

# The Best Remedy Is to Go Outside

A Letter from the President, Jan Uebelherr

Dear Friends of Lake Park,

There is an old saying, believed to be a Chinese proverb: May you live in interesting times.

Last year was certainly that. Plans were made, scrapped and remade.

But during all that, something remarkable happened. The park we all love gave us more reasons to love it.

When we could go nowhere else, we headed for the ravines, woods and trails of the park.

Lake Park was always there for us, and Lake Park Friends has been there for the park.

In a year that became more interesting as the months wore on, I am frankly astonished at all we were able to do – with your help.

We planned for our Musical Mondays series. When that proved impossible, we held virtual concerts.

We planned for Cirque du Lake Park, our annual fundraiser under a big tent outside Lake Park Bistro. When that proved impossible, we went virtual – mounting a celebration at our neighbor, the North Point Lighthouse Museum, featuring Robin Pluer. Members came through as never before. I mean, in 2019, we set a record, raising nearly \$40,000. In 2020, we blew past that – raising \$57,000. Those funds will go toward planting trees in the park, helping to replace those lost to emerald ash borer.

Our hardworking Wednesday Work Group kept on working in woods and ravines – though masked, and at a distance from one another.

If planning and deftly switching course is a thread that ran through our year, the park itself is the thread that held us all together.

Details of the work of Lake Park Friends can be found in our 2020 annual report.

It's a year that's gotten us all thinking, and in paging through a favorite classic, Anne Frank's "The Diary of a Young Girl," I ran across a passage that seemed especially fitting:

"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature, and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy amidst the simple beauty of nature. . . . And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles."

Lake Park brought solace in a year of troubles. Here's to a year of slightly less interesting times.

On behalf of Lake Park Friends, I thank you for your support of this lovely old park.



# Year in Review - Highlights



**WOODEN BRIDGE** - The Locust Street Ravine Wooden Bridge was built to replace the previous one after a successful capital campaign raised \$147,000.



**FUNDED WORKER** - Lake Park Friends funded a Milwaukee County Parks seasonal worker to mow and perform light duties in the park.



**GREW MEMBERSHIP** - In spring, LPF conducted a record-breaking Membership Campaign generating \$60,000 in dues and gifts. The membership drive ended with a record 692 members.



**BRIDGE AGREEMENT** - Lake Park Friends executed a Ravine Road Bridge Maintenance Agreement with Milwaukee County ensuring the bridge will be properly cared for over the next 50 years.



**VOLUNTEERS PERSISTED** - LPF Wednesday Workers continued to meet, under pandemic safety guidelines, to perform natural areas improvements.

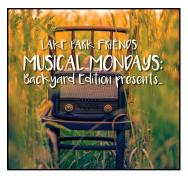


**YEAR OF THE TREE** - The LPF Board of Directors designated \$25,000 for 2021 tree plantings in ravines and open areas of the park.

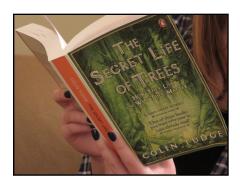
# Year in Review - Highlights



VIRTUAL CIRQUE - The North Point Lighthouse Museum hosted Virtual Cirque du Lake Park with entertainer Robin Pluer. And, LPF held its first online auction. The event raised a record \$57,000.



**VIRTUAL MUSIC** - Musical Mondays: Backyard Edition livestream shows were engineered to help satisfy the need for summer music during a pandemic.



**LAKE PARK READS** - LPF launched Lake Park Reads Book Club for members to focus on relevant and interesting park topics.



**SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE** - The Communications Committee significantly improved the quality and quantity of Facebook posts.



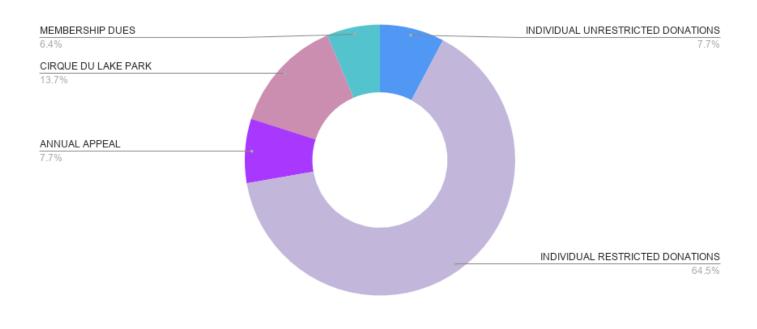
**FLOWERBEDS** - For the ninth consecutive year, the Newberry Boulevard entrance flowerbeds were planted.



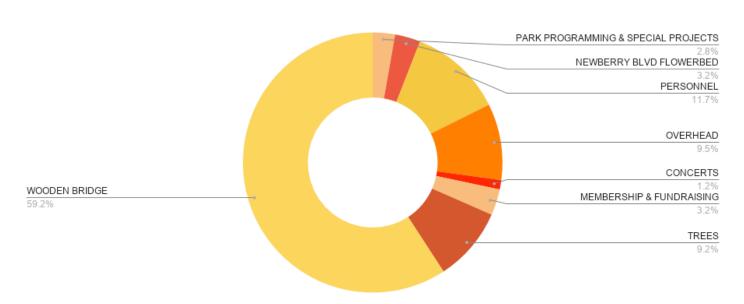
**BIRDS** - Volunteers faithfully filled bird feeders on a daily basis and monitored five bluebird houses.

# Financial Highlights

## **OPERATING REVENUES**



## **OPERATING EXPENSES**



# Thank You to Our Generous Donors

WE ARE GRATEFUL for the support of these foundations, corporations and individuals who contributed to support our mission and programs. Donor levels reflect total given for the year, including membership dues, which were recorded on or before December 31, 2020. The following list includes gifts of \$100 or more.

\$200,000+ Anonymous Donor 1

**\$20,000** - **\$25,000**Coles Family Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999 Anonymous Donor 2 Anonymous Donor 3

\$1,000 - \$4,999 Anonymous Donor 4 Anonymous Donor 5 Jennifer Abele Tracey & Scott Becker Anne Booth & Charles Trainer

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#### \$250 - \$499 CONTINUED

Margaret & Michael Oteman Joe Pabst & John Schellinger Elise Papke Julie Penman & Jeff Bentoff Laura Peters-Shimko & Jason Shimko Joell & Trent Poole Christine Radiske & Herbert Quigley Maria & Tim Roloff Fred Ruenzel Jim Schleif & Bill Morley Rebecca & Brad Simenz Patrick Small Stacy Syrcle & Steve Amraen Jane Tanner & William Hable Lynn & Dan Tarrence Jan Uebelherr & Doug LeTendre Trish & Joe Ullrich Mary Vandenberg & Keith Mardak Beth Weirick Marie Weiss Lois Wesener & Drew Kennedy Carolyn White-Travanti & Leon Travanti Julie Wiegert & Roemel Brown Jennifer & Andre Williams Alice & Joe Wilson

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Julia & Patrick Fennelly
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#### \$100 - \$249 CONTINUED

Alexis Laverdiere

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### **OUR MISSION**

Lake Park Friends is a non-profit organization whose mission is promote the preservation and enjoyment of Lake Park, to sponsor educational, recreational and cultural events in the park, and to raise funds for the restoration and enhancement of the park in the spirit of Frederick Law Olmsted.

# 2019 Conservator Award



Colleen Reilly was recognized for her participation as a member of the Ravine Road Concrete Bridge and Wooden Bridge Committees, for her stellar fundraising efforts, and for leading the Lake Park Friends organization as President for three years.

### HOW TO CONTACT US

Mail to: P.O. Box 71197, Milwaukee, WI, 53211

Email: <u>lakeparkfriends@sbcglobal.net</u>

Phone: 414.962.1680

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