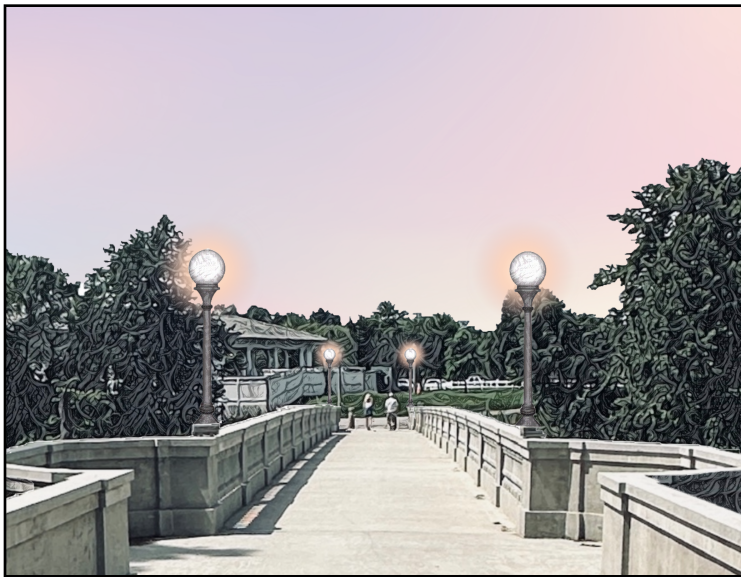


2024 Highlights



LAKE
PARK
FRIENDS

Record Cirque Raises Funds for Footbridge Lights



This is a rendering of how the lamps will appear on the Ravine Road Footbridge.

Dear Friends,

As we look ahead to another wonderful year in Lake Park, it's worth reflecting on all we accomplished in 2024. From our top-notch music series to a record-setting Cirque, it was a banner year in so many ways.

Here are just a few of the highlights:

Cirque du Lake Park: Our sold-out 2024 Cirque grossed more than \$90,000. Proceeds from the event will go toward the production and installation of four lampposts atop the restored Ravine Road Concrete Footbridge. LPF is working with Gallas Metalworks and Vanguard Sculpture Services to create the lampposts using historical pictures for reference. And we hope to see them completed by this year's Cirque in September.

Musical Mondays and Wonderful Wednesdays: Stellar lineups drew thousands of people to the park in 2024 for an



This 1905 postcard shows the original lamps.



Families gather for some music, food and fun at the stage.



The crowd is up and moving to the tunes and having a good time at Musical Mondays.

Continued on page 2

2024 Highlights, continued from page 1

amazing array of performers from Wisconsin and around the world. The energy in the park on Musical Mondays was nothing short of electric. And, as always, it is such a joy to see kids and families gathered for our Wonderful Wednesdays.

Conservator of the Year: Former board member Jock Mutschler was honored with our Conservator of the Year award for his tireless work on behalf of Lake Park Friends. Jock served in many roles over the years, from Treasurer to Vice President of Development and Communications. And he launched and still runs our Lake Park Reads Book Club.

The Indigenous Burial Mound: We witnessed Milwaukee County's removal of the bronze marker from atop the Indigenous Burial Mound and will work with them to see a new, more respectful acknowledgment of the peoples who lived and passed through these lands long before us.

And there's so much more: Tennis lessons, ice skating and movie nights drew patrons to the park throughout the year. Our Nature Committee's Wednesday Work crew spent countless hours pulling invasive weeds and pruning and planting. In cooperation with Milwaukee County Parks and Johnson's Nursery, we planted close to 30 new trees, to replace those felled by Emerald Ash Borer, and some shrubs last fall. And we are working with the County on the planning for numerous projects, including much-needed work on the grand staircase and rebuilding of the footbridges in the ravines. Through all of this, we continue to promote our historic preservation mission. Unfortunately, the concrete barriers continue to block access to Ravine Road. The road has now been closed for 11 years—way too long!

Lake Park Friends oversees all of this work. But it is you – our members and supporters – who make it possible. And we can't thank you enough for all you do for the remarkable gem that is Lake Park.

Fondly,

Anne Hamilton



The 1910 marker was removed from the ancient Indian Mound in order to honor its significance in a new way.



Trees, many of which are memorial trees, are planted each fall throughout the park.



LAKE
PARK
FRIENDS

Reflecting on My Term

A Farewell Letter from Outgoing LPF President Anne Hamilton

Recently, as my term as president comes to a close, I have been reflecting on my experience on the Lake Park Friends board of directors. I am so glad that LPF continues to thrive. We are in a great position financially, due, not only to our most successful Cirque ever, but also because the park is a beloved asset of the community.

For some of us, it took the pandemic to drive home the importance of the park to our sanity and wellbeing. Others have long understood its value and have been generous in supporting it over many years.

The Board adopted a Strategic Plan in July 2024 and is now working on implementing its various provisions. Although some of the organizational work we've assigned ourselves is tedious, the efforts will benefit LPF in the long run. LPF is a volunteer-driven organization. The board and other volunteers give their time and energy as they can. At times it feels a bit haphazard! The Strategic Plan will help to keep us on track.

It has been an honor to serve on the board, first as chair of the History Committee and then as president. If you have any inclination to join the board, please consider submitting a self-nomination. That's what I did, in late March 2020, as the reality of the pandemic was becoming apparent. I have not regretted it! If you have an interest, email our office at lakeparkfriends@sbcglobal.net.

I am grateful to all our board members for all their help and ongoing efforts in the park. I especially want to thank Jan Uebelherr, who preceded me as president, for her ongoing willingness to give advice and cheer me on. I'd also like to thank the Executive Committee



Outgoing LPF president Anne Hamilton, left, and past president Jan Uebelherr.

for their support, especially the two members who are completing their board terms this year.

Brenda Wood has been on the EC for most of her time on the board, first as Vice-President of Development, then as Vice-President of Membership and Administration. Don Cramer has been an excellent Treasurer for his entire six years on the board. At the annual meeting, on Tuesday, May 6, we'll have a chance to thank them in person for their many contributions. They have earned our gratitude many times over.

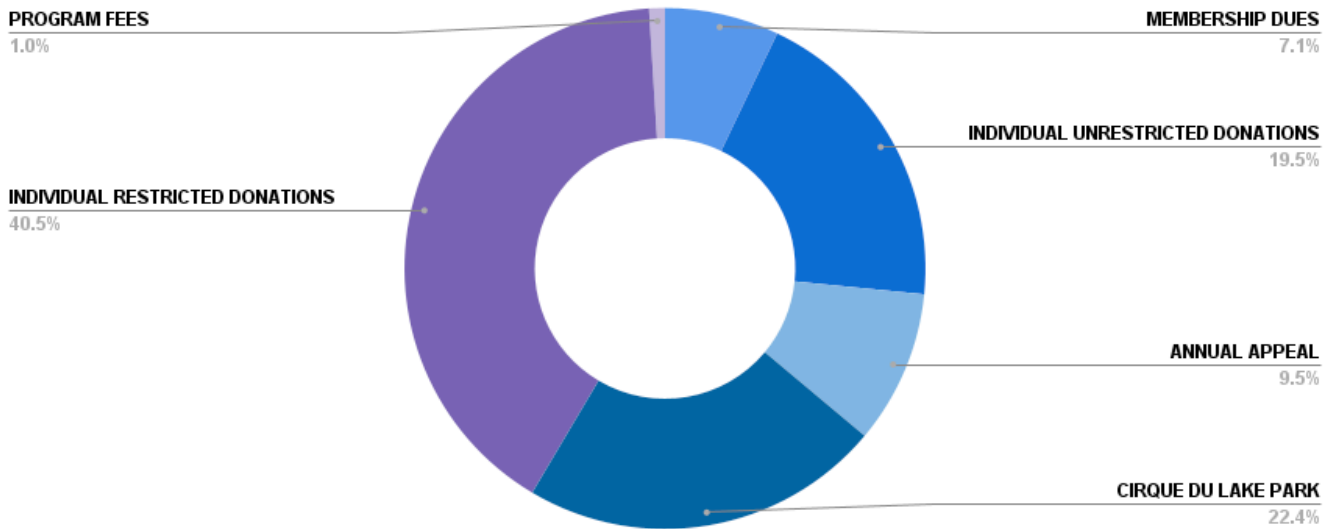
I walk in the Park every day and am continually astounded by its beauty. There's always work to be done, but I like to focus on how much we've accomplished. For example, we're looking forward to the installation of the new lamps on the Concrete Footbridge, hopefully before this year's Cirque!

I'm looking forward to a beautiful summer in the park, with wonderful concerts, family picnics and many long walks. Many thanks to all of you who help to make these events and enjoyable outings possible.

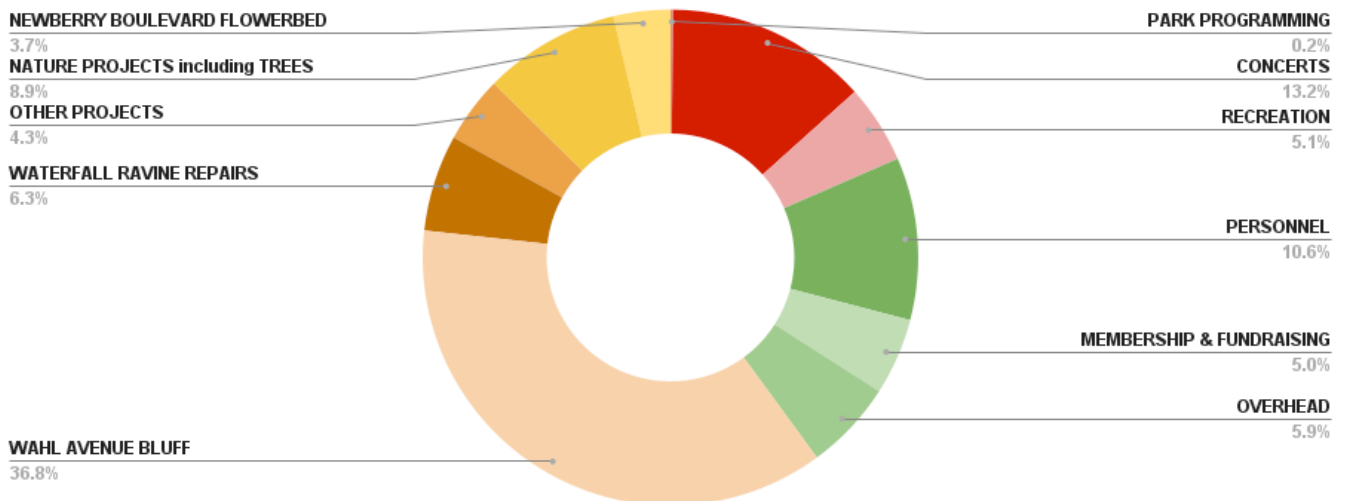
As Ann Wollmer, our long-serving and dedicated staff member always says, "See you in the park!"

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, 2024. The following list includes gifts of \$150 or more.

\$20,000+

Anonymous Donor 1
Coles Family Foundation

\$10,000 – \$19,999

Anonymous Donor 2
Nora & Jim Barry
Jennifer & Tom Florsheim
Chris & Scott Hansen
Kadie & Steve Jelenchick
Meg Kasch
Dolores Knopfelmacher Revocable Trust
of 2021
Sally Peltz
Thomas Schafer
Kelly & Nick Schmidt

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Anne Hamilton & Fred Geilfuss
Kathy & Paul Luber
Linda & Jock Mutschler
Mary & Willard Walker

\$2,000 – \$4,999

Anonymous Donor 3
Barbara & William Boles
Karen & Tom Brittain
Kathy & Robo Brumder
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Walker Forge, Inc.
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Jim Cope

GE Healthcare Blackbaud Giving Fund
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Marcia & Kent Velde
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Mary & Francis Wasielewski
Mary & Robert Ziino

\$500 – \$999

Advocate Aurora Health Blackbaud Giving Fund
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Marcia Brooks & Ed Hammond
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Susan & Daniel Vliet
Brandie Vrchota
Wayne Wendling
Jean & Sammis White
New Hampshire Charitable
Foundation's Wood Family Fund
Brenda Wood & Joel Haubrich

\$250 – \$499

Anonymous Donor 6
Kathryn Bach & Eric Steele
Christopher Banaszak

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\$250 - \$499 continued

Kristin Bergstrom & Lloyd Dickinson
 Meg & Larry Boyd
 Joan Brenk
 Lindsay Burke & Matt Domski
 Jane Buttars
 Michelle Clarke & Andrew Foy
 Community Roofing & Restoration
 Shirley Conlon & Jess Brownell
 Lynn & Jim Connolly
 Michael Crichton
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 Beth Duray & Timothy Casey
 Alison Ebbers Henkhaus & Timothy Henkhaus
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 Paula & Quinn Hogan
 Marsha Huff & James Fretty
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 Annysa & Michael Johnson
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 Joan & Tom Kress
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 Julianne & Anthony Maggiore

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 Sharon Reed & Stew Brase
 Kris & Dave Reicher
 Colleen Reilly & Dan Ryan
 Patricia Rieselbach
 Andrea Roschke & John Gaebler
 Thekla & Dylan Ross
 Kathryn & Joseph Sauer
 Virginia & Richard Schwartz
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 Patrick Small
 Mark Small - Xersize Fits
 Maddy Tarbox & Dr. Jeffrey Gruchalski
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 Jan Uebelherr & Doug LeTendre
 Rosemary A. Verbanac
 Sheldon Wasserman
 Katie West & Rick Sankovitz
 Sandra Wiegand
 Barbara & Glen Wuest
 Mary Zaborski

\$150 - \$249

Tamara Arendt
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 Annette Gagnon & Eugene Cramer
 James Gensler
 Beth Jacobassi
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 Sandra Green & Geoffrey Lamb
 Colleen Gunther & Jack Price
 Nick Harris & Timothy Harrison
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 Katherine Hinkle
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 Wendy & Steven Koppel
 John Kraniak
 Sarah & Michael Kubly
 Michelle & Dan Mahlik
 Lisa & Kevin Makowski
 Sandra & Marc McSweeney
 Bonnita Meingast
 Rita & Daryl Melzer
 Sally Merrell & Ely Leichtling
 Susan D. Mischler
 Mary Mowbray & Roland Schroeder
 Mary O'Leary-Michalski & Stephen Michalski
 Sonia & Mitchell Ost
 Joy Peot-Shields & Jim Shields

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\$150 - \$249 continued

Jacqueline & Andrew Prater
 Christine Radiske & Herbert Quigley
 Annette Robertson
 Theresa & David Robinson
 Karen & Richard Rodgers
 Julie & Mason Ross
 James Rowen

Cathy & Thomas Ryan
 Marie & Robert Sander
 Lucy Saunders & Tom Geilfuss
 Sarah Schneeberger & Toby Cerqua
 Judith Scott
 Cy & Scott Simonsgaard
 Renee Sinopoli & Eric Osberg
 Diane Sixel & Gary Kussow

Naomi & Scott Soldon
 Laurence Srebrenick & Daniel Ruhland
 Jennifer & Charles Stearns
 Rachel & Ben Wagner
 Julie Wiegert & Roemel Brown
 Carol & Lee Wolcott
 Susan Wustrack



Skaters enjoyed about three weeks of skating in winter 2025.



Rink set up begins in late fall and is maintained by volunteers through winter with take down in spring. This project is done 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.

2023 Conservator Award



As Treasurer, Jock Mustchler was responsible for putting Lake Park Friends' finances on QuickBooks to ensure LPF maintained meticulous financial records, including keeping track of donations, donors and cash flow.

Jock then transitioned from Treasurer to Vice President of Development. In that role, he helped to improve LPF's utilization of DonorTools – LPF's donation management software. He helped raise thousands of dollars for Lake Park and developed LPF's relationships with key donors.

Jock was then VP of Communications. In addition to his various VP roles, which included being on the Executive Committee, he took responsibility for Nominations, searching for board members, vetting board candidates, and encouraging their participation on Lake Park Friends' Board.

Jock founded Lake Park Reads in June 2020 and continues to run this book club after completing his three, two-year terms on the LPF Board.

Jock's opinion has been requested on every issue facing LPF and he's had a hand in just about everything, including revamping the Annual Report. His contributions over the past several years are greatly appreciated.

LPF Board of Directors

President

Anne Hamilton

Vice Presidents

Sharon Boeldt

Development

Annysa Johnson

Communications

Brenda Wood

Membership & Administration

Secretary

Cathy Jakicic

Treasurer

Don Cramer

Board Members

Nat Blaz

John Eastberg

Nidhi Kashyap

Kevin Keefe

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