

****** AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH! ******

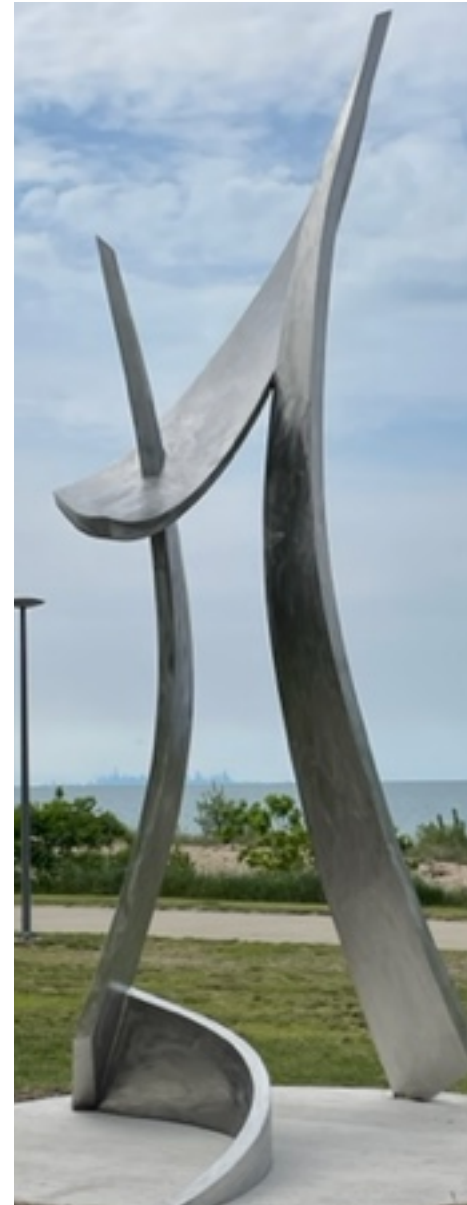
A long-term goal of Friends of Marquette Park is to fund the installation of public sculpture in Marquette Park. Pursuing this goal resulted in the creation of the Art in the Park Committee. This committee's discussions led to an agreement with Friends of Marquette Park, Miller Garden Club, the City of Gary and Chicago Sculpture International to lease two public sculptures from June 2022 - June 2024. We have surveyed residents at our events about the sculptures. Because of the popularity of Tall Ship by Bruce Niemi, we sought ways to fund the purchase of his elegant sculpture. Is it financially feasible?

As we ruminated about how we can do this financially, we were invited to apply for a match opportunity through the Legacy Foundation. On April 4, 2024, Friends of Marquette Park was awarded a Legacy Match Opportunity! **We have a challenge to double our revenue and create an endowment fund. Legacy Foundation will match 1:1 each dollar donated up to \$60,000.** If we raise \$60,000, Legacy Foundation will match it with \$60,000. Seventy-five percent of the total dollars raised including the match (\$90,000) will provide revenue for our projects, and one quarter (\$30,000) will establish a Friends of Marquette Park Endowment Fund. The FMP Endowment Fund principal will indefinitely perpetuate our organization, while the dividends will provide additional revenue to fund FMP projects. The Legacy Foundation is our well-respected financial manager and Northwest Indiana's trusted philanthropic foundation. This is an incredible opportunity for FMP to support and enhance Marquette Park. Now, we have a financially feasible plan!

We had a professional appraisal done where we discovered the official name of this sculpture is Tall Ship II. (Tall Ship I is nothing like Tall Ship II.) Our plan to purchase Tall Ship II involves you. Please be generous this year. Every dollar received will be matched by a dollar. Your donations at any level will bring in twice as much in 2024 and 2025! A \$100 donation becomes \$200. A \$500 donation becomes \$1,000. This match will provide additional funding to reach our goals this year.

The Legacy Match Opportunity funds will provide additional funding for all of our FMP projects. New projects include the redesign of the north and south garden areas at the Fr. Marquette Statue Garden with native and perennial plants in May, and honoring shoreline history and Indigenous people. We will continue to focus on natural areas, trail signage, points of interest, lawn improvements, lighting, walking bridges, the disc golf course and water safety.

We are so excited to have this opportunity funded by the Legacy Foundation. We hope you are too. We can't do these projects without the support of you, our donors, and Legacy Foundation.



Mark Your Calendar!

You are invited to

Friends of Marquette Park 8th Annual Meeting & Celebration

The Marquette Park Pavilion Lounge and Patio

Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 6:00 - 8:15 PM

\$20 Entrance Fee (cash or check preferred)

Prepay online at www.legacyfdn.org or pay at event

Light Hors D'oeuvres & Sweets

Cash Bar

Renew your Friends of Marquette Park membership/donations at this time.

Come enjoy the ambiance of our historic Marquette Park Pavilion.

6:00 - 7:00 Social Hour & Bird House Silent Auction for Art in the Park

7:00 - 7:30 PM - FMP Annual Meeting

7:30-8:00 - Bird House Silent Auction Final Bids

Please **RSVP** by Friday, **May 24th** at

friendsofmarquettepark@gmail.com or pandcsmith@comcast.net

Beach Rake Coming Soon

FMP has purchased a beach rake for the Park Department to clean the beach more efficiently. We used our Dollars for Doers donation from Legacy Foundation that we received because of the beach-cleaning efforts of volunteers. The rake attaches to a beach-friendly ATV. The beach rake should arrive before Memorial Day.

Thank You Beach & Park Volunteers!

We are grateful for all of the organizations who rally their troops for beach clean-up days and really help keep our beach clean. We have many anonymous helpers who secretly pick up litter every time they walk along the beach and the park. We are so lucky that you care about our shoreline and public park.

Pawpaw Tree Seedling Planting - April 20

Volunteers Needed

Miller Garden Club and FMP are joining forces to plant paw paw trees in Marquette Park. We will meet at the front of the Aquatorium, April 20, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Bring a shovel, gloves and a bucket. The marked locations for planting are along Marquette Drive. Mulch, trees, tree guards and supplies will be at the Aquatorium with directions for planting. Learn how to plant a seedling. Sandwiches will be provided by Miller Garden Club. Come help and take home a persimmon, chokecherry or pawpaw tree seedling for your yard. Tree seedlings were donated by Rep. Ragen Hatcher. Let us know if you can join us so that we have snacks and supplies for you. Contact us at friendsofmarquettepark@gmail.com.

MILLER BEACH WATER SAFETY GROUP NEWS

As we gear up for a safe and enjoyable beach season, the Miller Beach Water Safety Social Group is thrilled to share some exciting news and upcoming events with you.

Lifejacket Loaner Station

Safety in the water starts with proper equipment. We're excited to announce the launch of our **Lifejacket Loaner Station**. Located near the concession stand at Marquette Park, this station will provide free loaner life jackets for beachgoers beginning **May 18th 2024**. Remember, wearing a life jacket can save lives, so make sure to grab one before hitting the waves.

Yard Signs: Promoting Water Safety

Our eye-catching yard signs are making a splash! These bright and informative signs remind everyone about essential water safety practices. Here are some key details:

- **Signs in Spanish:** We've created bilingual signs to ensure that our entire community receives critical safety information. Look out for them around Miller Beach.
- **Sign Placement:** To maximize visibility, we've strategically placed these signs on all North/South streets and near popular beach access points, parks, and community centers.
- **How can you help? – Put your yard signs out starting May 15th. Should you need a new or replacement sign, they can be picked up at any of the events listed below or send an e-mail to watersafetysocial@gmail.com with a request and we'll be sure to get you a sign.**



Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for these exciting Water Safety Social Events:

- **Volunteer Opportunities - April 22nd at Flamingo 6:00 – 8:00 pm.** Come meet the committee and learn about volunteer opportunities.
- **Dedication of the Life Jacket Loaner Station - May 18th at Marquette Park Concession parking lot 12:00pm.** We hope you'll float on by to enjoy a root beer float to celebrate.
- **Wiffle Ball Game - July 11th, 5:30 pm at Poncin Park (Maple & Rush) –** Each game is limited to 14 players per game. Cheering Crowd is unlimited. Children are welcome, but must be supervised by an adult.
- **Kids on the Beach - August 15th (rain date: August 22nd).** Come learn about safety on the beach, location to be announced. Remember the Best Day at the Beach is a Safe Day at the Beach.

Stay Connected

[Follow us on Facebook](#) for real-time updates, safety tips, and event announcements. Together, we can make Miller Beach a safer place for everyone.

Thanking Our Sponsors

First and foremost, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors who continue to support our mission of promoting water safety. Their contributions allow us to organize educational programs, events, and initiatives that benefit our community. Thank you!

STAY SAFE, MILLER BEACH!

FMP Projects

Garden Improvements - We have chosen Mauro Crestani’s landscape design for new plantings at the Fr. Marquette Statue Garden in the spring of 2024. We will be planting the week of May 13th. We always welcome volunteers. Contact Carol if you can help at pandcsmith@comcast.net.

Public Sculpture - Sculptor Ruth Migdal has offered to leave “Here” (red lady) in Marquette Park at no cost until she finds a new home for the sculpture. We are grateful to Ruth for allowing us to enjoy “Here” longer. We have the support of the City Administration, Park Board and Park Department for the purchase of Tall Ship II toy Bruce Niemi to remain here.

Plants and People Indigenous to Marquette Park - FMP Leaders have met with Ezekiel Flannery, PhD who talked to us about wild edibles/medicinals, ethnobotany and the Native American history of the area. Ezekiel has a background in researching the history of indigenous people to Northwest Indiana. We are considering ways to share his wealth of knowledge with you through walking tours and presentations. We have applied for a grant to fund this project. Watch for more details.

Street Light Replacement - FMP Leaders met with Mayor Eddie Melton to share the map of where street lights existed after the renovation of the park but have since been demolished with no trace left behind. We will not allow these lights to be forgotten. The City is doing a study of all street lights and traffic lights. We want the lights along Grand Ave. in the park to be included in the study.

Bike Racks - We are researching the installation of more bike racks in strategic locations around the park.

Accessible Beach Walkway - A long-term goal is to fund a walkway so that everyone can experience the beach, regardless of their abilities.

Lawn Improvement at Shelter 4 - The area surrounding Shelter 4 has lawn around it! We had the soil amended and grass seed planted in the fall of 2023. The grass is thriving for all to enjoy. No sand burrs included.

FMP & MGC Working Together - We continue to collaborate with the Miller Garden Club on projects in the park.

Park Board Meetings - FMP has a presence at the bi-weekly Park Board of Commissioners meetings. We advocate for our community and the needs in Marquette Park at each meeting. We seek approval for all of our projects through the Park Board.

Appreciation of Volunteers - Each year more people volunteer to help with our projects and enjoy our thank you dinner.

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 FMP Website: www.friendsofmarquettelpark.org.

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. You may choose to do monthly donations.

Thank you for your interest and support of
Friends of Marquette Park

Additional Ways You Can Give

Monthly Donations - You can choose to make automatic monthly donations to FMP through the Legacy Foundation. Call to inquire at (219) 736-1880.

Employer Match Donations - Ask your employer if they will match your donation to FMP. Many companies offer this to their employees.

Designated Gifts

You are welcome to designate your gift to be utilized toward a specific project. Designated gifts of any amount are appreciated.

___ Disc Golf Tee Sponsorship - \$500 (2-year)

___ Statue Garden Projects - \$100

___ Water Safety Station Sponsorship - \$250 (2-year)

___ Public Sculpture Donor - \$250

___ Website Sponsorship - \$250

Questions? Contact Carol at pandcsmith@comcast.net

FRIENDS OF MARQUETTE PARK LEADERS

Mary Ann Best, Susan Cohen, Linda Halas, Archie Patterson, Joe Petras, Tom Rooney, Carol Smith