



Friends of Milwaukee County Parks

Board of Directors

President

Steven H. Silverstein, JD

Community Volunteer

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.

Vice President/President-Elect

Anne Stadler-Vaillancourt

Friends of Lincoln Park

Anne Stadler-Vaillancourt went to MATC for the Culinary Program. She was a manager for 26 years at Beans & Barley, a local independent restaurant, store, & deli. 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 first home, living near the Milwaukee River, Lincoln Park and the Oak Leaf Trail ended up being an important deciding factor. Anne is a founding member and co-chair of Friends of Lincoln Park. The group creates 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. Anne is excited to be a part of The Park People and help raise awareness for the needs of our park system.

Past-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 of 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.



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Luanne Coyne

Ascension Healthcare

Luanne is currently a telecommunications operator with Ascension Healthcare. She has worked in the healthcare industry in various positions and department for over 20 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 Park. She and her husband, Jim, enjoy taking in all the wildlife and beauty the parks have to offer.

Adam Jussel

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Adam is originally from Idaho and made his way to Wisconsin by way of Seattle and then Pullman, Washington (home of Washington State University). He spent a lot of his youth at local community parks—playing baseball, working concessions (not beer gardens!), and running around with his friends. His father instilled an early value of public service, and Adam saw his dad do that by serving on the local parks and recreation board and Babe Ruth League Board for more than a decade. When Adam moved to Milwaukee, he was floored by the local park system and has spent a lot of time with his two dogs (Delilah and Morton) and his wife Kim out and about at the parks—whether hiking or getting a pint and listening to jazz. Outside of The Park People, Adam is the Dean of Students for University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, where he advocates for and assists students in any number of areas.

Ken Solis, MD, MA

Community Volunteer

Ken is a emergency room 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 the 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 two Guinness World Records, did hundreds 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.



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Executive Director

Dana L. Hansen

After earning a master's degree in public history and museum studies in 2017, Dana entered the non-profit world to explore her passion for community engagement and to create meaningful experiences for the public. She enthusiastically joined The Park People in November 2022 as executive director. Prior to The Park People, she was the executive director at the Jonathan Clark House Museum, Mequon, Wisconsin, and the site manager for Brew City MKE, a site of the Milwaukee County Historical Society. During her tenure at the Jonathan Clark House Museum, she helped the organization create and implement mission driven programming, events and community partnerships. She currently lives in Bay View with her partner Travis Wilson, and their pets Sammy, Inara and Lando. When she is not keeping busy with The Park People, she can be found walking, biking and kayaking in Milwaukee County Parks and all over the beautiful state of Wisconsin.