



STATUE GARDEN COMING TO LIFE

The white flowering serviceberry trees and daffodils are signs that spring is here. We have been out working in the garden with our dedicated volunteers. Red twig dogwoods and St. Johns Wort bushes are pruned. Prairie drop seed are trimmed. We're working on pruning the junipers. Leaf removal and lawn care were done by KABOB. The native plant areas are cleaned up. Our wonderful volunteers included: Susan Cohen, Jennifer Gerber, Catherine O'Grady, Leon Ort, John Ploof, Tom Serynek, Karen Simon, Carol Smith and Dawn Vanzo. Bob Joppek has given in-kind labor lawn care and landscaping. Thank you! Thank you, all!

WATER SAFETY STATIONS

We are doing a count on the safety station needs. The water safety stations are at all the residential beach easements, lifeguard stands and lagoon. Many posts were broken or lost during storms and high water. We hope that our water safety sponsors will continue to fund their safety station. We are always looking for new sponsors. Please let us know if you would like to adopt a water safety station.

BEACHFRONT STREET SIGNS

The street signs at the beach easements will be replaced with more readable signs similar to the standard green and white street signs. The signs need to be readable from a distance to help beachgoers identify where they are in case of an emergency situation. They also help walkers find their way.

4th FMP ANNUAL MEETING

We had to postpone our May 2020 Annual Meeting, due to the pandemic. We hope to have our event in July. Watch for more news and date of our celebration of four successful years doing projects in Marquette Park. It is a great way to socialize with FMP donors. Be sure to look for an email about the FMP Annual Meeting invitation.

Many thanks to our donors and members for supporting FMP during good times and difficult times.

KEEPING OUR BEACH AND PARK OPEN

Covid-19 pandemic has changed our lives. As difficult as this is, we have to practice social distancing (6 feet apart) and wear masks where necessary to protect others. If you feel sick, stay home. Watch for directives from Mayor Prince. None of us know what course this pandemic will take or how long it will be with us. Please note that playgrounds are closed. Beware of structures that are not sanitized, like handrails, signs, fences, etc. Let's stay safe so that everyone can enjoy our beach and park. Being outdoors to enjoy nature relieves stress and is good for our health. Stay safe.

NO PARKING DUSK TO DAWN SIGN



The installation of the parking signs were officially approved by the new City administration. Nineteen No Parking Dusk to Dawn by Police Order signs have been installed at all the street parking areas around the park. Working together with Det. Simon Lillie, Kamishia Jackson, Mary Dugger, Kathy Long and FMP, the locations were selected. Mary and Kathy donated their time to install the posts and signs. Thank you, Mary and Kathy! We anticipate that this will help eliminate problems and litter in the park at night. The Shoreline Committee and Friends of Marquette Park have been working on this project for three years. Mission accomplished!

ALL FMP EVENTS ARE ON HOLD

We were planning our 100th Celebration on of Marquette Park on July 18th as a family event in the park with activities for all ages. Unfortunately, our plans are on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. The slow-down of businesses has postponed the installation of the 100 Year sign north of the Concession Stand. You can see that the supports have been installed and are ready for the sign.

Watch for information about celebrations and sign installation.

We are looking forward to a more normal life with activities in Marquette Park.

WEDNESDAYS AT WELLS STREET BEACH

Currently, all Wednesdays at Wells St. are cancelled, due to the pandemic. As the season progresses, we hope to bring good news of it returning so that we can get together. Please be safe and stay well.

ASIAN BRIDGE AT LAGOON

Temporary repairs were made last summer to the bridge that connects the Pavilion area to Patterson Island at the lagoon. FMP has a contractor to do professional and permanent repairs to the bridge, along with City approval. The repairs to anchor the boards must be done on the underside of the bridge. This requires working from a boat. Joe Petras found residents who are willing to lend us their John boat. Mechanical Concepts in Miller donated the brackets for bridge repairs. These repairs will be made this summer, and the Asian Bridge will once again be a safe place to walk.

PAVILION BRIDGE IN NEED OF 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. We will continue to push and work with the City to invest in the repairs for the historic Pavilion. Funding is required for this complex job.

FMP PROJECTS in Progress

Boulders - We are rethinking where we want to place beautiful boulders in the park. The City fears the boulders may be a liability near the street. We are working on a new plan for the boulders.

Marquette Park Trail System - Plans are for a long and short trail. The trails will include points of interest, interpretive signage, accessible information, distances between points and directions from point to point. The sites are: Concession Stand (with trails map), Patterson Island, Lagoon, Lagoon Boat Launch, Octave Chanute Marker, Fr. Marquette Statue, Chanute Trail, Stone Gates, Nelson-Algren Trail and Pavilion.

Historic Street Lights - We continue to work with the City to replace the street lights on Grand Ave. in the park. As you know, we have lost four lights and poles. We hope there is a new revitalized effort with our new administration to replace the street lights.

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.

Fr. Marquette Statue Cleaning - Joe Petras is making arrangements for cleaning and waxing the statue again in August.

Concrete Patching at Statue Garden - Joe has researched different materials and plans to accomplish repairs to the steps, walls, curbs and benches this year.

NOW YOU SEE IT . . . NOW YOU DON'T PAVILION PARKING SIGN

FMP funded the replacement of the large Pavilion Parking sign along Grand Ave. in December of 2019. The actual sign was rescued from the first driving accident in 2018. The post for the sign had to be reconstructed. We enjoyed seeing the sign . . . for about two months. On February 22, 2020, the sign and posts were completely demolished by another speeding driver. A police report was filed. FMP provided Judge Monroe with an estimate for reconstructing the posts and sign. The City has committed to replace the sign. We did our part. We hope the new sign is installed this summer season.

MEMORIAL BENCHES FOR LOVED ONES

Families of two special Miller residents are raising funds for memorial benches.

Lee Botts, an environmental activist and founder of the Dunes Learning Center, passed in October, 2019, and will be remembered at the bench near the lagoon south of the Pavilion.

Shirley Roman passed last week. She grew up in Gary and attended Emerson High School. She was a community leader and elementary teacher who cared deeply about Miller. Shirley and her family chose to stay in Miller when many were leaving in the 70's to avoid problems. They wanted to stay and fight for their treasured community. Bringing people together in a positive way resulted in Shirley and others starting the Miller Prom. Shirley was also involved in many other organizations in town. Shirley set the precedent for improving and celebrating our "slice of Heaven". Her cheerful personality and positive attitude were contagious. She will be remembered along with her husband, Frank, at the bench south of the Fr. Marquette Statue Garden.

YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN

- ★ You, our members and donors, are absolutely necessary to help us with ongoing and new projects to beautify our park. We hope you continue supporting Friends of Marquette Park.
- ★ Volunteers are crucial to get the jobs done. If you see us working and can spare the time, stop and lend a hand. Even a honk and a smile helps. Contact Carol Smith to help us at: friendsofmarquettepark@gmail.com.
- ★ MCC, Shoreline Committee, Water Safety Committee who work with us and bring fresh new ideas and support
- ★ Parks Department personnel and Park Board of Commissioners who are supportive of our many projects and are open to new ideas.
- ★ Legacy Foundation, our financial manager, who keeps us on our toes and encourages us every step of the way.
- ★ Mutually supportive organizations who care about Marquette Park: Miller Garden Club, Lagoon Outlook Garden, Playground Committee and Visit Miller Beach.

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

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, 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

DESIGNATED GIFTS

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

- ___ Memorial Bench Project
- ___ Pathways Signage Project
- ___ Statue Garden Projects
- ___ Water Safety Projects
- ___ Other (Please specify)

Donations are tax deductible.

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.

THANK YOU LEGACY FOUNDATION
We are grateful for this partnership with you as our financial manager and encourager. Thank you for your guidance and support.

COMMUNITY WATER SAFETY TRAINING



This is Session 1 of 2
Session 2 is to be on the beach!
Currently Scheduled for June 14, but
will need to be
Social Distancing pending...
Stay tuned

Watch for more
Miller Beach
Water Safety Social information

Virtual Event - Session 1

Topic: Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project

Time:

Monday, May 18, 2020

05:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83487836547?
pwd=cnpuVTFXdCtTNDg4YUJZUWwzaVN-
wQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83487836547?pwd=cnpuVTFXdCtTNDg4YUJZUWwzaVN-wQT09)

Meeting ID: 834 8783 6547

Password: 805027

Last year we promised to bring you a water safety program presented by Great Lakes Surf and Rescue.

Dave Benjamin will be the presenter.

He was recently awarded the Lifesaver of the Year!

He is often at Wells St Beach with his family and surfs the Great Lakes year round.

The Gary Parks Dept. has scheduled three sessions to train the life guards at Marquette Park & Lake Street for 2020.

This is in partnership with the Association of Beverly Shores Residents (ABSR)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF FMP

We know these are difficult times for everyone. Life is just different. Friends of Marquette Park continues to work on projects to enhance our park. The leaders are doing Zoom meetings to move forward. We are working with the new administration to coordinate our efforts. Please continue to support us with your membership and donations toward designated projects. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

With time on her hands, Carol is making many reusable cotton face masks for neighbors and friends. If you are interested in a mask or two, contact her at friendsofmarquettepark@gmail.com. A donation to FMP would be appreciated. Masks are available for a limited time only.

STAY SAFE - STAY WELL - STAY POSITIVE

Friends of Marquette Park Leaders

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