



Board of Directors

President

Nadine Weske

Community Volunteer

Nadine Weske earned her bachelor's degree in business administration from UW Milwaukee in 1997. After graduation, she continued working in the insurance industry switching from sales to claims. In 1999, she moved to Madison with her husband accepting a new position and earned the prestigious CPCU insurance designation. After acting as Loaned Executive to United Way, she returned home to Milwaukee in 2005 to start a family and is now a stay at home mother of two. Nadine volunteers at her childrens' school, is a Girl Scout leader, on the parent advisory board of McMenamir Irish Dance Academy, member of the Junior League of Milwaukee and lifetime member of Lake Park Friends. There are so many wonderful parks but Lake Park is her "neighborhood" park where friends can be found, has a fascinating history including being designed by Olmsted plus beautiful views of Lake Michigan.

Vice President

John Machulak, JD

Machulak Robertson and Sodos, S.C.

John Machulak is an attorney and the founder of Machulak, Robertson & Sodos, S.C., a general practice law firm. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, first growing up on the south side and then moving to Wauwatosa. After graduating from at the University Chicago, receiving his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School, and marrying Susan Robertson (now deceased) while in school, he and Susan returned to Milwaukee, living first on the northwest side and then moving to the Tippecanoe neighborhood. Three children later, John and Susan moved to the north side and settled on the Milwaukee River. John regularly bikes to his office on the East Side and loves the Oak Leaf trail. John has great childhood memories of the Menomonee River Parkway including swimming in the Menomonee River. He spent many hours with his young children in Wilson Park and Whitnall Park and on the south shore. Later, he and Susan were regular volunteers monitoring the border between Doctors Park and the Schlitz Audubon Center. Recently, his favorite park to spend time in is Kletzsch Park.

Treasurer

Pat Hintz, JD, CPA

Quarles and Brady

Patricia A. Hintz is an attorney with Quarles & Brady LLP where she practices in the areas of taxation and not-for-profit organizations. She advises clients in a wide variety of areas including partnership and pass-through taxation, low income housing tax credit projects, tax controversy matters before the Internal Revenue Service and state taxing authorities and corporate and tax issues of not-for-profit organizations including public charities and private foundations. Pat was selected as a "Woman in the Law" Honoree by the Wisconsin Law Journal (2014). Prior to attending law school (from 1985 to 1991), Pat worked as a tax consultant at Deloitte & Touche LLP and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. She is a certified public accountant, licensed in Wisconsin. Pat received her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin, a M.S. in Taxation from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a B.S. in accounting from Marquette University. She currently (since 2000) serves as the secretary/treasurer of the Milwaukee Bar Association. She previously served as treasurer of Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association, chair and treasurer of the tax section of the State Bar of Wisconsin, board member and treasurer of the Center for Communication, Hearing and Deafness and a founding member and treasurer of the Milwaukee Chapter of the Executive Women's Golf Association. Pat's favorite park is Brown Deer. She has been playing golf since she was 13 and enjoys the challenge of a championship caliber course. Pat knows that Brown Deer is a rare jewel as part of a public golf course system.



Executive Director

Barry S. Waddell, CPM

Barry retired from a career in Law Enforcement after 31 years of service. He now continues to serve the community in his role as Executive Director with The Park People. Barry has BS in Behavioral Science and Law from UW-Madison. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Northwestern's University School of Police Staff and Command, and UW Madison's- Certified Public Manager Program(CPM). He is on the Board of Directors for the Boy Scouts of America, Three Harbors Council, he is a member of the West Allis Lions Club and he also serves as the President of the Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council. If you are riding your bike on the Hank Aaron or Oak Leaf Trail you will probably bump into Barry and his wife. His favorite Milwaukee County park is La Follette Park in West Allis where he and his wife helped form The Friends of La Follette Park in 2010.

Lucas Olivieri

Milwaukee County Human Resources

Lucas Olivieri moved back to his hometown of Milwaukee in the Spring of 2015. He graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 2011 earning Bachelor's degrees in Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Psychology. After graduating, he opened a mens apparel store in St. Louis called Swedlife. In 2015 he sold his equity in the business to return to Milwaukee and now works in Human Resources for Milwaukee County's Behavioral Health Division. He is passionate about his family, diversity, the Milwaukee community and empowering others. He is an active volunteer at the United Community Center and enjoys connecting with community leaders, cycling on the Oak Leaf Trail, and spending time with his fiancée at their new home in Glendale. His favorite park is Estabrook Park where he enjoys the beer garden with his fiancée and friends while watching skateboarders in the near by skate park.

Michael Pierce

MBA, MS, Colonel USAFR/Ret

In April 2011, Michael "Mike" Pierce retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a Colonel. His last assignment was Military Assistant with the Defense Business Board. The Defense Business Board advised and published recommendations for the Office of the Secretary Defense on best practices in the business community. Mike's business career includes financial advisor, stockbroker for a major investment company, industrial sales and branch manager for Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. In 2013, he graduated from UW-Milwaukee's EMBA program. He has volunteered for United Way of Greater Milwaukee, Rotary, and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves. Currently, he serves on the board of 128th Community Council, The Park People, and BSA's Three Harbor Council. Mike's hiking/climbing experiences include: Trekking in the Himalayas & New Zealand's Southern Alps & Patagonia Southern Andes; TransSiberian Railroad & Mongolia – 2018; summited Mt Rainier – 2019 & Mt Kilimanjaro – 2020, and is a steward of the Oak Leaf Trail.

Steven H. Silverstein, J.D.

Prior to retiring, Steve Silverstein worked for Thomson Reuters, a news and information company, known for its market leading online legal research platform, Westlaw. Among other duties, he trained lawyers, paralegals and law librarians on the use of Westlaw. He has an extensive background in legal publishing and also practiced law. He secured his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1981. Since retiring in 2019, Steve has taken on a number of volunteer positions. He serves as a board member with The Park People. He is also involved with Legal Action of Wisconsin, working as a volunteer to assist indigent individuals.



Ken Solis, MD, MA

Community Volunteer

Ken is an ER physician who graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and has a Master's in bioethics from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Ken became interested in invasive plant species when he discovered that buckthorn trees, garlic mustard and other invasive plant species were prevalent not only in his small forested yard, but also along the street sides and parks themselves. From 1994 to 1995 he surveyed and documented the presence and density of invasive plants in over 40 parks to make the case that they had to be addressed - or risk forever losing the native plant community. The Park People learned of his surveys shortly thereafter and began the volunteer "Weed-Out!" program to try to control invasives in various parks. He was also instrumental in promoting the creation of a park system's "natural areas manager" position and staff so that these areas would receive the professional attention that they deserved. Ken is also interested in "Big History" (history extending back to the Big Bang) and is most well-known for being a "freestyle" jump rope pioneer/expert who has been on national TV, set 2 Guinness World Records, did 100's of shows, and wrote instructional books and videos. Ken's favorite natural areas are Cudahy Preserve and "Canal Woods" of the southernmost Root River Parkway.

Luanne Coyne

Ascension Healthcare

Luanne is currently a Telecommunications Operator with Ascension Healthcare. She has worked in the healthcare industry in various positions and departments for the last 20 plus years. She also was the Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator for a Catholic Elementary School for 10 years, and has consulted with many groups on their fundraising endeavors. Her "home" Park Friends group is Pulaski Park in Cudahy, where she serves on the board as fundraising consultant. Luanne currently sits on a number of boards in Milwaukee County and on the State level and enjoys being a very active community volunteer. She believes Milwaukee's greatest treasure is our amazing park system, her favorites being: Grant Park, Sheridan Park, the Domes and Whitnall. She and her husband Jim enjoy taking in all the wildlife and beauty the parks have to offer.

Marissa Werner-CSEE

Sports Milwaukee

The Milwaukee County Parks have always been near and dear to my heart, starting with my first job as a Park Worker I at Greenfield Park. I am also the proud daughter of a Milwaukee County Parks retiree. Currently I serve as Director of Sports Milwaukee, Championed by VISIT Milwaukee. Our mission is to make Milwaukee a top destination for youth, amateur, and professional sports. The parks are instrumental in providing a safe and clean place for our youth to play. I look forward to assisting the Park People in fulfilling their mission.

Prior to my current position, I worked for our very own Milwaukee Bucks, along with traveling the country in several roles for Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, including New York City and Los Angeles.

With the assistance of Sports Milwaukee, the City of Milwaukee has hosted the NCAA Men's Basketball Championships, BIG EAST Volleyball Championships, PGA Championships, USA Triathlon Age Group National Championships, USA Volleyball 18's Girls National Championships, AVP Milwaukee Open, USA Ultimate College Championships, USA Fencing North American Cup, USA Table Tennis Open Championships, US Open, and the Ryder Cup.



Traci Gondek

Milwaukee County Human Resources

Traci has been with Milwaukee County Human Resources in her current role as the LMS Training Coordinator. She creates instructional design and is the system administrator for the learning management system. She graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a degree in Information Studies and specializes in creating learning experiences that focus on diversity and inclusion. Her first job ever with the county was as a seasonal employee at Greenfield Park. She educates people about monarch butterflies, including everything from their life cycle to their yearly migration to Mexico. She loves to teach people the importance of pollinators, pollinator plants, and conservation. In her free time, she and her partner frequent Milwaukee County parks, preferring long trails through Whitnall Park or exploring the seven bridges at Grant Park.

Anne Stadler Vaillancourt

Anne Stadler Vaillancourt went to MATC for the Culinary Program. She was a Manager at Beans & Barley, a local independent restaurant, store, & deli for 26 years. Anne currently works for her husband at DNA Painting & Maintenance. As a lifelong Milwaukee County resident, Anne enjoys walking and riding her bike to different Parks in the Milwaukee County area. Growing up on the East Side of Milwaukee, she played in Back Bay, Lake, Estabrook, and Riverside Parks. When Anne and her husband bought their 1st home, living near the Milwaukee County River, Lincoln Park, and the Oakleaf BikeTrail ended up being an important deciding factor. Anne is a founding member and co-chair of Friends of Lincoln Park. They create events in Lincoln Park to remove invasive weeds, pick up litter, and partner with community nonprofits to provide resources and fun outdoor activities for all ages to enjoy in Lincoln Park.

Anne is excited to be a part of the Park People and help raise awareness for the needs of our park system.