner Botanical Gardens!**

The Park People is proud to be presenting China Lights with the Milwaukee County Parks Department! The arrival of this internationally renowned lantern festival is it's first stop in the Midwest.



The grounds are illuminated by over 40 magical and vibrant displays created by Chinese artisans. The displays were erected by 25 Chinese artisans during the month of September. The event is open from 5:30pm-10pm Tuesdays-Sundays until November 6th. In addition to the dazzling displays, the month will feature performances, artwork and food celebrating Asian culture. More information and tickets can be found at: <http://www.chinalights.org/>

China Lights is a fund raiser for the Boerner Botanical Gardens. Net proceeds will be placed in a restricted account and used only for garden enhancements.

Attendance at China Lights has surpassed our expectations, so much so that we are extending its run by a week. If you go we advise you to purchase your tickets ahead of time so you don't have to wait in line to do so.

---

## Friends of Pulaski Cudahy Park - Friends Group of the Year

Congratulations to our Friends of Pulaski Cudahy! This group is the recipient of the 2015 - 2016 Park People's Friends Group of the Year Award.

Barb Kaprelian had a thought two years ago about how to bring her neighborhood park back to its 'glory days.' What did she do? She shared it on Facebook and her friends and her community. They 'liked' it. In March of 2015, she had a group of volunteers and officially established the Friends of Pulaski Cudahy.

This group may be new but one would never know. They have a strong leadership team and hard-working volunteers. This group is not afraid to ask for or offer help. They have raised more than \$5000 in this short time through some fun fundraisers. These great events have included visits from the Bunny, bingo, Bluegrass in the Park, bake sales, an upcoming pumpkin patch and a visit from Santa. Because of connections and strong community support, most items are donated to the group including the brats and pizzas that are sold at events. In addition to raising money, these events have brought more people into the park and increased awareness. Using donated brochures, this group has increased membership to more than 50 paid members.



Like every group, they have a wish list. They wished for and now have more picnic tables. However, their dream and fundraising efforts are to restore the pavilion so that it again can be rented. With dedicated supporters and friendships that this park now has, we all look forward to sharing the excitement when this group's dream comes true. Thank you for your passion and love of Pulaski Cudahy Park.

---

## The Park People welcome two new board members

### Natalie Fairbanks-

This month we welcome a former Park Ranger and nature enthusiast, Natalie Fairbanks to our board. She is the Development Communications Coordinator at the Milwaukee Public Museum, and a member of the American Alliance of Museums' Public Relations and Marketing board. Natalie graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and received a

master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. A certified Wisconsin Master Naturalist, she spends many weekends hiking, biking, canoeing, and enjoying the outdoors. Her favorite parks are Riverside, Grant, and Whitnall Park, where she spends time volunteering at Wehr Nature Center.

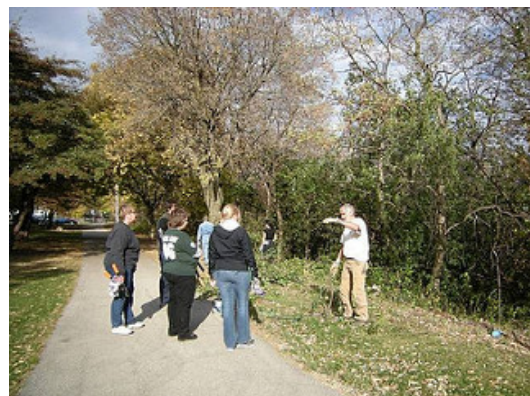
### **Patrick McNally-**

The Park People also welcomes Patrick McNally to the Board of Directors. Patrick is a transplant from Chicago and has lived in Milwaukee County since 2000 and Wauwatosa since 2007. He holds his bachelor and master's degree in nursing from Marquette University and currently works as a Registered Nurse. Patrick has served on various professional and civic boards over the last ten years and obtained an interest in parks while serving with the Friends of Hart Park. He frequents several parks in Wauwatosa with his children. His favorites are: Hart, Hartung, Hoyt, and Jacobus Parks.

---

## **Park People Volunteer of the Year Award**

The Board of Directors of the Park People unanimously voted John Lunz as Volunteer of the Year. John was recognized with a plaque presented at the September 28 annual meeting of the Park People at the Boerner Gardens by board member Cheri Briscoe. John recently retired from the Park People board after serving for twelve years, and has been an inspiration both to the Park People and the community at large. John was responsible for the WeedOut program now conducted in many parks, and has always been a hands-on participant. John's interest in the parks and the environment continues in his role as president of Preserve Our Parks and as a leader in the Wild Ones, an organization dedicated to promoting the use of native species in landscaping.



---

## **Holiday Shopping? - Smile Upon the Park People**



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support The Park People every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchase supports The Park People. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. You can use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)), you need to select Park People of Milwaukee County, Inc (note, please do not confuse with The Park People which is Denver) to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation to The Park People and yes, you can change your charity at any time.

---

## **Bells in your Stockings**

Give Santa some help this year with some Oak Leaf Discovery Tour Bike bells for all the holiday stockings in your house. The Park People are encouraging trail safety with these charming little bike bells that you can purchase with a \$10 contribution for one or 2 for \$15, plus \$5 for shipping & handling costs. Or call the Park People office, 414-273-7275, to arrange to pick them up.

By ringing a bell or communicating your presence with "Passing on the left," we can all help to make our trails more enjoyable for all participants.



## Oak Leaf Discovery Tour has Sunny Season Ending at The Landing

Our 2016 Oak Leaf Discovery Tour (OLDT) ended on a sunny October day at The Beer Garden at *The Landing* at Hoyt Park. Twenty five people got free Oak Leaf Discovery Tour Bike Bells and free liters of Spaten Beer. Others won bells by answering questions about the 26 parks where the Keywords were located. Some shared stories about the keyword sites and many described their joy in finding new places in our Milwaukee County Park system that were especially beautiful or interesting historically. And, yes, some let us know that this year a few of our keyword sites were definitely more challenging.

Sister Ellen, a retired nun who has served as a Hospice Chaplain, told a story about asking a man what was his best memory in his lifetime. He replied that it was his work on a project in our Milwaukee County Parks for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). He said it gave him a badly needed job in the Depression, gave him pride, and helped him develop skills that eventually enabled him to get a good job. Many of our larger parks amenities were built by CCC workers. Estabrook Park was one example. See: <http://www.parkpeoplemke.org/oldt-estabrook-park> The keyword for Estabrook Park this year is CCC. Those of you who are history buffs will enjoy looking up our keyword sites on the Park People web page. Jim Goulee did some outstanding research for it. The photos are also quite interesting. See: <http://www.parkpeoplemke.org/node/273>

We apologize for the editing error in our OLDLT Passport, which mistakenly listed Estabrook Park as the location. We tried to get the word out via the Park People website and OLDLT facebook page, but missed a few. There were 8 intrepid people who showed up late because of our error.

Congratulations to our numerous winners of larger prizes. You can find the list of winners on the OLDLT Facebook page.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS: Wheel & Sprocket , Lead Sponsor; South Shore Cyclery, Badgerland Striders, Beer Garden at the Landing at Hoyt Park, Johnson's Cycle & Fitness, Friends of the Hank Aaron State Trail, Estabrook Beer Garden, Rainbow Jersey Bicycles, Beans and Barley.

Please patronize their businesses and tell them, "Thank You," for supporting our parks.

## Parks With a Purpose - Online Survey Available

We encourage participation in the Parks with Purpose campaign. Workshops were held in September and October and members of TPP and those on our email list were encouraged to attend to share your input on the Parks Master Planning effort. Information gathered will support two major park planning projects underway simultaneously: the 10-Year Parks System Master Plan and the 2050 Park & Open Space Plan. The 10-Year Parks Master Plan will provide recommendations for facilities, programs and services, maintenance and operation, and administration and management of the County park system. The 2050 Park & Open Space Plan will address long-range considerations including the preservation of environmental corridors and conservation lands, the recreational use of water bodies, and make recommendations on the distribution of parks and recreational facilities throughout the County. We encourage you to participate in the online survey which will remain open through Friday, November 18th.



The online survey can be accessed here. [Parks With a Purpose](#)