Keep Warnimont Park and Lake Michigan free from lead and other debris! Advise Milwaukee County Supervisor (8th District) Pat Jursik NOT to allow the Cudahy Gun Club to build a new site in Warnimont Park.

Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society



Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society

572 Supporters The Cudahy Gun Club has been operating without a permit and using lead shot at its location, which is in Milwaukee County's Warnimont Park, *since 1932*. <u>Lead from the shot has contaminated the water of Lake Michigan</u>. In January 2015, the DNR FINALLY mandated that they use steel instead of lead shot.

The lead shot is not the only problem. Plastic casings litter the landscape. They dot the periphery of the grass and the bluff below and they float in the water. Park visitors have witnessed gun club staff dump boxes of the casings over the bluff instead of into a trash can.

The gun club has been told to clean up the current location and relocate. However, their proposed <u>site</u> would be even worse for our water, flora, and fauna! It is further south in Warnimont Park, an area of diverse landscape of prairie grass, shrubs, deciduous trees, and conifer stands that is habitat for hundreds of birds such as Bank Swallows, Clay-colored Sparrows, and over a dozen warbler species that migrate along Lake Michigan to and from their breeding grounds in Central and South America. This habitat also attracts rare butterflies and the Butler's Garter Snake, which is threatened in Wisconsin, and some endangered native plants also thrive there. This location is not a good fit! We should not allow the possibility for more litter and more potential pollution of the lake if some club members ignore the new mandate and continue to use lead shot.

PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION SO THAT THE CUDAHY GUN CLUB WILL BE TOLD NOT TO RELOCATE WITHIN A COUNTY PARK THAT HOLDS CRUCIAL HABITAT FOR LIVING CREATURES AND A WATER SOURCE FOR THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.

Sampled Petition Comments: (Do Not Relocate within Warnimont)

erika voss WAUWATOSA, WI

This park is frequented by hikers, joggers, walkers of all ages and is used by migrating birds. It should remain a quiet and natural area of peace.

A Sobieski MILWAUKEE, WI

The gun club shows no respect to their current surroundings: trash, lead shot, etc. That would indicate they would show no respect to any new location.

Caryl Sewell BROOKFIELD, WI

We often cycle here and enjoy the beauty of the surroundings. The gun club belongs somewhere else -- away from wildlife and the public.

David Boucher MILWAUKEE, WI

We use Warnimont and my wife has used the archery range there but we have always been dismayed over the existing gun club site and oppose a future inland one.

LYNN CRAWFORD CUDAHY, WI

Keep our natural areas natural. Why must crucial sensitive habitat in our parks be destroyed by a few? Instead, how about an indoor shooting range in the expanse of empty buildings in Packard Plaza?

Barb Johnson CUDAHY, WI

I walk or bike in the park almost every day to enjoy the beauty of nature and listen to the birds. Moving the gun club to this sensitive park area is not an ideal solution. The lakefront green spaces are one of the few areas for migrating species to rest and feed. Why can't we use an area away from the lake?

Kirstin Anglea MILWAUKEE, WI

Every effort needs to be made to clean up Lake Michigan and keep it clean for fish, wildlife, and future generations. It's irresponsible to allow blatant polluting of the lake.

Carol Howard FRANKSVILLE, WI

Migrating and nesting birds are under enough environmental stress as it is; they don't need something more that we have the opportunity to avoid. Put the gun club somewhere not in crucial migratory and nesting areas.

Robert Porth CUDAHY, WI

Milwaukee County Parks Director John Dargle was correct in taking the advice of legal counsel and denied the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club a lease at Warnimont Park for 2015 because they didn't abide by the terms of their contract. The Milwaukee County Board then acted irresponsibly by extending the lease for another year so the club can continue to contaminate this area. This group has knowingly violated federal regulations for over 20 years by shooting lead shot into Lake Michigan. They have also littered the lake, lakefront and bluff with lead shot, shotgun shell wads and clay target debris. The club would now like to move their activities further from the bluff to the SW and alter the landscape of a pristine natural area. They would like to have trees removed and reroute one of the most scenic areas of the bike trail. The gun noise will also negatively impact the surrounding neighborhoods and lower property values. Who is going to want to buy a house in an area where you have to close your doors and windows while being serenaded by gunfire? It is a ridiculous idea to locate a gun range on PUBLIC land, in a residential area and near a hospital. This issue should not be influenced by who makes the most noise. It should be decided by what is best for the environment, park patrons and the area residents.

Chris Krochalk MILWAUKEE, WI

I frequent this park with my wife, kids and dog. If this is allow to proceed, I'm afraid it will destroy it's natural state.

Barbara Vass KENOSHA, WI

There is so little Lake Michigan shore habitat left that all of us, from the Illinois border up, should be working to protect it. My husband shoots skeet and trap and belongs to several gun clubs: it's an excellent sport when done responsibly in the proper location. Warnimont Park is not the location.