

Public Art in the Park Hits the Newspapers

This is a first! On the first of June, 2022, “Here” and “Tall Ship” sculptures were installed in Marquette Park. These beautiful sculptures are on lease for two years for all to enjoy. Leaders of Friends of Marquette Park partnered with the Miller Garden Club and Miller Beach Arts and Creative District to bring public art to Miller. “Here” was created by Ruth Migdal, a well-known Chicago artist and



totally funded by FMP. “Tall Ship” sculptor is Bruce Niemi, from Wisconsin. These are among sixteen sculptors who responded to the search for public art through Chicago Sculpture International.

The Post Tribune published “New Sculptures Dance Across Gary’s Marquette Park” on June 6 by Carrie Napoleon, and NWI Times published “Sculpture

Initiative Brings Public Art to Gary” on June 8 by Molly DeVore. Chicago Sculpture International (CSI) highlighted our project in their newsletter.

Within eight months, we developed an agreement with the City of Gary Parks Department and CSI to install art in public spaces and installed the art. This agreement can be a template for public art installations throughout the City of Gary.

FMP has received a great deal of positive feedback on the public sculptures. Public Art is a designated fund with Friends of Marquette Park. Please support our public art projects.



Disc Golf IS Coming!

Disc Golf Course design proposal was approved by the Gary Park Board of Commissioners this summer. We are in Phase 1 of bringing Disc Golf to Marquette Park. In preparation, we held a Disc Golf Demo Day on June 12 where 90 people tried out the temporary 18-hole course. On August 3, the inaugural disc golf tournament in Marquette Park was held despite the rain. Seeing Lake Michigan to the north and being in beautiful Marquette Park while playing disc golf was a joy to the players. The permanent targets are being installed this month. At a later date, the tee pads will be set. We are working with an experienced disc golf designer and organizer, Brian Cummings. FMP is excited about bringing a free outdoor activity to the park that can be played anytime of the year by anyone. The course will begin at the pathway on Marquette Drive and follow a course south of Oak Ave. A course map will be finalized soon. Phase 2 will be the location and installation of tees by spring of 2023, maybe sooner!

Would you, your business, or organization like to sponsor a Disc Golf Hole? A two-year Disc Golf Sponsorship is \$500.



Chanute Boulder Relocated in Plain Sight

The previously unnoticed 1936 Chanute Glacier Boulder has a new home, right in front of the Aquatorium. (It was hidden under a tree near the Pavilion parking lot.) The original plaque is easily visible. The move was funded by Friends of Marquette Park and accomplished by Roger Maclin, of Methods & Materials, a Miller resident.



Statue Cleaning & Polishing

Fr. Marquette will be cleaned, waxed, and polished on **September 10, 2022, 9:00-5:00**. Tim Nemeth and Tim Davoren, generous in-kind donors, will supply and set up the man-lift to do the job. The rain date is September 11. Volunteers led by Joe Petras are ready for the job. This is Fr. Jacque Marquette's once-every-two-year bath



More About Boulders . . .

FMP purchased thirteen boulders weighing a total of 19,640 pounds to enhance Marquette Park while protecting signs, chess tables, sculptures, and walkways. The Lagoon Garden (LOG) had significant damage this year. We are hopeful that the area will be safer and the accessible walkway will be repaired soon.



Fun Trip to the Coast Guard!

A big thank you to MBC Jessica Jones, Executive Petty Office of Calumet Harbor for hosting the Water Safety Social Group (WSS) on a tour of their facility. 24 people had the privilege of attending this event and learning so much! This is an event we hope to make happen annually. All ages fully enjoyed themselves. Several were able to drive the boat!!! Learn about the water. Stay safe. Have fun.



WATER SAFETY IS A PRIORITY

Summer is not over! Most of us love August and September at the beach and IN the WATER! August, historically, has the highest number of drownings. Everyone’s heading to get the most of the beach season in before it turns cool (shhhh we won’t talk about that!) The water is warm and always looks inviting!

Words of advice - Stay diligent. Continue to watch the water when your loved ones are in it. Keep an undistracted eye on them. Observe the water and conditions before getting in - know where the sandbars are, watch for the currents. Bring your life jacket. Know where the safety station is and how to use it!

WSS hosted a WASABI (Water Safety Big Idea) at Marquette Park and made the newsletter of the Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium! We work hard at networking with the experts which



is critical in staying up to date on water safety. We borrowed the Consortium’s WASABI tent set up. They provided us with T-Shirts and sunglasses to hand out. The Miller Beach Water Safety Group has created and distributed a Water Watcher card and Water Safety Tip card.

Know the beach hazards -

- 1) Fresh water (not as buoyant as salt water).
- 2) The bottom is very uneven, one minute you are at a safe depth and the next you are not.
- 3) Currents - long shore (you drift east and west), off shore (drift out), rip current - drift out usually between sandbars or along a sandbar, there are also structural and outlets to be aware of.
- 4) Timing of the waves - our waves come with very little time between waves. This makes it harder to stand back up or take a breath between waves.
- 5) YOU - don't overestimate your own ability in the waves or the distance you can swim out - remember you have to make it back in. Take a life jacket and wear it! An ounce of prevention.....

We urge everyone to go up to a safety station and undo it and put it back together again. It is very important to know how to do this. During an emergency is not the best time to figure it out. There is a tutorial on the Miller Beach Water Safety fb page. We will add it to the Friends of Marquette Park website as well! Always put on the life jacket, if using the safety station to assist a distressed swimmer. The safety station at St. Joseph Street was used in a rescue the last week of July. Thank you to those fabulous folks for saving a life! Someone grabbing the station alerted a jet skier down the beach and together they made a rescue. Read more about this in the Times, Sunday, August 21, 2022, by Joseph Pete.

A special shout out to Miller Pizza for adding a water safety message to their billboard! This is HUGE! So many people drive past it and see it! Thank you for your generosity and caring for this community and all that are heading into Miller and thru Miller to get to the beach!

**Legacy Foundation
Grant Received
“I Love My
Community”**

We received \$503 through the Legacy Foundation “I Love My Community” Fund. Friends of Marquette Park has a core of volunteers who maintain several rain gardens, native plant gardens and landscaped areas in Marquette Park. We want to make the work of the volunteers easier with electric tools. The tools include rechargeable leaf blower, hedge trimmer, weed whacker, extra batteries, and a charger. We have already put them to good use!



Centier Bank Beach Clean-Up

Many thanks to Megan Cleary and six employees who cleaned up Marquette Park beach, parking lot, lagoon area, and playground on Aug. 15! Great job!



September Beach Clean-Up Partners

Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society Beach Clean-Up is Sept. 18, 8:30-10:30 AM at Lake St. Beach parking lot.

Friends of Marquette Park Membership/Donations

Annual Membership is \$100.

Donations of any amount are welcome.
Donations are tax deductible.

Please write checks to: Friends of Marquette Park

Mail to: FMP, PO Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403

Or

Donate online to Legacy Foundation: www.legacyfdn.org, click on DONATE and search for Friends of Marquette Park

Please include your email address with your donation. We communicate with our members by email.

Other FMP Accomplishments in 2022

- Water Safety signs displayed at homes and in the park
- Park Board Meetings attended bi-weekly
- Montgomery St./Oak Ave. plant removal for visibility
- Legacy Foundation I Love My Community Grant
- ZAC Foundation Water Safety Education Grant
- friendsofmarquettepark.org website launch

Designated Gifts

You are welcome to designate your gift to be utilized toward a specific project. Designated gifts of any amount are appreciated.

___ Disc Golf Tee Sponsorship - \$500

___ Statue Garden Projects - \$100

___ Water Safety Station Sponsorship - \$250

___ Public Sculpture Donor - \$250

___ Website Sponsorship - \$250

___ Other (Please specify)

FRIENDS OF MARQUETTE PARK LEADERS

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