

CELEBRATING OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY YEAR AS MILWAUKEE'S URBAN RIVERS LAND TRUST!

SINCE OUR FOUNDING in 1994 by the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of Milwaukee, per recommendations in the Riverway Plan of the Milwaukee River Revitalization Council, created by former Gov. Tommy G. Thompson in the 1980s, RRF HAS:

- Protected 821 ACRES of river corridor in a dense urban area
- Connected nearly 5 MILES of riverfront trails for public access
- Restored over 45 ACRES and 1,000 FT of shoreline into healthy habitat for wildlife
- Educated 100s of YOUTH about nature in the city
- Invested over \$5 MILLION dollars in river valley projects for the community to enjoy

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT 25 YEARS AND BEYOND, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED GOALS FOR OUR RIVER COMMUNITY BASED ON OUR RECENTLY COMPLETED STRATEGIC PLAN

- Protecting additional greenspace – potential expansion to the Kinnickinnic River/Harbor District; conservation overlays
- Connecting trails – Estabrook Dam riverfront trail, Greenway loop
- Restoring habitat– ecological improvements on over 10 acres of RRF urban riverfront properties, and
- Investing in the next generation of stewards – Internships, school partnerships, service learning programs



JOIN US TO HELP ACHIEVE THESE GOALS AND GIVE BACK TO THE RIVER

- Volunteer!
- Attend our annual events, and our Celebration event on October 24th (see back panel of this issue!)
 - Buy a ticket or table
 - Sponsor the event
- Be an Ambassador for RRF and the river!
- Donate: Become a "River Ally" (see pledge form)
- Get on the water. Go on a hike or paddle with us!



For more information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Kimberly at 271-8000 or kgleffe@riverrevitalizationfoundation.org



INSIDE

GLRI Restoration Project is Complete

Greenway Stakeholder Meeting

Full Moon Happy Hour Schedule

National Trails Day Hike June 1

Milwaukee River Romp June 23

RRF Receives Frederick I. Olson Preservation Award!

RRF RECIPIENT OF THE FREDERICK I. OLSON PRESERVATION AWARD!

Since 1953, the Milwaukee County Historical Society has honored individuals, community organizations and business that have worked diligently to preserve and promote local history. In this our milestone 25th year, the Milwaukee County Historical Society is honoring us for "significant contributions to preserving Milwaukee's rivers and our impact in the Milwaukee community". The event and our acceptance will be on **Thursday, May 8** at the Pfister Hotel. We are delighted to have been selected as an award recipient and are grateful for this recognition of our conservation, restoration, education and public access efforts! More information at <https://milwaukeehistory.net/annual-recognition-awards/>. Thank you!

FIRE...GOOD!

JOANNA DEMAS, LAND MANAGER

This spring, RRF conducted its 3rd consecutive prescribed burn, on the property adjacent to our office that we fondly call Turtle Park. Our goal is to create a demonstration of an oak savanna plant community. See how the native species being introduced have flourished and diversity has increased from the restoring powers of the fire!

Fire is an important management tool for controlling invasive species, eliminating unwanted woody species, loading nutrients to the soil and stimulating native plant growth. Incinerating the dormant stalks of the previous growing season enables the sun to penetrate the soil, warming it to extend the length of the growing season. A longer growing opportunity inhibits robust plant growth and seed production.

EPA GLRI GRANT OF \$505,000 INVESTED IN THE RIVER VALLEY

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE PROJECT FINISHED!

Our EPA funded project to improve habitat in the Greenway is complete. Spanning 45 acres, the project **removed** an estimated 249,415 pounds of herbaceous invasives and 1,290,438 pounds of woody invasives. We also **broadcast** 240 pounds of native seeds, and **planted** 10,758 plants and 1,645 trees.

This work was completed in partnership with Milwaukee County Parks, Cream City Conservation and Consulting, and amazing community volunteers who contributed over 6,000 hours to the project. With so much invasive removal, the woodlands look dramatically different, with a more open understory and clearer view of the Milwaukee River. We also **surveyed** vegetation to assess the health of the Greenway and found some interesting native plants that we didn't know were there, like Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*). Even though the grant is complete, we will continue to remove invasives and survey the Greenway to keep learning more about our beautiful river valley.

Trout Lily



Dutchman's Breeches



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTE: None of this work could have been accomplished without the hard work of Joanna Demas and our land management staff and Aaron Zeleske, Greenway Director! Many thanks for their dedication to the success of this project!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS AND OTHER TOPICS AT THE GREENWAY STAKEHOLDER MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 14

5:30-7:00 PM

LINCOLN PARK BLATZ PAVILION

Please attend our annual stakeholder meeting to learn more about our partners and work in the Greenway and to share your perspective.



Increased abundance of and diversity boosts the food sources available for wildlife. Attraction to the site swells, as more berries and seeds are produced to support many



bird and small mammal species. Availability of host species entices invertebrates to the habitat that strengthen bird populations as well as bats and herptiles!



**RIVER
REVITALIZATION
foundation**

Enclosed is my/our gift of \$ _____

Checks should be made out to River Revitalization Foundation.

Give securely online:

www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org
click on the "DONATE" tab.

RIVER REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM The River Revitalization Foundation was created to establish a parkway for public access, walkways, recreation and education, bordering the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic Rivers; to use the rivers to revitalize surrounding neighborhoods; and to improve water quality. **Thank You!**

- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25
- Surprise Us

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Please remit to: River Revitalization Foundation, 2134 N. Riverboat Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53212

UPCOMING EVENTS

TO VOLUNTEER, contact the RRF office at 414-271-8000
All events listed on our website: www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org

MAY JANE'S WALKS 2019: THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY

Join Vince on a hike along the trails of the Milwaukee River, through his nature lens, and part of Jane's Walks on **MAY 18 AND 19 AT 10 AM** Meeting location: Gordon Park pavilion. Register online at janeswalkmke.org/calendar.

"KIWI OPEN"

The Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee Foundation's annual Kiwi Open FUNdraising Golf Outing will take place on **MAY 20** at Western Lakes Golf Club in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. For details or to sign up, call **414-276-1331** or email kiwanismke@sbcglobal.net.

RIVER REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION STAFF, BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS WISH AMANDA VAN DONGEN A FOND

FAREWELL with our thanks for all your contributions to the organization as a Trinity Fellow from September of 2017 to May 2019!

"During my time at RRF as a Trinity Fellow through Marquette University,



my goals included increasing volunteer participation, public education, and awareness of our organization. I pursued these goals by connecting to new community members and reinforcing existing relationships, planning and participating in events, co-leading the Earn and Learn youth program, and amplifying our social media presence." Many thanks to the **Antonia and Dutton Foundations** for their support of my placement for the past 21 months!

JUNE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1
1:00-4:00 PM**

Come hike the Greenway on Saturday, June 1 in celebration of National Trails Day. Learn about the ecology and history of the Greenway as you stretch those legs along the river.

Meet Aaron at RRF, 2134 N. Riverboat Road.



**SAVE
THE DATES!
JULY AND AUGUST
HAPPY HOURS**

We are again hosting a **FULL MOON** summer series including the ever popular Happy Hour:
Drink Now! Howl Later!

FULL BUCK MOON
Tuesday, July 16, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

FULL STURGEON MOON
Thursday, August 15, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

MUSIC! FOOD! FUN!

JUNE MILWAUKEE RIVER ROMP WITH ROMPER THE RIVER OTTER

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23
1:00-4:00 PM**

A leisurely paddle from Kiwanis Landing downtown and back. Boats donated for use by Milwaukee Kayak Company and Riverwest Outdoor; limited availability and only with registration – first come, first served. Or bring your own boat and join us! \$30 suggested donation.



Our new
Outreach & Event
Coordinator,
Paige Papelbon.
Welcome!

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CONTACT US

River Revitalization Foundation
2134 N. Riverboat Road
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-271-8000
www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org

DONATE



RIVER REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION

FORB

FOSTER OUR RIPARIAN BIODIVERSITY

Volunteer with RRF!

Improve wildlife habitat
Remove invasive species
Establish native plants
Maintain trails
Collect seeds
Control erosion

MONDAYS: 2-4
FRIDAYS: 1-4
*1st and 2nd
SATURDAY: 9-NOON
* Feb. - Nov.

2134 North Riverboat Road
RIVERREVITALIZATIONFOUNDATION.ORG

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
5:30 PM – 9:00 PM
RIVER REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION'S
25th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

Bradley Pavilion at the
Marcus Performing Arts Center

Featuring Milwaukee historian and author
JOHN GURDA

Help us support our mission to Protect,
Connect, Restore & Invest in our river valley

Seating is limited — call **414-271-8000**
to reserve your table

Invitation to follow

Cocktail Reception • Silent Auction • Dinner
with honored guests

CHRIS ABELE & TOMMY G. THOMPSON



Photo courtesy of Eddee Daniel

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