

2022 FMP 6th ANNUAL MEETING & CELEBRATION

Wednesday, June 8, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Pavilion Lounge and Patio

Light Hors D'oeuvres, Sweets & Cash Bar

\$15 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.

Disc Golf May Be Coming Soon

In January, FMP has presented a proposal to the Park Superintendent and Park Board to develop an 18-hole disc golf course. Brian Cummings brought a target and discs for the Board to experience (indoors). The Board has requested a survey polling the residents of Gary to determine interest in the sport.

On March 7, Dolly Harris, our new Park Superintendent, Don Ploh, the new Park Maintenance Supervisor, walked the proposed course with Brian Cummings, the disc golf designer and some of the FMP Leaders.

Next steps:

- 1) Completion of Survey to be distributed by the Park Department
- 2) Finalize design, if the survey is positive
- 3) FMP agrees to fund the project and solicit sponsorships for each "hole"
- 4) Install the course by spring/early summer
- 5) Kick-off with introductory lessons to learn the sport and experience throwing discs to targets will be scheduled. Practice discs will be provided.
- 6) Develop plans for promoting the sport, disc golf league, equipment rental/sales



FMP 5th ANNUAL MEETING IN 2021 MADE THE NEWS!

Trails to mark back story of Gary's Marquette Park: 'We wanted to enhance the park and look to its history' reported by Carole Carlson of Post-Tribune 6/17/2021



Friends of Marquette Park Leader Linda Halas talks with Evie Kirkwood of Edwardsburg, Michigan, who designed the signs for the new trails. We presented the new signs at the 5th Annual Meeting at the Pavilion patio with a gorgeous sunset of the lagoon as our backdrop. Visitors to Marquette Park can do more than go to the beach. Come take a walk!

FMP Vision

Friends of Marquette Park in Miller - Enhancing Marquette Park for all to enjoy

FMP Mission Statement

The goal of Friends of Marquette Park Fund in Miller (FMP) is to raise funds to support and implement special projects for Marquette Park in collaboration with the City of Gary Parks Department.

**Bringing Culture to Marquette Park
*One of our Goals***

Leaders of Friends of Marquette Park, Miller Garden Club, and Miller Beach and Creative Arts are partnering to consider public sculptures in Miller. We are considering proposals for leasing sculptures in Marquette Park and the Lake Street Business District. These sculptures would be temporarily installed on public property owned by our city. We are developing an agreement with the City of Gary to approve, fund and insure the project for all parties involved. We are excited to bring cultural experiences to our community.

FMP Again in the News!

Shipwreck Piece Found by FMP Leader Mary Ann Best



In 2019, Mary Ann and Rich Best discovered this 33 foot long mysterious piece while walking on the beach and contacted the DNP. This shipwreck timber was authenticated by archeologist, Cathy Draeger-Williams, of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The manmade impressions in the timber indicated this piece could have been part of a wooden ship’s mast or central frame. High lake levels in 2020 probably caused it to be washed ashore. We know that there are two shipwrecks located in Gary’s waters described as commercial barges, according to the DNR. What a discovery!

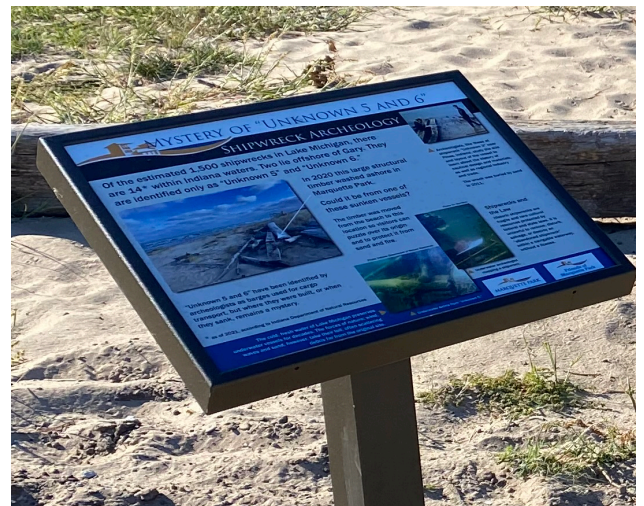
FMP Leaders researched ways to preserve and display an authentic wooden shipwreck piece. To protect it from the elements, we disinfected and sealed the wood before mounting it off the ground. FMP funded the permanent installation of the shipwreck piece, with approval of the Park Board.

On your next walk, take a moment to read the sign by this amazing find.



The summer of 2021, a muscular crew of Miller folks moved the shipwreck piece to a new location along the designated trails in Marquette Park.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



Explore the nature and history of Marquette Park and the shoreline of Lake Michigan by utilizing the Marquette Park Trail System. There are four trails: the Long Loop (2.51 miles), the Short Loop (1.37 miles), the Beach Loop (0.29 miles), and the Accessible Loop (1.35 miles). The interpretive signs along the way highlight the Aquatorium, Octave Chanute and Tuskegee Airmen; Nelson Algren and Simone de Beauvoir; the Pavilion; Patterson Island; the Lagoons and Bridges; and the Shipwreck of Lake Michigan. At each Trailhead Sign there are brochures with trail maps. Trailhead Signs are located at the Montgomery Street Concession Stand, Lake Street Beach and the Nelson Algren Trail.

This project was fully funded by Friends of Marquette Park Membership donations.

**Water Safety Social KICK OFF
Friday, May 6**

(during First Friday on Lake Street)
at the Nelson Algren Stage

Gather with friends and celebrate the approaching
summer beach season!

- live music
- pick up a new yard sign
- SILENT AUCTION - WSS will be auctioning off YOUR BEACH street sign. The old signs from the beach could be yours! There will be two options for you to select from, both will be available, the top sign and the vertical sign.
- Purchase T shirts and bags

LIFE GUARDS are needed for Marquette Park

If interested, contact TaWanna Lyons at tlyons@gary.gov
Requirements:

- Must be 15 years old.
- Swim 300 yds consecutively.
- Swim 20 yards, surface dive to 7-10 feet, retrieve a 10 lb. brick and swim it back to starting point then exit the water without using a ladder or steps.
- Pass all rescue skills, pass all CPR skills, pass written exam with score of 80% or better.

Training / certification opportunities are available.



Watch for Corey the Cormorant

Our Water Safety Mascot will be at the Northwest Indiana Visitor's Center! Before Memorial Day, we will be putting up a display in the Visitor's Center. We also plan to install additional water safety messaging around town, so keep your eyes open for our colorful and fun mascots and important messages.

**DIG DAY
We Need Your Help!**

The winds have been blowing the sand south and many of our safety stations are getting buried! We plan to have a dig day at the end of April or beginning of May to dig them out and reposition them. We are looking for block clubs, groups of friends, scouting groups, school groups - to sign up to help out. All that do help will be rewarded with a pizza party at Miller Pizza!

Here is Tom Rooney digging a hole. Watch for more news on Dig Day. Contact Mary Ann Best for more details
maryannbest.2011@gmail.com.



Attention Vacation Rental Owners

Please be sure to have a water safety check list in your property binder along with brochures to help educate the visitors that are coming to enjoy our lake front. If you need any, just reach out to us. See email address above.



FMP Expenses in 2021

Beach Water Safety	\$6,189.50
Memorial Bench Project	\$6,955.00
Suspension Bridge	\$64.58
FMP Annual Meeting	\$735.00
Statue Garden:	
Bushes, Plants, Stones	\$142.22
Irrigation System	\$277.50
Lawn Care/Clean-Up	\$625.00
Festival of the Senses	\$200.00
Trails Signage Project	\$12,779.31
Printing and Publicity	\$352.45
USFWS Grant/Fencing	\$5,941.37
Admin & Investment Fees	\$1,014.40
Online Donation Fees	\$182.40
Total Expenses in 2021	\$35,458.73

FMP Accomplishments in 2021

- Marquette Park Trails Project completed
 - Shipwreck piece preserved and installed
 - Statue Garden maintained by volunteers
 - Water Safety Stations funded by sponsors
 - Water Safety education at the beach for families
 - Water Safety signs displayed at homes and in the park
 - Statue Garden Water Pipe repair & water meter installation
 - Memorial Bench Project Phase II
 - Park Board Meetings attended bi-weekly
 - FMP Volunteers assisted with planting at Chanute Area
 - Restoration and MGC Aquatorium Rain Garden Restoration
 - Suspension Bridge board replacement and cable casement repairs
- Projects in Progress in 2022**
- Disc Golf Course
 - Public Sculpture Displays
 - FMP Website development
 - Montgomery St./Oak Ave. plant pruning for visibility

FMP Donations in 2021

Membership Donations	\$16,355.80
Designated Donations - Beach Water Safety	\$11,038.51
Designated Donations - Memorial Benches	\$4,859.28
Designated Donations - Asian Bridge	\$325.00
Designated Donations - Suspension Bridge	\$125.00
Designated Donations - Statue Garden	\$700.00
FMP Annual Meeting Donations	\$840.00
Merchandise	\$110.00
Total Donations in 2021	\$34,353.59

FMP Goals

- Advocate for Park Maintenance of grounds & facilities
- Promote Beach and Water Safety
- Support Preservation of Natural Areas/erosion control
- Provide Respite Areas with memorial bench project
- Establish Marquette Park as a destination for recreation and points of interest with signage
- Maintain landscape and hardscape of Fr. Marquette Garden and preservation of Fr. Marquette Statue
- Bring cultural exhibits and events to Marquette Park
- Maintain a collaborative, trusting relationship with Gary Parks Department and Gary Administration
- Partner with organizations to enhance Marquette Park
- Utilize Volunteers whenever possible
- Encourage Investment in Marquette Park through financial development/fundraising

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.

Designated Gifts

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

- Disc Golf
- Asian/Suspension Bridge Projects
- Statue Garden Projects
- Water Safety Projects
- Public Sculptures
- Other (Please specify)

FRIENDS OF MARQUETTE PARK LEADERS

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