

COALITION TO SUPPORT AND PRESERVE PUBLIC PARKS

Public Parks are indispensable to Milwaukee County and contribute to the county's economic viability, health and the quality of life for the public by:

- conserving watersheds, woodlands, river and lake corridors and public green spaces;
- providing family picnic areas, and public gathering venues;
- providing public golf, swimming and wading pools, fishing, soccer and athletic fields.
- providing public venues for the exercise of democratic freedoms of speech and association;
- providing interconnected trail systems for exercising, bicycling , walking, running, etc.
- providing for environmental education through natural areas, nature centers, and preserves;
- contributing to people's physical, mental and spiritual health with natural areas;
- preserving historical settlements, war memorials, band shells, and other monuments;
- providing for groundwater absorption and a sponge-effect to filter stormwater pollutants;
- providing green margins to prevent flooding and run-off from impervious surfaces;
- providing venues for school sports, community leagues and games for people of all ages;
- providing corporate, civic, and non-profit associations public areas for community events;
- providing free and accessible venues for people unable to afford expensive private sporting;

For all the foregoing reasons, the undersigned **Coalition to Support and Preserve Public Parks** calls for:

- 1. Adequate, sustainable, and dedicated funding for public parks in Milwaukee County.**
- 2. Preservation of current parks as historically planned, including the Emerald Necklace.**
- 3. Long-range planning to address deteriorating structures and infrastructure.**
- 4. Ensuring public/private agreements do not limit use or access by the public.**
- 5. Prohibiting loss of public park land to private or municipal development.**

The undersigned **Coalition to Support and Preserve Public Parks** urges our elected leaders to find solutions for adequate park funding and maintenance.