

# AT LAST...



LAKE  
PARK  
FRIENDS

## We Did It!

*The historic footbridge is restored and open to pedestrians*



Guy Smith, Colleen Reilly, Supervisor Sheldon Wasserman and Sarah Toomsen cut the ribbon.

After years of planning and work, the restored Ravine Road Concrete Footbridge officially opened on November 15, 2022.

Lake Park Friends worked closely with Milwaukee County Parks to preserve this iconic element of our historic park.

The arched concrete footbridge is one of the key elements envisioned by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted when he designed Lake Park in the late 1800s.

The century-old structure was closed in 2016 because of cracks in the surface and soil erosion around its supports.

Lake Park Friends established a \$300,000 maintenance fund and schedule ensuring the bridge is maintained for the next 50 years.

This is how partnership works.

This is a proud moment for Lake Park Friends.

*Special thanks to the Bridge Committee, Lake Park Friends Past Presidents Colleen Reilly and Philip Schultz and Past Board Member Margaret DeMichele; Milwaukee County Parks Director Guy Smith; Professional Engineer Karl Stave; and Manager of Planning & Development Sarah Toomsen. Additional thanks to Gary Porter for providing the celebration photos.*



Over 100 people attended the bridge's opening ceremony.



Jeff Bentoff celebrates with champagne and gives a whistle.



Ravine Road Concrete Footbridge, November 2022.



L A K E  
P A R K  
F R I E N D S

## 2022 - A Year of Celebrations

*A Letter from LPF President Anne Hamilton*

2022 was a year of celebrations!

We celebrated Frederick Law Olmsted's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday (April 26, 2022) throughout the year. LPF's mission statement refers to "the restoration and enhancement of the park in the spirit of Frederick Law Olmsted," so the acclaimed American landscaper is part of everything we do. But this year provided the opportunity to learn more about Olmsted's work and appreciate the links between Lake Park, other Olmsted parks in Milwaukee and the hundreds of Olmsted sites across the United States. Lake Park is not just a Milwaukee treasure; it is a **national** treasure.



Our major events included a daylong celebration in historic Lake Park on Saturday, July 16, 2022, special tours and luncheons for visiting groups, and, of course, the reopening of the Ravine Road Concrete Footbridge on November 15, 2022.

The festivities on July 16 included a parade, a concert, art tables, a scavenger hunt, a photo exhibit, a poster exhibit on Olmsted's life and work, and birthday cake (for 300+ people!). The poster exhibit, entitled "Frederick Law Olmsted:



July 16 birthday celebration activities began with a parade through the park.

"Landscapes for the Public Good," was made available by the National Association of Olmsted Parks. Through its History Committee, LPF has lent the exhibit for 1-2 weeks to several Milwaukee institutions, including Milwaukee City Hall, the Milwaukee Historical Society and St. John's on the Lake.

LPF worked with two local garden clubs – the **Green Tree Garden Club** and the **Kettle Moraine Garden Club** – to commemorate the legacy of Olmsted. We held tours of Lake Park for 65 members of the Kettle Moraine Garden Club on June 7, 2022. A luncheon followed, at which the KMGC handed us a check for \$10,000 for the purchase of trees! The Green Tree Garden Club, which had worked with LPF throughout the planning process for Olmsted 200, also donated \$10,000 to LPF for trees. We are extremely grateful to both garden clubs for their generosity.

At the opening of the Ravine Road Concrete Footbridge in November, the Green Tree Garden Club presented longtime volunteer and chair of the Nature Committee, **Gil Walter**, the Garden Club of America's annual Historic Preservation Commendation "for his expertise in documenting and preserving the land, trees and flowers of Lake Park, and for sharing his passion and knowledge with others." This special recognition is well deserved!

Continued on page 3

## A Year of Celebrations, continued from page 2



Green Tree Garden Club's Kathy Palmer presents Gil Walter with a Historic Preservation Commendation.

Other highlights of the year included our sold-out Cirque du Lake Park fundraiser, which raised \$51,000 for trees and trails.



Cirque Emcee Joel Dresang interviews Bridget Mackey and Deanne Wecker, the highest bidders of the ash tree stump cut.

And what a year 2023 is shaping up to be!

The Olmsted celebration will continue! The restoration and relocation (from Harriet Tubman Park to Lake Park) of the Christian Wahl bust and plinth is finally under way. We will welcome him back to Lake Park with a dedication ceremony,

date TBD. Wahl is credited with persuading Olmsted to develop plans for Milwaukee parks.

In fall 2023, the annual Midwest meeting of the National Association of Olmsted Parks — now renamed the Olmsted Network — is scheduled to take place. Lake Park will host meetings on September 20-21. This is a great opportunity to highlight the beauty of Lake Park for a national audience.

And, as I write, we have just received the preliminary report from Trail Eyes, a highly rated organization that has been assessing the state of the ravines in the park. We will be using their assessment to plan and execute our work in the coming years.

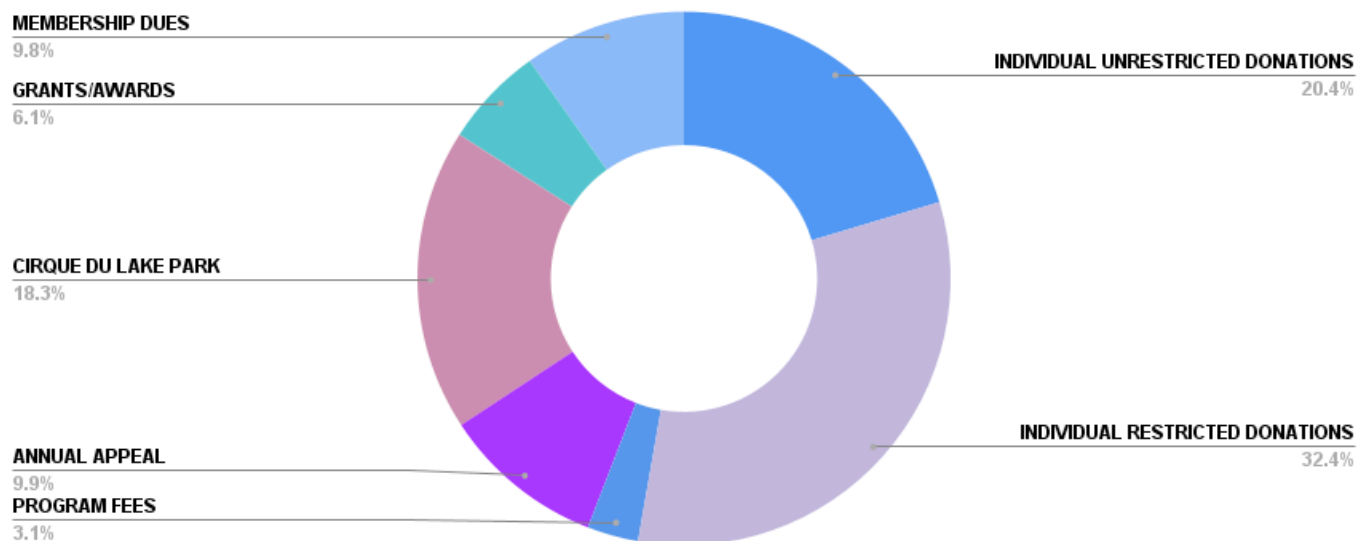
I conclude by honoring the many contributions of our excellent board of directors: **Jan Uebelherr**, former president, has been an amazing partner in my transition to president. She is completely devoted to Lake Park and always willing to give her time. **Caroline Hogan** has raised membership levels beyond anything we'd ever imagined and offered amazing legal counsel. **Don Cramer** is always ready to answer questions about the budget. **Brenda Wood** has played a major role in Cirque preparation and in interactions with major donors. **Annyssa Johnson**, new to the board this year, has helped so much on Olmsted-related logistics and with communications. **Joan Kress** coordinated tennis lessons, ice skating and movie nights. **Sharon Boeldt** arranged for the cake for Olmsted 200 and headed Cirque planning, along with **Cathy Jakicic**. **Nat Blaz** has guided numerous projects, from water fountains to way-finding signage to the Wahl statue move. And **Pete Coffaro** has worked tirelessly with Trail Eyes on their assessment of the ravine trails. We would not have had our wonderful two concert series — Musical Mondays and Wonderful Wednesdays — without the strong consistent leadership of **Roemel Brown**.

And none of this would happen without the able support of our staff, **Ann Wollmer**!

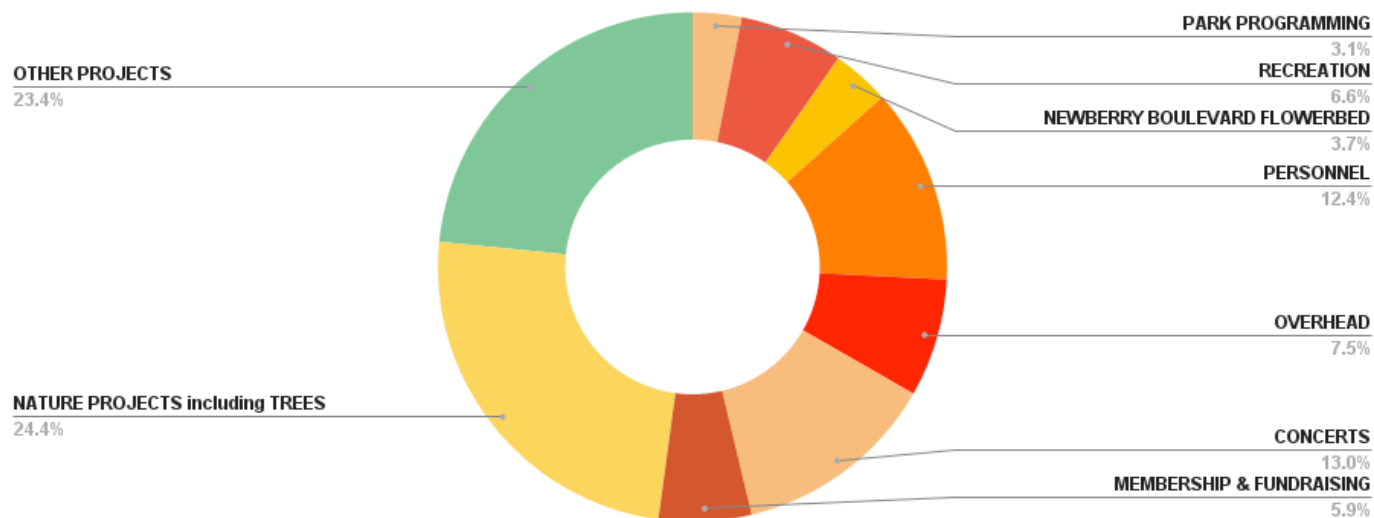
We'll see you in the park!

# 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, 2022. The following list includes gifts of \$150 or more.

## **\$20,000+**

Anonymous Donor 1  
Coles Family Foundation

## **\$10,000 – \$19,999**

Green Tree Garden Club  
Kettle Moraine Garden Club, Inc.  
Dolores Knopfelmacher Revocable Trust  
of 2021

## **\$5,000 – \$9,999**

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Jan Serr & John Shannon  
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## **\$2,000 - \$4,999**

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## **\$1,000 - \$1,999**

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Anonymous Donor 5  
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Julie Wiegert & Roemel Brown  
Jennifer & Thomas Williams

## \$150 - \$249

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Diane & Bruce Keyes  
Trish & Zig Krumins

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Donna & Jonathan Moberg  
Maggie & Joe Newbold

Linda & Dennis O'Brien  
Yuiko & Thomas O'Reilly  
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Renee Sinopoli & Eric Osberg

Jane Tanner & William Hable  
Diane Tews & Grant Tews  
Jean & John Toutenhoofd  
Miriam Van de Sype & Flavius Cucu  
Georgia & Mike Varney  
Rosemary A. Verbanac  
Lois Wesener & Drew Kennedy  
Kay Wosewick



Restoration of the bronze Christian Wahl bust is under way and the granite plinth will soon be excavated from Harriet Tubman Park. Both pieces will be reunited in Lake Park in 2023.



The ice skating season was fairly short due to mild winter temperatures with just over a week and a half of actual skate time. The rink is set up and maintained by volunteers with cooperation from Milwaukee County Parks.

## **OUR MISSION**

Lake Park Friends is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to 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.

# 2021 Conservator Award



Bill Haury was recognized to be the 2021 Conservator winner for his outstanding volunteer service with Lake Park Friends. In 2015, Bill joined the board as Recreation Chair and prior to that, he was a member of the Recreation Committee, helping to start kids' tennis lessons. After managing the land ice rink for years, he researched the purchase of a rink liner and led that entire effort last winter. Also, he made the connection with First Tee to hold golf instructions for kids at the Lake Park golf course. We thank Bill for his dedication to provide quality recreation activities in the park.

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## HOW TO CONTACT US

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

Email: [lakeparkfriends@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lakeparkfriends@sbcglobal.net)

Phone: 414.962.1680

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