

FRIENDS OF MARQUETTE PARK “ZOOMED” FORWARD IN 2020

We met monthly to focus on our projects and kept progressing. We are tremendously grateful for our members’ support in 2020.

2021 FMP ANNUAL MEETING & CELEBRATION
Tuesday, June 15, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Pavilion Lounge and Patio

Light Hors D’oeuvres, Sweets & Cash Bar

\$10 Entrance Fee

Come enjoy the ambiance of the historic Pavilion overlooking the Lagoon and enjoy visiting with supporters of Marquette Park. At 7:00 PM, we will have our annual meeting. Hear about our accomplishments and new projects. We can do what we do, because of you.

RSVP by June 7 at friendsdofmarquettelpark@gmail.com



MARQUETTE PARK TRAILS PROJECT APPROVED

EXPLORE MARQUETTE PARK
NATURE + HISTORY

IN ALL SEASONS, ENJOY THE NATURE OF MARQUETTE PARK

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT!
Explore the Long Loop and Short Loop trails through oak savanna, beach, dunes, and lagoon habitats. Along the way, interpretive signs at points of interest explain the history that shaped this unique park.

Long Loop: 2.61 miles
Short Loop: 1.37 miles
Beach Loop: .29 miles

Marquette Park was named in honor of Pere Jacques Marquette, an explorer and French Jesuit missionary, who searched for passage from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. He travelled through this area in 1675.

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, Chanute Trail, Stone Gates, Nelson-Algren Trail and Pavilion. We have discovered a new surprise attraction to add to a trail! We are partnering with Shirley Heinze Land Trust on this project. Evie Kirkwood Consulting LLC is making the final design for each sign.

The MP Trails project will let people discover how to navigate the variety of bike and ped paths available in the park for their enjoyment. The pedestrian trails will connect with Miller Woods and West Beach of Indiana Dunes National Park to the east and west of us along the beach. Additionally, the development of City of Gary’s Bike and Pedestrian Plan will have paths connecting to our trails.

Thanks to you, our FMP members, we are able to fund this major Trails Project that has been in the planning stage for two years (before Covid-19). The MP Trails Subcommittee has given countless hours measuring trails, researching points of interest, gathering photos, and working with the consultant. We hope to have our project completed by fall of 2021. We will keep you posted.

One large Trails sign near the Montgomery Street Concession Stand will show a map of entire trail system and points-of-interest in Marquette Park.

We are excited to announce that the Park Board of Commissioners approved the Marquette Park Trails Project on April 27, 2021. Plans are for four trails (short, long, accessible & beach). The trails will include points of interest, interpretive signage,

MILLER BEACH WATER SAFETY SOCIAL GROUP



When you learn to play safely in the water – there is so much you can do!

This is an event for kids and adults! Come see some beach friends and get ready to jump in the lake!

- 6:00 pm Doors open and socialize. Snacks and drinks will be served (feel free to bring your own.)
- 6:30 pm Program Part I: Dry land surf lessons taught by Great Lakes surfer, Faith Hoekstra. (for kids, adults welcome too!) She will return in the summer for in-water surf lessons!
- 7:00 pm Program Part II: Beach Basics: reviewing basic water safety, survival skills, beach etiquette, safety stations how to and the Badge Program (get ready to earn your badges and display them on your beach bag! We will have some available if you didn't get one at an event last year.)
- 8:00 Visit with friends until we lock up by 8:30.
*Masks required at indoor event.

**Join us!
MONTHLY WATER SAFETY SOCIALS**

Miller Beach Water Safety Social Group
Friday, May 21, at the Gardner Center
(No Cost)

Hosted by
Jane Callies /Tom Wisch and Family

RSVP by Wed May 19th to
watersafetysocial@gmail.com

Use this email address to contact us to
answer any questions!



Additional Water Safety Information

- The WSS group will be hosting safety presentations throughout the summer.
- The Badge Program is available for all to participate in. It provides tips on how to learn survival skills while earning badges at the completion of each of the 4 levels.
- New Safety Station signs will be installed by mid June.
- Thank you to all the sponsors and our FB page will highlight each of the sponsors.
- Watch for a new water safety character to be released - and the fun storyline that it will share!
- The WSS group has launched a FB page click here and follow us!
<https://www.facebook.com/millerbeachwatersafetysocial>

For additional information or to get involved email watersafetysocial@gmail.com



Shawn Barnes, Donor

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT COMPLETED

With the generous donation from Shawn Barnes of \$5,000 in memory of her father, Daniel Barnes, Sandy O'Brien was able to acquire matching funds from the USFWS to cut trees, remove invasive species, plant native seeds and prevent erosion. Removing invasive vines covering trees was the first step in 2020. This spring, the trees were cut and mostly removed. In March, Sandy and volunteers seeded much of the area. As you can see, Shawn Barnes was happy to help mix the seeds with mulch and rake the seed mixture into the ground. Friends of Marquette Park were honored to be involved in this project. If you are in Area 5 north of the lagoon or south of the Chanute Trail, you can see the restoration area. A barrier fence will be installed to prevent erosion until the native plants get established. Job well done.



Sandy O'Brien, Grant recipient

FMP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Fr. Marquette Statue cleaned and polished
- Statue Garden maintained by volunteers
- Statue Garden hardscaping (concrete) repaired
- Statue Garden landscaping red twig dogwood planted
- 100 Year Marquette Park Marker corrected and installed
- Water Safety Stations updated
- New Beach Street signs on beach side of easements installed
- No Parking Dusk to Dawn signs on Oak Ave. installed
- Asian (Japanese) Bridge Phase I replaced missing rail parts
- Memorial Bench Project Phase I (20 benches) installed
- Shelf Ice Signs installed during winter
- Park Board Meetings attended

FMP PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- Marquette Park Trail Project
- Memorial Bench Project Phase II
- National Historic Park Designation
- Statue Garden maintenance
- Montgomery Street/Oak Ave. Plant Pruning for visibility
- Lagoon East Bank maintenance
- Annual Fundraising and In-Kind Donations
- Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition
- Water Safety Initiatives
- Wednesdays at Wells Street pending
- Beach Clean-Ups with Organizations and Park Staff
- FMP/City of Gary relationship building

MEMORIAL BENCHES - PHASE II

All twenty of our Phase I memorial benches are installed with commemorative plaques throughout the park. We are in the process of getting our next twenty potential memorial bench locations approved for Phase II. One of these locations will eventually have Ben's Bench in memory of Ben Watkins. Please be patient as we move ahead with our memorial benches. Let us know if you are interested in reserving a memorial bench to honor a someone or something dear to you.

It's wonderful to see people enjoying a restful moment sitting on a special bench. Taking a walk through the park, being outdoors in the sun or shade is good for the heart, mind and soul. Friends of Marquette Park is committed to maintaining the memorial benches that enhance our park.



CITY OF GARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Lake Street Concession Stand removed
- Lake Street Parking Lot and Sidewalk sand moved
- Boat Launch cleared weekly
- Cameras in the Park Pilot Program installed
- FMP Projects approved
- Beach Patrol Funding approved
- Litter Clean-Up by Dedicated Park Staff continued
- Pavilion Parking Lot Sign replaced
- Concession Stand & Ticket Booths secured in off season
- Statue Garden Mulching delivered and moved mulch
- Lagoon Garden, Playground Garden Mulch delivered
- Pavilion Events for Public resumed
- Beach Clean-Ups coordinated with organizations
- Parking Fees increased

FMP'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY

- Asian (Japanese) Bridge Phase II repair or replace
- Beach Steps & Wall supported and sand replenished
- Suspension Bridge repair or replace
- Pavilion Bridge (main building to Patio) assess & repair
- Main Entrance Marquette Park Sign repair
- Historic Street Lights/Poles (4) replace with LED lights
- WiFi throughout the Park install
- Statue Garden Water Pipe repair
- No Parking Dusk to Dawn enforcement
- Playground Sand replenished
- Playground Sidewalks & Steps cleared

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

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%.

THANK YOU, LEGACY FOUNDATION

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



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
- ___ Marquette Park Trails Project
- ___ Statue Garden Projects
- ___ Water Safety Projects
- ___ Other (Please specify)

Friends of Marquette Park Leaders

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