



*Friends of  
Marquette Park of the MCC Shoreline Committee with Legacy Foundation*

End of Summer, 2017

**Dear Friends of Marquette Park Members,**

**We thank you for your generous support of Friends of Marquette Park.** We surpassed our 100-member goal with 111 Charter Members by May 18, 2017, in our first year of existence! The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual meeting/Celebration of Friends of Marquette Park brought 75 Charter Members and guests to the Father Marquette Statue Garden for a delightful event. Each attendee represented a bush planted at the garden!

**Updates on our projects:**

**Liners in beach cans and beach clean-ups: Thank you volunteers!** Our volunteer program is working well with 30 residents who help monitor the beach cans and make sure there is always room in the cans for more trash. We also support beach clean-up days.

**Kid Alert Green Men:** We securely installed more “little green men” to protect walkers and cyclists at crosswalks. We will install new orange flags to bring attention to the crosswalks.

**Landscaping and hardscaping at Father Marquette Memorial Garden:** Volunteers replaced 75 bushes and spread two truckloads of mulch in May. Pruning of all shrubs, repairing damaged cement, controlling erosion on slopes with new plantings, and maintaining the irrigation system have been accomplished. Volunteers are always working in the garden area. Fr. Marquette Garden Work Days are the second Tuesday and second Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM - noon. Come join us!

**Landscaping of lagoon area:** Invasive plants that obstructed the view of the lagoon have been removed. We are getting ready to plant 50+ native plants along the east edge of the Lagoon. Our naturalist, Sandy O’Brien, is caring for the seedlings until planting day.

**Preventing erosion between the sidewalk and the fore dune:** We continue to work with the city and Parks Department on solutions that improve access to the beach and protect the walkway and stairs.

**Summer Youth Work Program:** With gifts designated the Youth Work Program, Friends of Marquette Park volunteers accomplished many tasks while working with five young people four hours per day for six weeks. George, Carol, Susan, Karen, Dawn, Linda, Zully and Corya helped oversee the workers Whew!

**Safety Stations :** A new project spearheaded by Mary Ann Best, is installing Safety Stations at each easement along the entire beach and the lagoon. The stations include a instructional sign, life ring with tow line and life jacket to aid in helping swimmers in distress. Within one month, Mary Ann has commitments for the funding of 35 Safety Stations. Friends of Marquette Park accepts donations designated for Safety Stations and replacement items. What a terrific project and fantastic response from our community!

**Barriers for protection:** We are looking into barriers to protect the electrical boxes and historic street light from damage and at the same time provide an aesthetically pleasing addition to our park.  
**Repair of wall and steps to the beach north of Shelter 3:** We will work with the city for a solution.

**Parks Department is working on solutions:**

**Turf grass established south of Shelter 3:** Visitors have more grassy space while using the large shelter.

**Planters at Pavilion and Shelter 5:** Beautiful seasonal plantings are maintained by the Parks staff.

**Do Not Enter and Stay of Grass signs installed:** The signs do make a difference.

**Striping of streets, bike lanes, and bike icons:** Motorists can clearly see the bike lane and boundaries.

**New equipment to remove trash on beach:** Equipment is repaired, and we hope to see improvement.

**Events in the Park:** Taco Tuesdays on the Aug. 22, & Sept.12 at the Pavilion, Movies in the Park on the 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, and “As You Like It” performed by Gary Shakespeare every Sunday in August.

**Mary Jane’s Café:** Ken Houseworth is providing food, ice cream, beverages and music at the Montgomery Street Concession Stand. Stop by for some tasty treats.

**Beach Clean-Up Days:** City of Gary Day of Caring with United Way brings regional volunteers, city staff, and local volunteers together to clean up our park and beach. The next Clean-Ups are Sept. 7 with United Way and NIPSCO, 9:00 – noon; Sept. 17 with IUNW and Adopt –a-Beach 8:30 – 12:30.

**The Parks Department is addressing:**

- removal of sand from Lake Street Beach parking lot and replenish sand in playground area
- erosion control north of concession stand near Montgomery Street
- replacement of streetlights and globe light fixtures at Area 5 and replacement bulbs when needed.

**Long-Term Projects:**

- Promoting most southern point of Lake Michigan as a destination
- Involvement in redevelopment of Lake Street Beach

**Working together to improve Marquette Park:**

As members of Friends of Marquette Park, we encourage you to continue supporting us with your gifts and annual membership. We value your ideas as we decide on the most important projects to pursue. Your input tells us that safety is the highest priority. Programs in the park, learning activities and park/beach maintenance are also important to you. Your support gives us the means to accomplish our goals.

Sincerely,

**Friends of Marquette Park Leaders**

Tom Cera tjcera@gmail.com

Joe Petras bigjoeps@aol.com

Susan Cohen suridgeco@aol.com

George Rogge georgerogge88@gmail.com

William G. Godwin billggodwin@gmail.com

Carol Smith pandcsmith@comcast.net

Linda Halas dune5851@aol.com

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**Friends of Marquette Park Levels of Giving**

**Level**

**What It Will Provide the Park**

_____ \$25+	Flower Garden & Trails	Mulch for trails & landscaping
_____ \$50+	Shoreline	Concrete walkways & stairs
_____ \$100+	Pavilion Area	Native landscaping for the lagoon
_____ \$200+	Fr. Marquette Garden	Seasonal displays & gardens
_____ \$300+	Mighty Oaks	Major projects to preserve Marquette Park
_____ Major	Marquette Park Preservation	Long-term major projects
_____ Other	Wildflowers	Wildflowers for the gardens

Please write checks to: **Friends of Marquette Park/Legacy Foundation**

Mail to: Friends of Marquette Park, PO Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403

Or Donate online to Legacy Foundation:

[www.legacyfdn.org](http://www.legacyfdn.org), click on DONATE NOW and search for Friends of Marquette Park.

Donations are tax deductible.

Correction to Annual Meeting Report: The Marquette Park Playground Committee is a Charter Member of Friends of Marquette Park. We thank them for their support and we apologize for the omission.