



GREAT WATERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2019 NO. 2



Plans for the Kletzsch Park dam in Glendale have gone back to the drawing board with an eye toward preserving trees and maintaining the character of the river's west bank.

New regime offers opportunity to reverse park “privatization”

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A park ranger with the DNR patch on her uniform became impatient with me as we checked out the map of Kohler-Andrae State Park. She raised a forefinger and said, “You’re not listening to me.”

I somehow had the notion that because the park is known as Kohler-Andrae, the Kohler Company played some role in its day-to-day operations due to a process known as the “privatization” of Wisconsin’s state parks established under the Walker regime.

But that is not what “privatization” of state parks means.

Kohler-Andrae is so-called because a wealthy Wisconsinite named Theodore (Terry) Andrae donated much of the land back in 1927. The Kohler family donated another 280 acres in 1966. The park, which covers 988 acres on the shores of Lake Michigan in Sheboygan County, is known officially as Kohler-Andrae but is still sometimes called Terry Andrae.

Kohler has no role in the day-to-day operations of the park, nor does it provide any financial backing. “Privatization” of state parks simply means that there is no money available from state coffers to support them. The parks must be self-sustaining.

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County planners take a fresh look at Kletzsch Park

Excerpted from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Facing opposition over plans to reconstruct the Kletzsch Park dam in Glendale, Milwaukee County has decided to evaluate other options that would preserve a picturesque spot on the Milwaukee River that has attracted visitors for generations.

The \$1.3 million renovation currently calls for rebuilding the Depression-era dam, and the waterfall created by the dam, that brings onlookers and anglers.

In addition, the county’s plans currently envision a fish passage system around the dam and a scenic overlook and platform for fishing on the west side of the river, next to the Milwaukee River Parkway.

Recently the County Board’s Finance and Audit Committee voted, 6-0, to more than double the size of the contract to a consulting firm, Inter-Fluve, to \$417,894 to complete a final design for the project.

The firm is expected to go back to the drawing board and offer alternatives that would preserve trees, maintain the character of the river’s west bank and devise a separate fish passage on the east bank. The east bank includes both public and private land.

The county had planned to finish the project in 2019, but officials said that date may now be moved back.

The final design would need approval from the board. Jeremy Lucas, director of administration and planning for parks, said no option has been ruled out. But attention will now focus on less disturbance, and fish passage on the east side of the river.

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Notes from the Chair

I must first apologize for an error in my last notes. Chris Zapf is in the middle of her two-year term on the Executive Committee, and so she did not need to participate in our last election. Instead, Rose Both was elected, and she's working very hard as our Chapter Delegate and Political Chair. So sorry Rose and thanks for your efforts!

I'd also like to welcome Jennifer Abel. She'll be our new Program Chair in June after Bill Baurecht steps down from this post per the request he made some time ago. Jenny is another great addition to our team.

I'm honored to be working with the excellent volunteers on the Volunteer Leadership Council. Everyone is diligently working, as well as coming up with creative ideas to help increase the scope of the Great Waters Group. You'll read about some of these ideas elsewhere in the newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to request volunteers to come alongside our chairs, especially in the area of communication. If you have skills with email, writing, or information technology your assistance would be invaluable.

– Crystal Hoecherl

Judge reverses Kohler Co. permit

By the Friends of Black River Forest

An administrative law judge has reversed a permit the Wisconsin Department of Resources granted last year that would have allowed the Kohler Company to fill almost four acres of high quality wetland for a new golf course complex in Sheboygan County.

Stewardship fund must be renewed

By Spencer Black
Chair of the State Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Excerpted from the Madison Cap Times

Thirty years ago, Wisconsin did something really special. We established the Stewardship Fund, a large commitment to fund protection of our outdoors.

Three decades later, the Stewardship Fund has protected more than 600,000 acres of the best of Wisconsin's outdoors by expanding state parks and forests, preserving natural areas, protecting rivers, lakes and wildlife and providing outdoor recreational opportunity.

The Fund originally set aside money for ten years. It has been renewed twice – for the two subsequent decades. Now, it must be renewed again. If the governor and state legislature don't act soon, the Stewardship Fund will expire.

Unfortunately, the past few state budgets have cut funding for the Stewardship Fund by more than 60%. The Fund must not only be renewed, it should be restored to its previous funding level.

Wisconsin has a long and proud legacy of protecting the environment, but by the late 1980's, our state's efforts, once pioneering, to protect our land had fallen into neglect even though our land resources faced major threats. Near our urbanized areas, sprawling development imperiled natural areas and open space close to where most people lived.

In the less populated north woods, the ownership of major flowages
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In his March 15 decision, the judge found that the standards for issuing the permit had not been met and that the DNR lacked sufficient information to grant it.

"We are grateful for this decision, which thoroughly addressed each adverse, irreversible impact of the proposed golf course," said Mary Faydash, President of Friends of the Black River Forest, Inc., which challenged the permit during a five-day evidentiary hearing.

"This decision is a victory for all of Wisconsin, particularly the grassroots groups who have worked tirelessly to hold the DNR and developers to Wisconsin conservation law."

The judge found that the project will require significant regrading and deforesting more than half the site, resulting in changes to wetland and site hydrology. He concluded, "The Department's determination that these adverse impacts will be significant mandate that the permit application must be denied."

The judge also found that the DNR lacked sufficient information to conclude that the project would not harm water quality associated with chemical and fertilizer applications, and that some of Kohler's submitted information was erroneous or incomplete.

Said the judge, "The Department should be making its determinations based on completed plans, not trusting that management plans that will be prepared will adequately protect the groundwater and wetlands."

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Summer Programs

Conservation Strategies and Implementation

Monday, May 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Schlitz Audubon Center

Marc White, Director of Conservation, Green Facilities and Infrastructure, will speak. The event is free to Schlitz Audubon Center members and non-members. Everyone is asked to register online. The link is available on the Center's website.

Note: Sept. 16 (third Monday) is scheduled at the Wauwatosa Public Library.



These Concerned citizens from Wisconsin gathered in Washington, D.C. to address ways the federal government can help to preserve the Great Lakes.

Delegation visits DC to support Lakes

By Joe Fitzgerald
Milwaukee Water Commons

A group of fourteen concerned citizens from around Wisconsin gathered in Washington, D.C., in early March to share their insights on how federal efforts to benefit the Great Lakes shape stories within their communities.

The state delegation spoke in support of work being done by Milwaukee Water Commons and Clean Wisconsin to advocate for regional priorities that impact community and environmental health. It was joined by leaders from around the Great Lakes Region at Great Lakes Days, a two-day advocacy event, engaging with senators and Congressional representatives to discuss the

importance of regional policy and funding priorities.

Representatives traveling from Wisconsin were able to meet directly with the Congressional Black Caucus, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Representative Gwen Moore, Representative Ron Kind and Representative Mike Gallagher, as well as the offices of congressional representatives Mark Pocan, Glenn Grothman, Sean Duffy, James Sensenbrenner, and Bryan Steil.

Representatives Moore, Kind, Sensenbrenner, Gallagher and Grothman along with many other representatives around the Great Lakes have signed onto a letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Environment requesting full funding of \$300 Million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Monthly work days set for Havenwoods Forest

Join the Great Waters Group and the Friends of Havenwoods State Forest every third Saturday to cut invasives, plant trees and other vegetation, and enjoy one of the best places in Milwaukee. It's all part of a new monthly workday of stewardship activities.

Havenwoods State Forest is a 237-acre property full of forests, prairies, wetlands and interesting history. While working on the site, we will also learn about the impact of invasives on local ecosystems. No experience or equipment is needed, just appropriate clothing.

Date: Saturdays - May 18, June 15, July 20 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Location: Havenwoods State Forest (6141 N. Hopkins St. Milwaukee, WI)
Leader: Dan Buckler. Please RSVP to daniel.c.buckler@gmail.com or 330-261-2088

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Volunteer Leadership Council (VLC) Contact List

Crystal Hoecherl, Chair 414-614-3034
William Baurecht Vice-Chair & Program Chair 414-882-7218
Jane Schneider, Treasurer 262-391-7502
Veronica Bell, Secretary, 414-202-6219
Chris Zapf, Volunteer Chair & Hospitality Chair 414-202-8069
Ed Anderson, Membership Chair 414-520-2751
Rashi Grewal, Fundraising Chair 908-240-7043
Rose Both, JMC Delegate & Political Chair 262-751-4802
Karen Samelson, Publicity Chair 414-481-1596
David Thomas, Nearby Nature Chair 414-810-2286
Dan Buckler, Outings Chair 330-261-2088
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(Communications, E-Letter, Facebook, Website)
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Dave Wehnes, Website Super Administrator 414-453-1689
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David Hetzel, Newsletter Reimbursement 414-228-9512



Marc White led a GWG group on a recent tour of the Schlitz Audubon Center. A new initiative called A Wealth of Nature is designed to highlight Mother Nature's wonders.

Wealth of Nature informs and reminds

By Eddee Daniel

Have you ever watched the bank swallows swarm the Lake Michigan bluffs in Sheridan Park? Ventured into the wilds of the Cedarburg Bog to see the dazzling array of orchids and pitcher plants? Watched the fishermen smile when the salmon are jumping on the Milwaukee River in Kletzsch Park? Hiked the rugged hills of the Kettle Moraine on the Ice Age Trail?

These are just a few of the exciting park experiences that a new initiative called A Wealth of Nature is designed to inform you—or remind you—about. The initiative is a project of Preserve Our Parks (POP), a nonprofit advocacy organization.

Judge reverses DNR wetlands permit for Kohler Company

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The proposed golf course is located on forested property between the Black River and Lake Michigan. It hosts rare ridge and swale and interdunal wetlands, is an important stopover site for migratory birds and is home to rare plant and animal communities.

Kohler's proposal also called for using land in Kohler-Andrae State Park for a golf course entrance road and large maintenance building. That land is characterized by dunes, wetlands, and forest and is used by park visitors for hiking and wildlife observation, among other activities.

POP recently announced the launch of a new interactive website (www.awealthofnature.org) for the project, one where you can learn about hidden treasures and family programs and contribute your thoughts, stories and opinions about parks and nearby nature.

The website includes a blog entitled "The Natural Realm" that tells stories, provides an in-depth look at particular places and examines issues relating to parks and nature. Various contributors have shared stories about many diverse topics, including butterfly gardens, Milwaukee's Urban Water Trail and the splendor of summer wildflowers at Lapham Peak State Park.

In addition to the blog, the A Wealth of Nature website includes:

- Information about southeastern Wisconsin's natural areas and wildlife.
- A "Share your Story or Photo" page for people to share their own experiences in parks and nearby nature.
- A map tool that helps users find parks and preserves suitable for their favorite outdoor activities such as birding, swimming, kayaking or even wild edible gathering.

Other components of this initiative include public and private presentations by project director and photographer Eddee Daniel and, eventually, a photo book exhibiting the natural beauty of Southeastern Wisconsin.

POP's new A Wealth of Nature website is up and running. We think you'll like it. Take a look, at awealthofnature.org. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Groups oppose We Energies permit

By Clean Power Coalition-Southeast Wisconsin

Thirty-three organizations have submitted a letter to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) expressing opposition against several provisions of We Energies' water discharge draft permit, including a proposed mercury variance that would allow the utility to discharge mercury into Lake Michigan at up to three times the safe standard.

The permit as written would also allow We Energies to continue a dirty, outdated process for treating coal ash until 2023, the latest possible date under federal rules. The statement of opposition comes on the heels of hundreds of public comments opposing the proposed permit as written.

"From extensive studies, we know that mercury is bad for the health of humans and wildlife," said Todd Brennan, Senior Policy Manager for the Alliance for the Great Lakes. "It is not acceptable to let We Energies have a pass at those regulations either in the water they discharge to the lake or in the handling of the coal ash byproducts."

State must address PFAS health threat

By Jill Ryan
Freshwater Future

Here's a story about some toxic chemicals that have been used for decades, contaminating drinking water in the Midwest and across the nation. Health impacts, including developmental delays in children, are well known, but government agencies have concealed the dangers.

Sound familiar? If you followed the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan, this will certainly ring a bell. This time, though, the toxin in question isn't lead, but a group of chemicals known as "PFAS" (pronounced "Pea-fass"), which stands for poly- and perfluorinated alkyl substances.

PFAS are plentiful in our homes and workplaces. They are used to make non-stick cookware, stain-resistant carpeting, food packaging, fire retardants and more.

Last February the US Environmental Protection Agency released its PFAS Action Plan. Many states are following suit with draft legislation and other actions addressing these toxins. In Wisconsin bills introduced in Assembly (AB 85) and Senate (SB 109) would require the Department of Health Services to establish state health-based groundwater quality standards for PFAS. These measures deserve support.

Early in 2018, the Trump administration tried to stop publication of a taxpayer-funded study showing that PFAS are much more toxic than previously thought. The study, from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was eventually released.

It documents serious health risks like developmental and behavioral problems in children, thyroid disease, elevated cholesterol, higher cancer risks, and male reproductive abnormalities — including shorter penises and lower sperm counts.

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Under the law, a deadline extension to 2023 for converting from wet ash handling to the less toxic dry ash handling can only be granted if the utility can prove that it would be "technically and economically infeasible to comply by 2020."

At a Feb. 11 hearing, the DNR's own slide presentation showed that We Energies is already using dry ash handling in some areas at the Oak Creek plant.

"Clearly, it is technically feasible to use this technology," stated Dana LaFontsee, a spokeswoman for the Clean Power Coalition. "As for being 'economically infeasible,' it would seem that a company which reported record net income and earnings per share in 2017 and total shareholder return over the last 15 years of 724 per cent can well afford to do the right thing for its customers and everyone who enjoys our beautiful Lake Michigan."

"Mercury is a potent neurotoxin, and levels in Lake Michigan are already too high," said Cheryl Nenn of Milwaukee Riverkeeper. "Mercury bioaccumulates or increases in toxicity at the higher levels of the food chain, posing risk to aquatic life and fish as well as the people that eat them."

Good times are brewing

You can celebrate the summer at Estabrook Beer Garden by joining your Sierra Club friends at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 27, for a relaxed summer evening along the Milwaukee River.

We will be in the southwest corner of the beer garden, which is located in Estabrook Park between Capitol Drive and Hampton Road on the west side of Estabrook Parkway. We hope to plan beer garden events in July and August as well. Watch our Facebook page and website for details. Non-members are also welcome.

Boundary waters canoe outings planned for July and September

You can get out, explore and enjoy the International Boundary Waters Wilderness area of Wabakimi Provincial Park by joining us at our canoe outings scheduled July 14-20. A women's paddling trip to the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers is also planned for Sept. 20-22.

Find out more and register at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/outings-events as we plan and post new opportunities.

Outings fees include all group supplies, equipment, food and lodging, park permits and taxes. Not included are travel and associated costs to and from the official gathering points or personal fishing licenses, permits and passports. You supply your personal camping gear and clothing.

10th Treasures tour has it all

Fine art in nature, hiking, birding, raptors, getting in the water, just being there – however you like to connect to nature, you will find it at Treasures of Oz.

Treasures celebrates its tenth year with another eco-tour filled with six treasures sites, all with an infusion of art. This free, family-friendly event happens on June 15. All sites are open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Celebration headquarters at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve will stay open until 4:30 p.m.

The art infusion comes from an artist-in-residence program sponsored by the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust and Gallery 224 in Port Washington. Called ARTservancy, the program places artists in land trust preserves for a year to create work that evolves from their interaction with nature.

Virmond Park, an Ozaukee County site, has its own art installation, the largest in Ozaukee parks and preserves, created by artist Sally Duback with many of Ozaukee's school children.

New sites on the tour include the Hames Preserve on the Milwaukee River in Waubesa and Birchwood Hills Nature Preserve in the City of Port Washington.

Attendees can find a map and directions and download a passport after May 1 at treasuresofoz.org and get their passport stamped at each location. Passport stamps can be traded for free raffle tickets at Forest Beach at the end of their tour.

Treasures of Oz is sponsored by Sweet Water, the Junior Woman's Club of Mequon Thiensville and the WeEnergies Foundation.



Mining plans threaten Boundary Area

By *Save the Boundary Waters*

More people visit the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness annually than any other national wilderness area, but now the area is threatened by proposals to develop sulfide-ore copper mines on public lands in the watershed. Also threatened are downstream waters in Quetico Park and Voyageurs National Park.

Friends of Monarch Trail looking for volunteers

Friends of the Monarch Trail have a number of events planned for the summer, and we're also looking for volunteers in several areas. We need:

1. Help with grant writing, including assistance in editing grant applications and reports.
2. Volunteer coordinators to be the point persons for contacting volunteers and setting schedules for various projects. This can be a shared job.
3. Help with media outreach, including social media, when we have special events or action alerts.

If you can help with any of the above, call LuAnne at 414-324-6586 or email LuLuwashbu@hotmail.com

Please mark your calendars on the following dates:

Sunday, June 2, 2019 – Milkweed and Pollinator Plant Sale, Sun., June 23.

Sunday, June 23 – Planting party.

Saturday, July 20 – Second Annual Monarch Trail Seminar.

Sunday, Aug. 25 – Annual Monarch Migration Celebration

September and October – Milkweed Pod Collection.

TBA – Milkweed Pod Palooza De-Fluffing Party

Sulfide-ore copper mining has never been done in Minnesota, and it is NOT the same as traditional taconite mining in the Mesabi Iron Range. It poses a unique threat for multiple reasons.

Antofagasta, a very large mining conglomerate from Santiago, Chile, seeks approvals to mine public minerals in the Superior National Forest. The deposits are adjacent to the Boundary Waters and along rivers and lakes that flow into the Wilderness.

Local supporters for copper mining argue that it will bring new jobs. However, an economic report by two PhD economists from Key Log Economics documents that it risks ten times as many jobs as are projected in the study promoted by the mining industry.

That includes 4,490 jobs in tourism alone and many more throughout the three-county amenity-based economy. Consider also that Anglo American, a large copper mining company that employs 87,000 miners worldwide, says that underground mines of the future will be fully automated.

Other studies show that protecting public lands near the Boundary Waters generates greater long-term gain for the region than copper mining – up to 4,600 more jobs and up to \$900 million more income. Thirty resorts, outfitters, camps, campgrounds, a University of Minnesota research facility and hundreds of homes are located in the path of this pollution.

Many other business owners in the region say a copper mining district next to the Boundary Waters would be lethal to their businesses, and 23% of people in four townships where the mining would occur say they will leave the area if the plan is approved.

On June 21, 2018, nine Minnesotan businesses and Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness filed suit against the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management to overturn recent efforts to grant mining rights to Antofagasta.

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Plan endangers Sanctuary Woods

By Charlie Mitchell and Preserve Our Parks

Sanctuary Woods is a refreshing natural area in the northeast quadrant of the County Grounds cherished by many Wauwatosa residents especially dogwalkers. It is the last piece of the Grounds that remains undisturbed by development, but that could change under a new proposal called the Life Sciences District.

The Woods border County Grounds Park to the north, a perfect neighbor.

Stewardship program should be restored

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and large forest blocks was changing, allowing the potential development of many wild areas.

As Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, I was appointed to develop a new program to safeguard our state's scenic beauty, biological wealth and recreation opportunity for the future. The result was the Stewardship Fund – the largest conservation initiative in state history – which guaranteed a significant investment in long term land conservation.

The results have surpassed my most optimistic hopes. Areas protected by the Fund include the 40,000-acre Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, with its magnificent sandstone bluffs, sandbar islands and biologically rich shore lands, and tens of thousands of acres of our northern forests.

The Fund has preserved the last undeveloped section of the Wisconsin Dells, helped to lengthen the Ice Age Trail, built numerous bike trails, and saved some of the few remaining wild lakes in northern Wisconsin. When I look back on my years in the Legislature, the Stewardship Fund is perhaps my proudest achievement.

Our new governor, Tony Evers, has consistently called for a bipartisan approach to state governance. Renewing and restoring the Nelson-Knowles Stewardship Fund would be an excellent way for state leaders to demonstrate true bipartisanship.

Parks group shows love

A core group of Sierrans has started a campaign – **Wisconsin Loves Parks** – to fulfill our obligations as stewards and focus on securing the long-term operating funds needed to support our parks. May 11 has been designated as “Wisconsin Loves Parks Day.”

The Great Waters Group has made plans to host events for park lovers at Havenwoods on Milwaukee's north side and Kohler-Andrae on the Lake Michigan shore near Sheboygan.

The goal is to get 15 to 20 people at each gathering across the state offering recreational activities. We hope this can become an annual event. The Wisconsin Loves Parks team's contact is Katie Hogan at kathryn.hogan@sierraclub.org.

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In the 1960s, the Grounds were largely field and woods comprising about 1,000 acres north and south of Watertown Plank Road roughly from Harwood Avenue near the village west to about Highway 100.

The LSD plan was introduced in early 2017, and while it uses language respectful of the natural environment, it is obviously a blueprint for extensive development with high-rise residential and commercial buildings. It was written for city administrators by consultants with backgrounds in real estate development.

In order for Sanctuary Woods to be conserved, it needs to be re-zoned as a Conservation District, which the city has the authority to do. However, it needs the cooperation of the landowner which is Milwaukee County, especially since the land is in parcels with boundaries that don't correspond exactly to the boundaries of the Sanctuary Woods as described in the LSD plan.

The county has indicated its intention to respect the wishes of the City of Wauwatosa as laid out in the new LSD plan. However, the county must deal with a proposal from a developer to do a project on a parcel to the west of the Woods which also encroaches on the Woods.

This current situation is reminiscent of September 2017 before the County submitted a zoning application which was unacceptable to the city. County Executive Chris Abele, has the power to sell county land not zoned as parkland, without county board approval. This further endangers the woods, which do not have protective zoning.

New regime could change funding for state parks

(Continued from page 1)

Or, as Carolyn Morgan, the J.M. Kohler-Terry Andrae superintendent, writes in the park visitor guide, “DNR has changed the way that Wisconsin State Parks are funded. This change means that Wisconsin State Parks must provide for their own operation expenses, based on revenues generated in the parks.”

The Walker administration's state parks privatization program caused tremendous stress for park employees. Retiring employees were not replaced. New hires were not made. Important routine work — maintaining trails, curtailing invasive species — was done by Friends groups or not done at all.

Visitors to the parks feel the bite in their wallets. Camping fees nearly doubled at some parks and rose 30% overall, according to a representative of the Sierra Club. Many parks now require that campers “pack in and pack out,” meaning they are supposed to pick up their own trash and take it with them because trash collection is no longer available in any but the so-called “premium” parks. You can imagine how well that works.

But state parks now have the opportunity for a comeback. Under our new governor Tony Evers and new DNR Secretary Preston Cole, we have a chance to restore funding for Wisconsin's magnificent parks and to have a DNR that works for all the people of this state and not just the rich. Please let your state legislators know how important parks funding is to you and your family.



**Protect America's Environment
for Our Families, For Our Future**

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County takes a fresh look at Kletzsch Park

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Lucas said the project faces numerous technical and regulatory hurdles. Any design must factor in regulatory requirements for flood control and the speed of water so it will not deter slower-swimming fish species.

The county is required by the state Department of Natural Resources to make repairs to the dam, which was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Fish passage is an add-on, made possible with funds from the county, a federal Great Lakes program, the state's

land stewardship program and the Fund for Lake Michigan, which uses money from a legal settlement over pollution problems at We Energies' Oak Creek power plant.

The plans for Kletzsch come on the heels of the removal of the Estabrook Park dam in 2018. Together, they remove barriers that will allow fish to occupy a larger aquatic system stretching from Lake Michigan to Grafton — a change that will improve fish migration and reproduction.



Thank you to everyone who contributed through workplace giving to the Sierra Club Foundation and Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee.

"I thought we could tweak the design and address the concerns, but it became pretty clear there were more serious concerns with almost any activity on that west bank," County Board President Theo Lipscomb, Sr. said in an interview.

"There is almost no way to eliminate anything that would affect those trees. I think there was a push to scale it way back. Even some said, 'Make the repairs you have to make — don't do fish passage at all.' I don't agree with that."

Mine plans threaten area

(Continued from page 6)

On December 20, 2018, the BLM announced its intention to grant a 10-year renewal of the Twin Metals leases. It released an Environmental Assessment that does not consider denial of the lease renewals, identifies no negative impacts of copper mining or potential harm to the Boundary Waters or downstream landscapes, ignores the existing body of scientific reports and prior public input and provides for minimal public engagement.

Martha Bergland, an opponent of the county's initial design, believes that some of the oak trees that would be lost would have been living in 1850 when Milwaukee's first scientist, Increase Lapham, recorded his observations of effigy mounds built by Native Americans.

"It's a historically significant area," Bergland said. "It was known to be a ceremonial important place."