



Asian Bridge Summer of 2019 (above)  
Summer of 2020 (at right)

### **ASIAN BRIDGE REPAIRS PHASE I**

Friends of Marquette Park spent \$1,000 on repairs to the Asian Bridge this summer. As you may remember, boards came loose and were sticking up making the bridge dangerous. Temporary metal “band-aid” strips were secured to the boards last summer. This year we fastened the boards from underneath the bridge with brackets. Mechanical Concepts in Miller donated the brackets for bridge repairs. Many thanks to Zygmunt and Lela Dyrkacz for lending us a John boat to work underneath the bridge. It is once again a safe place to walk.

### **PHASE II**

While these repairs solved the most glaring problems, the bridge is in need of a major overhaul. Wood does not last forever. Boards, some support pieces and missing railings need to be replaced. We are seeking the best structural solutions, type of wood, and reasonable cost, estimated at \$20,000. We feel this is a sensible investment, since the original bridge cost \$120,000. If you would like to donate to the Asian Bridge Project, let us know at [friendsofmarquette@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmarquette@gmail.com).



### **OUR BEACH AND PARK OPEN AUGUST 14th**

On July 29, 2020, Mayor Prince made the difficult decision to close all the beaches along Gary’s lakeshore for two weeks, due to the increased cases of Covid-19 virus. That meant no feet in the sand and no driving or parking in Marquette Park. The streets were blocked to prevent traffic. The park remains open to walkers, bikers, and joggers who wish to enjoy some outdoor exercise. All Gary beaches reopen on Friday, August 14th with parking lots and picnic areas limited to 75% capacity. Please social distance between groups, wear a mask when near others, and help limit the spread of the virus. We all want our beaches open safely so that we can exercise and enjoy this beautiful place where we live. Watch for more directives from Mayor Prince.





**FR. MARQUETTE'S ANNUAL BATH  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Friday August 28, 2020, our Father Marquette Statue will receive his annual cleaning and waxing. The project kicks off at 8:30 AM and concludes at 5:00 PM.

This year, as last year, volunteers work along side our contractor to make this a successful venture. Typically we ask for two hours of your time scheduled throughout the day.-  
Contact Joe Petras to arrange your time slot.

[bigjoepsm@aol.com](mailto:bigjoepsm@aol.com) 219-629-0481.

**STATUE GARDEN PROJECTS**

Concrete repairs to the steps, walls, curbs and benches are being done this year. Splayed concrete and broken edges will be filled and smoothed to match the color of the existing concrete.

**STATUE GARDEN PLANTINGS**

New Statue Garden plantings will be added to areas in the gardens this fall. With professional advice, we will replace lost bushes with a new species that will thrive in this area's harsh winters and hot summers.

**NEW BEACHFRONT  
STREET SIGNS**

New blue street signs at the beach easements are installed from Montgomery Street to County Line Road. Check them out. They are definitely readable from a distance to help beachgoers identify where they are in case of an emergency situation. They also help walkers find their way.

Seven years ago, in 2013, the first beachfront street signs and posts were planted near each beach easement. The project was funded by MCC to provide location information in case of an emergency. In 2016, Friends of Marquette Park was formed to support projects like this in the park. We're proud to say we continue to maintain and improve nineteen beach street signs that also serve as safety stations along our shoreline.



**MARQUETTE  
PARK TRAIL  
SYSTEM**

Plans are for three trails (short, long & beach). The trails will include points of interest, interpretive signage,

accessible information, distances between points and directions from point to point. The signage will be similar to those at the Shirley Heinze Bayless Dunes Trail in Miller. The sites are: Concession Stand (with trails map), Patterson Island, Lagoon, Lagoon Boat Launch, Octave Chanute Marker, Chanute Trail, Stone Gates, Nelson-Algren Trail and Pavilion. We have discovered a new surprise attraction to add to a trail! Watch for more news as we move ahead with our plans.

**FMP RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY**

**Closing Park Roads at Night** - For safety reasons, we propose that the City closes the park to drivers every night. The closures have resulted in less crime, trash, speeders, and noise.

**Historic Street Lights** - We continue to work with the City to replace the four historic street lights on Grand Ave. in the park. The City has this project on its to-do list.

**Historic Landmark Registry for Fr. Marquette Statue/ Marquette Park.** We are supporting Brad Miller's efforts to apply for Indiana and National Landmark status. This project is on hold, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**Pavilion Bridge Repair** - The Pavilion bridge between the main building and outdoor dance patio is in need of major repair. It is critical to solve the problem that caused the damage and provide a safe and beautiful structure. The City stated that they will begin to address this project in the fall. Funding is required for this complex job.

**Pavilion Parking Sign** - This sign was demolished for the second time in February. FMP provided an estimate for replacing the sign to the City Law Department. The City has received payment from State Farm Insurance to replace the sign. Now we wait for the process of getting the sign manufactured and installed.



**HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT APPROVED**  
Friends of Marquette Park received a \$5,000 donation to partner with USFWS and the City to match funds for restoration of the 17 acres south of the Chanute Trail and north of the lagoon. The blue shaded space on the map indicates the restoration area. The purpose of the grant is to restore the quality to the globally rare fore-dune habitat along Lake Michigan's coastline. The grant includes tree cutting, removal of invasive species, seeding, erosion control material. Thank you to Sandy O'Brien for authoring the grant. Work has begun on this project and will be completed by early spring of 2021.

**FRIENDS OF MARQUETTE PARK LEVELS OF GIVING**

Level	Category	Examples of what gifts can do:
___ \$25+	Flower Garden & Trails.	Mulch for trails & landscaping
___ \$50+	Shoreline	Walkway & stair maintenance
___ \$100+	Pavilion Area	Lagoon native landscaping
___ \$200+	Fr. Marquette Garden	Seasonal displays & gardens
___ \$300+	Mighty Oaks	Major projects to preserve park
___ Major	Park Preservation	Long-term major projects

Please write checks to: Friends of Marquette Park/Legacy Foundation and 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 in Miller. You may also mail checks to Legacy Foundation, 370 E. 84th Drive, Suite 100, Merrillville, IN 46410

Friends of Marquette Park is an entirely volunteer organization. 97% of your donation goes toward our projects. The Legacy Foundation, our financial manager, receives an administrative fee of 3%. The Legacy Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

**DESIGNATED GIFTS**

You are welcome to designate your gift to be utilized toward a specific project at the amount of your choosing.

- \_\_\_ Asian Bridge Project
- \_\_\_ Pathways Signage Project
- \_\_\_ Statue Garden Projects
- \_\_\_ Water Safety Projects
- \_\_\_ Other (Please specify)

Donations are tax deductible.

**THANK YOU, LEGACY FOUNDATION**

We are able to fund projects in Marquette Park because of our amazing partnership with you.





**100 YEAR SIGN IS INSTALLED!**

Check out the new sign celebrating Marquette Park's 100-Year Birthday. It is located north of the Montgomery Street Concession Stand along the promenade. This is the brain-child of George Rogge along with Friends of Marquette Park. Thank you, donors, for your support and patience in seeing this project to completion. A few "oops" occurred. Therefore, new donor panels with corrections will be installed. This sign has three purposes: to inform visitors of this historic location, to recognize our donors, and to prevent erosion of the dune.

**WATER SAFETY SOCIAL**

Friday, August 28, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM

Hosted by Steve & Jodie Ann Uhlarik

Address provided upon RSVP.

**WATER SAFETY PROGRAM**

Saturday, August 29, 2020

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Please arrive by 8:45 AM.

Location: Wells Street Beach

9501 Lake Shore Drive, Miller Beach, IN

Enter WSB via Lake Shore Drive.

Please RSVP as there is limited capacity

[watersafetysocial@gmail.com](mailto:watersafetysocial@gmail.com)

Events will be held outdoors to maintain social distance. Face covering required. We recommend that you bring a lawn chair for your comfort.



**MILLER BEACH WATER SAFETY SOCIAL GROUP**

- Sign up to learn water safety / survival information and receive this beach bag and patches for each level you successfully complete. This is not a class you attend, but a beach activity for families. There are 4 levels in all. Suggested age range is 3-16. The goal is to get families and groups to discuss water safety and small steps you can take to keep the lake clean and learn more about Lake Michigan.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF FMP**

YOU, our members and donors, volunteers, MCC, Shoreline Committee, Water Safety Committee, Parks Department personnel and Park Board of Commissioners, Miller Community Fund, Miller Garden Club, Lagoon Outlook Garden, Playground Committee, Miller Business Association and Visit Miller Beach for working together to improve our community, our beaches and Marquette Park.

We are grateful for a supportive Miller community who appreciate the work we do.

**Friends of Marquette Park Leaders**

Tom Cera, Mary Ann Best, Susan Cohen, Linda Halas, Joe Petras, George Rogge, Carol Smith