

Water's Edge

Friends of Lakeshore State Park Newsletter - Summer 2009

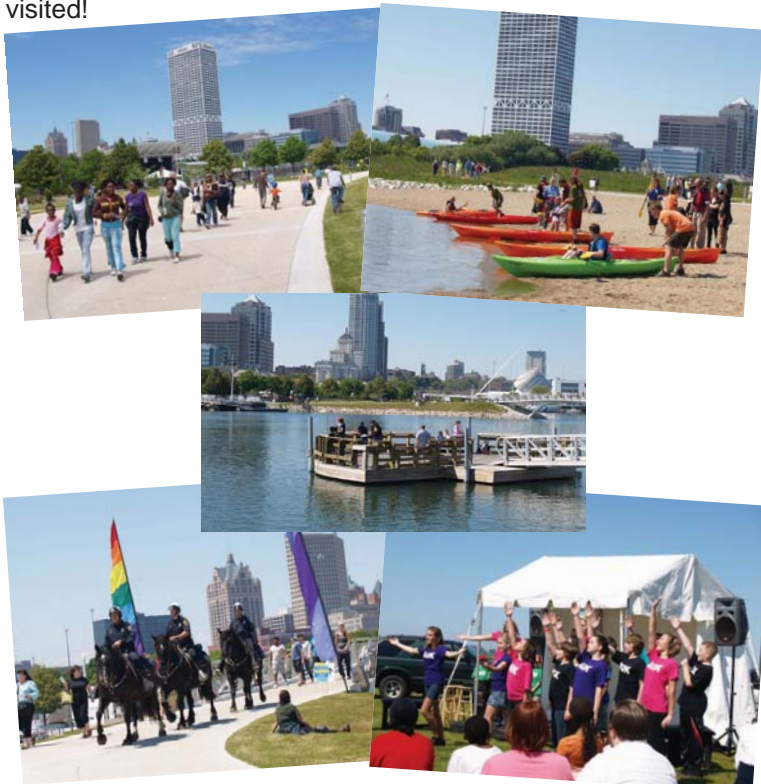


Gathering Waters Festival

The Friends of Lakeshore State Park picked a beautiful Saturday in June for the Gathering Waters Festival. An estimated 5,000 people visited the Park, enjoyed the scenery and participated in all the activities, demonstrations and interactive exhibits. Over 60 groups and great local music, food and beverages were on the Park. Milwaukee's Mayor Tom Barrett and 20 delegates cruised on a research vessel for an EPA program while at the Festival. We've received great feedback from the Mayor, DNR, participants and community. Thanks to all who volunteered and visited!



GATHERING
WATERS
FESTIVAL



Congratulations

Judy Langreck was the lucky winner of the Gathering Waters Festival grand prize, a Trek 820 entry-level mountain bike valued at over \$300 and donated by **Wheel & Sprocket**. Congratulations to all our door prize winners!

Another very lucky winner was **Jeff Weisner**, who won the new/renewal membership prize - a complete camping outfit containing a tent, chairs, sleeping bags and numerous accessories worth over \$500, donated by **REI**.

Thank you to Wheel & Sprocket, REI and all our donors for their generous prize donations.

Around the Park

It has been a busy spring at Lakeshore State Park. We hired four summer employees: Nathan and Jake (who were with us last year) as well as Eric and Jeremy. They are working hard on improvements in the Park.



Tom Kroeger -
LSP Manager

Thanks to a grant obtained by the Friends Group, Jill Frey has been hired as a half time naturalist to kick-start our interpretation programs. You'll begin to see more interpretive signage and programming at the park as the summer progresses.

Substantial progress has been made in managing the prairie areas. The Park crew has managed to hand-control most of the more aggressive non-natives this year. The sweet clover was cut once and a surprising number of desirable species are now visible and blooming, including the yellow-orange coreopsis that is visible everywhere in late June and early July.

In addition to the above, we have completed the following:

- Planted over 2,400 prairie and wetland plants in the wetland stormwater treatment area, the prairie beds north of the bridge and the southern part of the Park.
- Established prairie management test strips in two areas of the Park to evaluate the prairie plantings and assess how to best establish the prairies. Developed temporary interpretive signs to describe the process.
- Raked the beach to eliminate weeds and remove debris. We've even had a few people sunbathing on the beach!

We've increased our educational and community outreach by:

- Establishing agreements with Neighborhood House Community Center, Urban Ecology Center and Discovery World to host or participate in educational activities at the Park through 2009.
- Giving guest lectures at UWM and MATC on the Park and educational or career opportunities.
- Purchasing educational equipment for use at the Park.
- Accompanying school groups on walks through the Park.
- Pursuing and expanding additional educational partnerships.

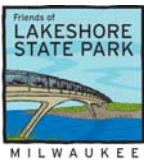
The Gathering Waters Festival was a great start to the summer. We hope to build on the momentum the Festival provided. Stop by and say "hi" to the crew as they work this summer and enjoy the best view in the city of the sky, Lake Michigan and Milwaukee.

Tom Kroeger

Lakeshore State Park Manager

414.274.4281 - thomas.kroeger@wisconsin.gov

Visit the Friends online - www.friendslsp.org



Friends of Lakeshore State Park
c/o Historic Third Ward Association
219 N. Milwaukee Street, 3rd Floor
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Summertime and the fishin' is easy - by Marc Wisniewski

The summer months usher in a variety of warm water species to Lakeshore State Park's estuary, making it an enjoyable and convenient location for family outings.

Perch and bass take the spotlight in summer. Traditional inland fishing tackle is all that is needed. The perch will be near the bottom and take a variety of live baits like small minnows, crawfish tail, and worms. Jigs tipped with yellow or white plastic tails are also great perch lures.

If you are looking for a more sporty battle, both largemouth and smallmouth bass inhabit the pond in summer. The cover of the fishing pier, the seawall along the south end and the narrows under the bridge are all prime spots. They can be caught on a variety of baits such as leeches, night crawlers and minnows. Spinners, small plugs, and Goby imitating jigs are also very good bass lures.

Don't be surprised if you catch a few crappies, sunfish or even tangle with a big northern pike this summer. Walleye also haunt the depths of the estuary. Savvy anglers waiting for nightfall often catch "old marble eyes" as they move shallow to feed under the cover of darkness. Catching a trophy walleye in the glow of the downtown lights is a thing to cherish.



Children learning to fly fish on Lakeshore State Park.

Bench Sponsorship

Just five benches left!

Looking for a unique way to memorialize a loved one or pet or to support your favorite lakefront park? Show your support of the Park and sponsor a



beautiful Lakeshore State Park bench. You'll receive a plaque with your saying and receive a free year's membership to the Friends group. Pick your favorite location of the benches installed on the Park. Call Kae DonLevy at 414.588.0617 or email kdonlevy@aol.com for additional details.

REI honors Friends Group

In June, the Friends of Lakeshore State Park received a \$5,000 grant from REI to support the continuation of the Gathering Waters brand for educational programming through Spring 2010.

The grant will be used by the Park to utilize the lakefront area to teach hands-on programs to Milwaukee's urban community about freshwater resources, natural resources, solutions to storm-water runoff, health and wellness and outdoor recreational activities.



The Friends of Lakeshore State Park are very grateful to REI and to Dana Johnson, an employee of REI and a Friends of Lakeshore State Park board member, for selecting the Park to receive this grant. REI is an outdoor gear retailer located in Brookfield, Wisconsin with its headquarters in Denver, Colorado. REI uses a portion of their profits to support projects that protect and restore our recreation areas and enhance access to outdoor recreation activities.

Get Park updates on Facebook - become a fan!