

Friends of Grant Park Minutes
Sept 11, 2025

In attendance: Carla Uphill, Debby Pizur, Cynthia Maurice, Robert Kempke, Lynn Crawford, Lynn Meidam, Dean Schuetz, Jody Johnson, Rick Kaiser, Rhiannen Johnson, Zac Johnson, Julie Johnson, Betsy Abert, Bill Sasse, Nancy Lange, Lyn Weber, Isaac Gehman, Colleen Colvin, Deb Sindric, Diane Hoffman, Steven Shea, Pam Uhrig

Security Officer Rohde reported in the last month there had been a couple of calls to assist swimmers who could not get back to shore due to currents; one drunk and disorderly incident at Ferch's; one fireworks call; one welfare check; a parking issue; and some mini-bikes on the Oak Leaf Trail.

Treasurer Report	Cash Boxes, approximate	\$383.40	
	Petty Cash held by Lynn Crawford	\$167.12	
	Estimated Park People acct, 7/15/2025	\$20,906.18	
	TOTAL ASSETS		\$21,456.70

Bluebird Trail Lynn Crawford reported 21 bluebirds fledged from 11 boxes on the Grant Park Golf Course Bluebird Trail and 19 bluebirds fledged from 11 boxes on the Warnimont Golf Course Bluebird Trail, totaling 40 new bluebirds. These numbers were reported to the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin.

Award County Supervisor Steven Shea, on behalf of the Milwaukee County Board, presented The Friends of Grant Park with a plaque that outlines our mission and commended the efforts of our group. He thanked us for all we do.

Bird feeder The bird feeder will not be moved to Area 4, as originally planned, because the parking lot of Area 4 is often completely filled, which would prevent viewing the feeder from the car. The feeder will remain where it is in Area 2. A storage can with a combination lock will be installed in the service yard so that volunteers can be given the combination and assist in feeding the birds.

Weedouts Saturday mornings Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 and the afternoon of Sunday, Nov 2 for Buckthorn and Japanese Lilac. Tree planting will also take place Oct 18 and 25. There may be an excess of volunteers on the 18th for planting, meaning we might also need an additional simple project such as garbage pickup. An adult volunteer would be needed to oversee the additional project, if it is needed. Trees not planted on the 18th will be planted on the 25th. More shovels are needed. If you have shovels to lend, you can mark the handles with your name and they will be returned after planting. Please contact Rick Kaiser if you can volunteer time or shovels. kaiserlaw157@gmail.com

If invasives plants are removed along the bluff, erosion may worsen. Trees and bushes that line the bluff, which had previously been marked to be removed, will not be removed, so as not to increase erosion.

Spring tree planting Deb Pizur presented our tree planting program to the South Milwaukee Rotary Club, resulting in a \$1700 grant for Spring planting. Milwaukee County Parks will be doing all of the work from buying to planting and FoGP will contribute to the labor.

Training at Wehr Wehr Nature Center has a program to train volunteers to interact with visitors who violate park rules or at least to make a record of the violation. There is a training session this Wed eve, Sept. 17 at Wehr. 5:30 to 8 pm. If anyone is interested, let Rick know.

Fundraiser at Bucyrus Club with Skyline Catering Rhiannen and Lynn M. met with the Bucyrus Club. If planning an event, we would need to come up with a theme for the event, which would likely include a silent auction with raffle baskets and volunteer entertainment. The ravine restoration could be highlighted as the purpose of the fundraiser. A tentative date is Apr 16, 2026, 5:30 to 8 pm but the consensus at our meeting was we should wait until 2027 because at least 6 months of planning is needed to obtain donations, and a subcommittee should be formed.

2026 Calendar The calendar is 95% complete and has been sent to Sue Hebner who oversees the layout before printing, which has been done by MJ Media, but other printers can be considered. Historical Pictures is the theme. The history of the park and the restoration plan will be featured in the calendar. The calendars are usually ready for sale by the Christmas Market, with perhaps a sign up in time for Trek n Treat.

South Milwaukee Open Doors Sept 13, 2025. 10-2. Volunteers welcome.

7 Bridges Beach Cleanup Saturday, Sept 20, 9-noon, Area 5. Pre-register online with Alliance for Great Lakes. You can also sign up upon arrival with a QR code.

Trek n Treat Sunday Oct 5, 1-4 pm, Area 5A. Volunteers needed, contact Pam Uhrig. One of the Grant Park bridges and the drop off to the trail has significant damage from the flood and it will not be repaired in time for Trek n Treat. The condition of the trail is a cause of concern for Trek 'n Treat, so the route will possibly be changed. A suggestion was made to do a letter writing campaign to hasten the bridge repairs. The damage was included in the Parks's report to FEMA.

South Milwaukee Market Sept 25, 3 to 7pm. Friends of Grant Park will have a table for the Fall Festival.

Ravine Restoration Milwaukee County Parks will be asked to suggest one specific task from the plan that we can accomplish together.

A Friends of Grant Park Instagram account has been started by Rhiannen. All lower case friendsofgrantpark

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Crawford