

LNRP  
P.O. Box 358  
Cleveland, WI 53015

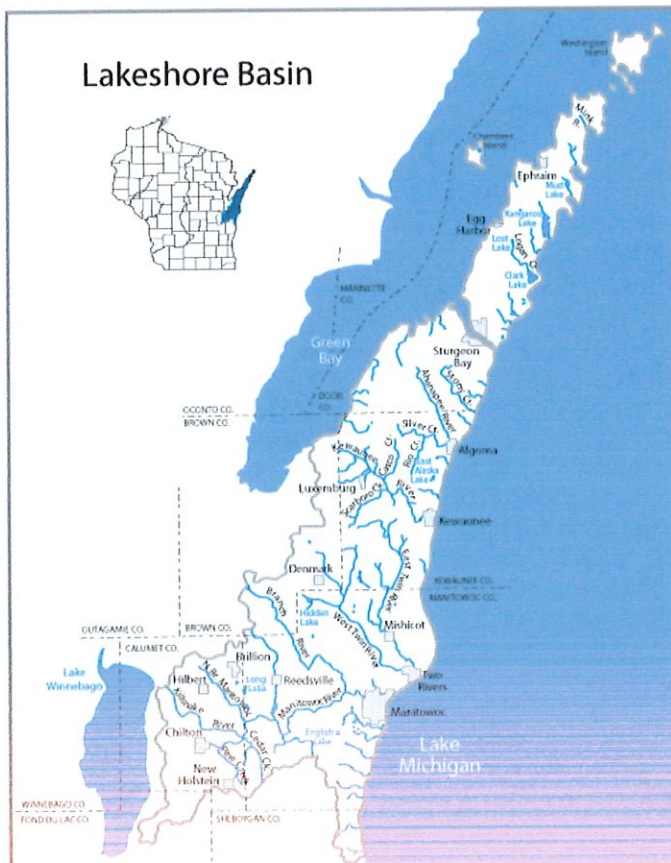


## **The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Inc.**

### **Cultivating Community and Stewardship from the Ledge to the Lakeshore**

#### **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources River Planning Grant RP28716**

#### **Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed Action Plan**



### **Report Materials**

**February 15, 2016 to  
June 30, 2017**

**Jim Kettler,  
Executive Director**

Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed Action Plan  
River Planning Grant RP-287-15  
February 15, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Final Report  
October 2, 2017



## **Project Goals and Objectives**

To support the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed as the group continues to build appreciation for and stewardship of the Manitowoc River.

## **Project Products and Deliverables**

### **I. Education and Outreach**

#### **1. Seminars / Presentations**

- Project RED Workshop
- Safe Lawns, Safe Beaches
- Rain Barrel Workshop
- Manitowoc Kiwanis Club

#### **2. New Logo, Brochure, and Development Package**

- Developed and created a new logo
- Developed and created a new brochure
- Developed a outreach packet for local businesses

#### **3. Newsletter with Stories that mention FMRW**

##### Spring 2016 Newsletter

- LNRP Co-Hosts Saturday Natural History Series
- Lake Michigan Day Celebration in Manitowoc, August 12
- Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed

##### Summer 2016

- LNRP Model of Community Engagement
- Area Volunteers Celebrate Earth Day

##### Fall 2016

- Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed Continue Improving Lake Michigan
- Little Manitowoc Wetland Restoration Project Awaits Federal and State Approval

##### Winter 2017

- Manitowoc Disposal Site Habitat Being Enhanced
- Friends of Manitowoc River Watershed Plans Another Productive Year

- Engaging Barn Dance Chautauqua, September 16!
- Friends of Hika Bay Continuing to Serve and Protect Lake Michigan

## **II. Lower Schuette Park Adopt-a-Park Program**

- Monthly walk-throughs
- Built a ADA compliant approach to the kayak launch with local donated and volunteer labor

## **III. River and Beach Events**

- Beach Clean Up – Spring 2016
- River Clean Up – Spring 2016
- Sub-Fest River Paddle – Summer 2016
- Moonlight River Paddle – Fall 2016
- Beach Clean Up – Fall 2016
- Beach Clean Up – Spring 2017

## **IV. Watershed Ambassador's Camp – Summer 2016**

## **V. Strategic Planning**

### **1. Strategic Planning Meetings**

- February 23, 2016
- March 7, 2016
- April 13, 2016
- LNRP Board Meeting, October 13, 2016
- November 30, 2016
- March 14, 2017

### **2. Calendar of Events**



A Partnership Program Supported by:

- Woodland Dunes Nature Center (WD)
- Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP)
- Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area (LISMA)

RE: Training for Watershed Partners

WD, LNRP and LISMA will co-host training at Woodland Dunes Nature Center on invasive species for watershed partners. Partners will participate in a workshop designed to build capacity for long-term monitoring of invasive species that will build adaptive management plans by watershed.

Session One: Tuesday, July 26 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. including a light supper.

Agenda

4:30 to 5:00 pm: Overview of each group and their invasive species challenges

- Friends of Hika Bay
- Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed
- Friends of the Branch River Watershed
- Friends of the Twin Rivers
- Friends of Crescent Beach
- Sheboygan River Basin Partnership

5:00 to 5:30 pm: Project RED and Snap Shot Day

- Objective: Link the early riverine detection with snap shot day
- Goal: Long-term data base for watershed monitoring
- Capacity: Facilities and workshop support from WD, Programming and development from LNRP, Training and educational outreach from LISMA, participation by watershed partners, funding from River Planning Grants

5:30 to 6:15 pm: Building Our Toolbox

Mark Renz will demonstrate two separate resources, the GLEDN (Great Lakes Early Detection Network) app and IPC-Connect (now called ISM Track). The GLEDN app allows for users to report invasive species observations via your smartphone or tablet. While it also has other resources (identification) the main function is to report the location and extent invaded by a specific species. The ISM Track resource (formerly IPC Connect) allows land managers to assign management information to those observations from a website. This management information can then be summarized into reports that will help track management of invasive species. So while both are useful resources that work together, the GLEDN app can be used independently from ISM-Track.

6:15 to 6:30 pm: Q&A with a light supper



A free program on

# SAFE LAWNS & SAFE BEACHES



**When: Monday, March 20 from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm**

**Where: Wisconsin Maritime Museum**

**75 Maritime Dr. Manitowoc, WI. 54220 (920) 684-0218**

Program Information:

Pat Fitzgerald, Jacksonport resident, initiated the formation of Safe Lawns in Door County, a working group whose mission is to create awareness of the environmental health risks posed by traditional lawn care practices and to provide information regarding viable landscape options that will enhance the habitat for all living creatures. Patrick's presentation will identify health risks posed by synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, explore "best practices" alternatives such as organic lawns, native plants, yardscapes, etc; and he will recommend resources that will assist you in making a difference in your yard, neighborhood and community

Kimberly Busse, a Manitowoc native, now at UW Oshkosh & serving as Great Lakes Beach Association President, will present an understanding of the health of your beach, what is already being done to protect it and what you can do to keep your beaches safe and clean. While visiting the beach with your family can be a relaxing and fun afternoon, there is a lot more to think about before visiting your local beach.



A Proud Program of the:



A Proud program of the:



the **rainbarrel depot**  
YOU CAN SAVE THE PLANET, WE CAN HELP  
ATLANTA, GA

*Reduce your water footprint – Impact the health of your local waters and drinking water source.*

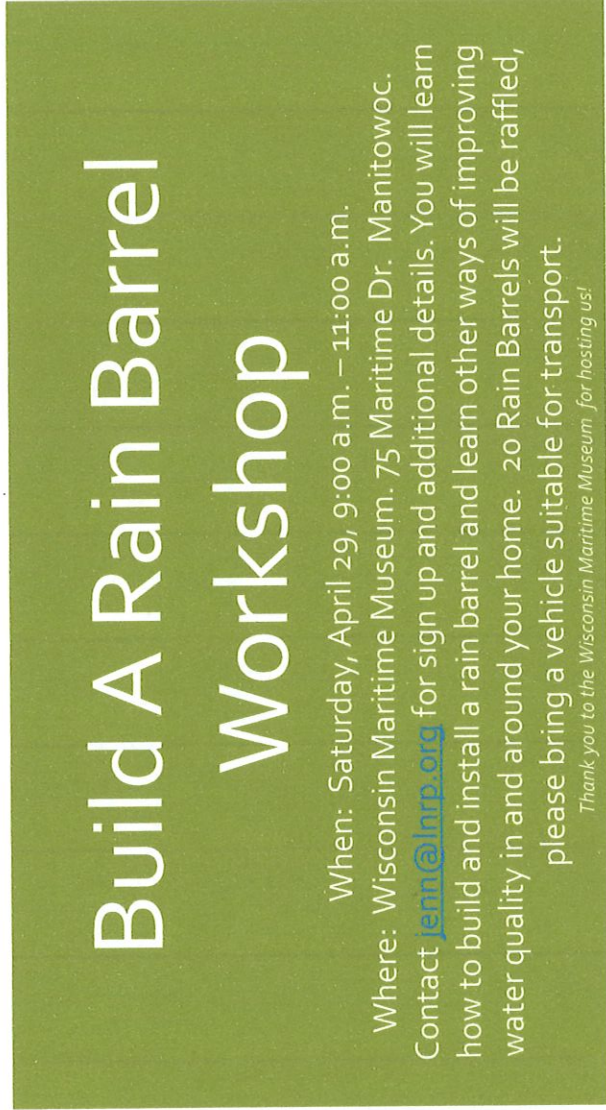
# Build A Rain Barrel Workshop

When: Saturday, April 29, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Where: Wisconsin Maritime Museum, 75 Maritime Dr. Manitowoc.

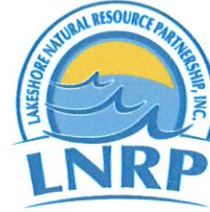
Contact [jenn@lnrp.org](mailto:jenn@lnrp.org) for sign up and additional details. You will learn how to build and install a rain barrel and learn other ways of improving water quality in and around your home. 20 Rain Barrels will be raffled, please bring a vehicle suitable for transport.

*Thank you to the Wisconsin Maritime Museum for hosting us!*





A  
Proud  
Program  
of  
the:



Parkland Dedication Fund

September 15, 2016

RE: Kayak launch at Lower Schuette Park

Dear Manitowoc Parks and Recreation Committee:

The Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed (FMRW) formally adopted Lower Schuette Park in 2014 and installed an ADA compliance kayak launch in 2016. A formal dedication with a ribbon cutting occurred on June 22, 2016. The community-based group has also constructed "Leopold" style benches and a kayak rack for the park.

The Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed (FMRW) and Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) have been key partners involved in developing this kayak launch project. As part of adopting the park, FMRW performs monthly walkthroughs of the park, including the launch area, and notifies the City of any maintenance needed on the launch or other park amenities.

We are proposing to add an easily accessible approach to the kayak launch that would allow all users easy access from the parking lot over what is now a grassy area with a small depression. We have received an engineering design and a material list from Braun Building Center.

Total cost of the project is approximately \$17,500 that includes the designs, material list, labor, kayak rack, and benches. We are requesting \$8,271.86 from the City of Manitowoc's Parkland Dedication Fund for materials. LNRP has committed a 50% match to the project.

The mission of FMRW is to connect people to the Manitowoc River in order to increase awareness, appreciation and use of the river. The group developed the plan to increase river access through the creation of a Kayak/Canoe launch at Lower Schuette Park. We hope you will consider our proposal worthy of funding. We are ready to begin construction of the approach as soon as funding is secured.

Sincerely,

James Kettler, Executive Director

Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

In the winter of 2013, the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed (FMRW) adopted Lower Schuette Park in Manitowoc. The park is situated on 65 acres of land along the scenic Manitowoc River. Since the adoption, FMRW has worked hard to bring people back to this park, and continues to maintain, improve, and plan for future work in the park. This report is to update you as to the current state of the park.

As part of the Adopt-A-Park program, FMRW schedules monthly walk-throughs of the park. Reports are then submitted to the city to let them know about any major things that need to be addressed, but it also gives the city and FMRW gentle reminders of things that need to be done, or things that people would like to see done in the park. Those reports let us know when it is time to do some trail trimming, or if there is something obstructing a trail, if "doggy doo" bags are needed, or if vandalism has occurred. This summer was the first time there was a "Port-A-Potty" made available to the park, so our friendly walk-through volunteers kept an eye on that for us as well. Volunteers also often pick up trash while walking through the park.

In the spring of 2016, an ADA compliant kayak launch was installed in Lower Schuette Park, giving our city a place to have organized paddles and a great place to host events that bring people to the park. A bench and kayak rack have also been donated to the park by FMRW, as well as garbage and recycling receptacles. The spring of 2017 brought the addition of a boardwalk that makes for easy access to the launch from the parking lot. A railing is in the process of being added to the boardwalk. We have had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the kayak launch, and the local television show "Discover Wisconsin" came down to the park and the kayak launch this summer to film a segment about paddling opportunities in Manitowoc County.

A wish list has been made for the park, and many things have already been accomplished. The stairs within the park have been a huge concern for a long time, and this summer, there were repairs made to some of the areas that needed it most. Benches that needed painting have been painted. Potholes and ruts in the trails continue to be filled. Lighting has long been a safety issue in the parking lot, and last month, large light posts were added. FMRW has worked with the city to allocate funds for future projects, like trail mapping and informative signage for the trails. There are plans to start addressing areas of the park where invasive species are an issue with "Project Red", which is a program that provides training to recognize and learn about invasive species that are of local concern and make plans for eradication. It is a great program that will improve the health of the park.

Overall, I think the state of the park is well on its way to great. We will continue to identify key issues and challenges facing the park and work to address them. We will also continue to provide stewardship activities and set and accomplish goals to maintain and improve the park.



Benches that were in need of painting have been painted!



Stairs in need of repair, have been repaired!



Our ADA-Compliant Kayak Launch has been well received and well used. There have been additions, such as a bench and kayak racks and a boardwalk that goes from the launch to the parking lot.



*Kayak launch at Lower Schuette Park installed with the help of the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed*





We have put in garbage and recycling bins in the parking lot, and the city has gifted us with lighting now!



RP28716

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
**BEACH CLEAN UP**

APRIL 23, 2016 ☀ 9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

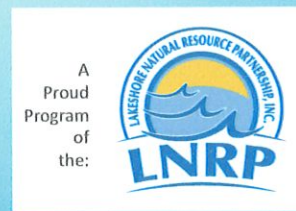
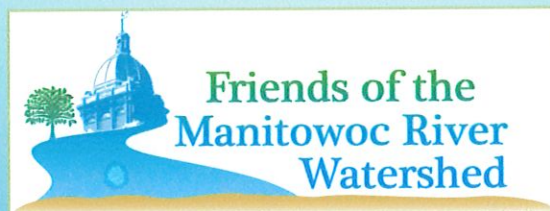
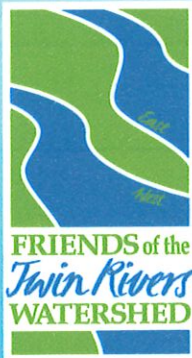


Join us and be a volunteer, help keep the Manitowoc & Two Rivers beaches clean



To register for Manitowoc, contact: [fmrwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fmrwinfo@gmail.com)  
or call Kim @ 920-242-1993

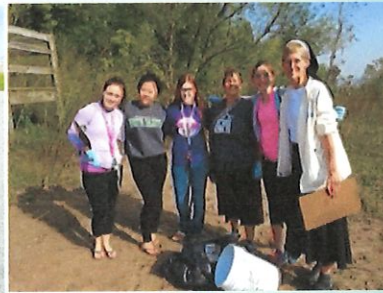
To register for Two Rivers, contact: [djbjdebruyn@lakefield.net](mailto:djbjdebruyn@lakefield.net)  
or call Don @ 920-553-4941  
[www.lnnp.org](http://www.lnnp.org)



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

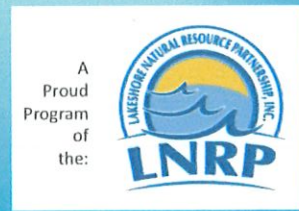
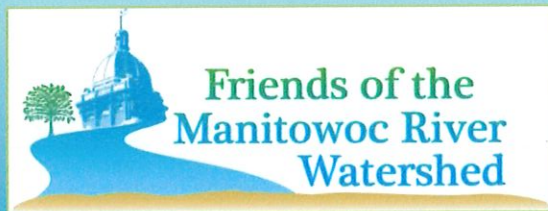
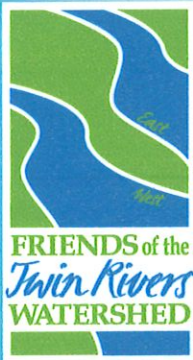
# BEACH CLEAN UP

APRIL 22, 2017 ☀ 9:00 – 11:30 A.M.



To register for Manitowoc, contact: [fmrwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fmrwinfo@gmail.com)  
or call Kim @ 920-242-1993

To register for Two Rivers, contact: [ddebruyn80@gmail.com](mailto:ddebruyn80@gmail.com)  
or call Don @ 920-553-4941  
[www.lnrp.org](http://www.lnrp.org)



# Lake Michigan Beach Clean Up Volunteer Day

**Saturday, September 19**

**9:00—11:00 a.m.**

**Manitowoc, WI**



**A great opportunity to  
give back to your  
community beaches.**

**We are cleaning eight  
beaches this fall -**

**Silver Creek,  
University, Red Arrow,  
Lincoln H.S., Warm  
Waters, Ferry, YMCA and  
Maritime Boat Launch.**

**Sign up today!**

**Kim Kettner:  
920-242-1993**



A  
Proud  
Program  
of  
the:



# Manitowoc River Clean Up



Saturday, June 4

9:00 a.m.

Lower Schuette  
Park

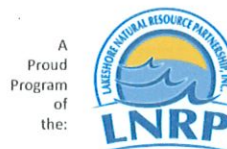
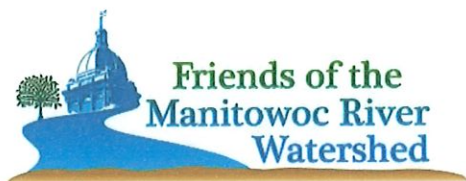
Help keep the  
Manitowoc River &  
Schuette Park clean  
by:

- Canoe
- Kayak
- Foot

Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed adopted Lower Schuette Park two years ago and added a kayak launch last fall with help from the City of Manitowoc. A ribbon-cutting dedication ceremony is being planned for June 22 so watch for details.

Lower Schuette Park, 3800 Broadway St. Manitowoc, WI. 54220

Contact Kim for more information: 920-242-1993







IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 23, 2016  
CONTACT: Kim Kettner, 920-242-1993

*Manitowoc County Volunteer Group Plans River Clean-up June 4*

*Manitowoc, Wis.* -- The Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed invites area citizens to join them Saturday, June 4, to help clean up litter and other debris in the Manitowoc River.

Participants will meet at Lower Schuette Park in Manitowoc at 9:00 a.m. with their own canoes or kayaks. They will provide all cleaning supplies needed.

Group co-founder Kim Kettner said, "For those who don't want to paddle, we also need people to walk along the shoreline at Schuette Parks to collect litter. Please join us to help make a difference in the beauty and health of our adopted City park and the Manitowoc River."

They organize two beach clean ups in the spring and fall each year along with a river clean up. To date, they have removed several tons of garbage from Manitowoc's beaches and the Manitowoc River.

The group adopted Lower Schuette Park two years ago and added a kayak launch last fall with help from the City of Manitowoc. A ribbon-cutting dedication ceremony is being planned for June 22 so watch for details. For more information, contact Kim at 920-242-1993.

##

---

We collected 50 lbs. of litter and a huge water logged sofa. Mother Nature was supposed to be cranky but we chose to hold the event to an hour to get everyone off the river before 11:00 am. and stormy weather. Everything was on track until one of our paddlers paddled up at 10:05 and wondered if we would be up to the task of removing a sofa from the river. It took us about a hour but we were able to cut the cushions off the sofa and balance it on the canoe. Once we stabilized it we paddled back to Schuette Park and managed to get it on shore. The real story is the person who found the sofa is handicapped and was using our new launch for the first time. He was able to help us in this event a whole lot easier with the new launch. He still needed some assistance because we don't have the approach assembled yet.



**Immediate Release: August 22, 2016**

**Contact: Sara Schuetze, Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed,  
saraschuetze@ymail.com**

***River Paddle, Light Brigade, Beach Clean-Ups, and More!***

Governor Walker, in partnership with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, has proclaimed September as Coastal Awareness Month. To celebrate and enjoy our coastal resources in Manitowoc, join the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed (FMRW) on September 16 and 17 for a weekend of fun, service and education.

Activities begin on Friday at 7:15 p.m. at the kayak launch in Lower Schuette Park. Bring your kayak or canoe and enjoy a leisurely paddle on the Manitowoc River under the rising full moon.

The Milwaukee-based Overpass Light Brigade (OLB) will make Friday evening extra special. This group has helped communities all over the US and world share messages about peace, justice and sustainability, delivered through the use of lightweight signs made with LED lights. The September 16 message in lighted letters held up by community members will be: "We All Live on the Water."

As OLB co-founder Lane Hall says, "...[the message] goes from being a graphic display to being a community-building endeavor." To participate as a sign holder, contact Sara Schuetze at [saraschuetze@ymail.com](mailto:saraschuetze@ymail.com). Meet at 1000 Franklin Street in the parking lot of the former Associated Bank building at 8 p.m.

On Saturday morning beginning at 9 a.m., continue the experience by lending a hand at one of two beach clean-ups. To volunteer for a Manitowoc beach, contact: Kim Kettner at 920-242-1993 or email [fmrwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fmrwinfo@gmail.com). To volunteer for a Two Rivers beach, contact Don DeBruyn at 920-553-4941 or email [djbjdebruyn@gmail.com](mailto:djbjdebruyn@gmail.com).

Finally, on Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Russ Green, the Regional Coordinator at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the proposed Wisconsin-Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary, will deliver a presentation on the proposed sanctuary designation assigned to Wisconsin's coastal region earlier this year. Cost to attend the museum presentation is \$5. The museum is currently hosting an exhibition on the sanctuary project that brings the endeavor to life for visitors of all ages.

As FMRW member Sara Schuetze says, "There are many ways to lend a hand and learn new things this September weekend. Please bring friends and family to celebrate and learn. All of us can participate with the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed, becoming informed stewards of our coastline, our river, and the Great Lake it feeds."

#####

**Immediate Release: August 2, 2017**

**Contact: Kim Kettner, co-leader Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed, (920) 242-1993**

***Full Moon Paddle on the Manitowoc River***

*Manitowoc* -- Join the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed next Monday night, August 7 at 8:15 p.m., to experience being on the Manitowoc River under the full moon.

Bring your kayaks, canoes and paddle boards, and life jackets (required) to the new boat launch at Lower Henry Schuette Park, past the playground by the river, in Manitowoc. If weather permits, you can watch the moon show her face as you approach Lake Michigan on the water.

The excursion will end at the Manitowoc YMCA where you will be shuttled to your vehicles. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Kim, (920) 242-1993.

##

Hi Jenn, it was a huge group! They maxed out all the kayaks from the marina. Kim and Amy, our estimate of total people is probably around 50, wouldn't you say? We were so spread out, but based on the kayaks and then the extra people who brought their own, that would probably be accurate. You can download a few photos that Kim posted on the FMRW Facebook page or maybe Amy has some, too? I only took two photos and they're no different than Kim's.



# Watershed Ambassadors Summer Camp

August 1-5, 2016 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



POINT BEACH



ROTARY CLUB  
OF MANITOWOC, WI  
SUNRISE



Local Connections . . . Global Impact



## Planned Schedule

*Arrival and pickup from camp is at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, 75 Maritime Drive, Manitowoc unless otherwise noted in the schedule. Students need to bring their own bag lunches/snacks, water bottles/beverages and wear clothes that suit the weather and activities each day!*

### Monday, August 1:

At the Wisconsin Maritime Museum for brief intro of new camp friends and the projects being done this year; city bus to the Manitowoc Rapids area for storm drain stenciling service project); then out to Collins Marsh for the afternoon: Manitowoc River Watershed, canoeing on the marsh, view from the tower, water testing, fish sampling and identification.

### Tuesday, August 2:

Start at WMM for overview and review; then walk to Warm Waters for beach cleanup; visit the Little Manitowoc River for water testing, invasive species identification, minnow traps; lunch, then tobacco/beach exhibit set up in the Wisconsin Maritime Museum and project prep. Supper at the museum, followed by Overnight Program aboard USS *Cobia*. **PLEASE NOTE, WE NEED ONE MALE CHAPERONE AND ONE FEMALE CHAPERONE FOR THIS OVERNIGHT PROGRAM!**

### Wednesday, August 3:

Start at WMM for review and overview; bus to Michael J. Dodge Nature Preserve on the Branch River north of Whitelaw; river study, invasive plant species, water testing, habitat study, crayfish study, lunch then kayak the Manitowoc River

### Thursday, August 4: PLEASE NOTE WE NEED ALL TO ARRIVE AT 8:00 today for earlier departure to Milwaukee!

Bus to Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences to learn about what water scientists are working on right now; lunch (students should bring money for lunch); then back to Manitowoc for fishing, swimming, project prep in the afternoon.

### Friday, August 5:

Final project completion time with their groups; lunch; then cruise on the *Skyline Princess* on the Manitowoc River and Lake Michigan to do water testing.

### **Camp project:**

The campers will be split into three groups and each group will be working on a project. The three topics for the projects are: beach data (litter), water science topics from School of Freshwater Science, and applying ROVs to Great Lakes issues.

For each activity that we do, the campers will need to come up with an investigative question that they can then answer. This question can be one that applies to their project topic or one that intrigues them. They will be held accountable to answering these questions. They can share their questions with other groups if it helps with their projects!

## Watershed Ambassador's Camp

This past summer, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum had 14 kids partake in the Watershed Ambassador's Camp. This was an all-day week-long camp. Every day was spent doing different activities to help the students learn and engage with the Manitowoc River Watershed. Some of the things that we did at camp were kayak on the Manitowoc River, storm stencil, canoe at Collin's Marsh, fish, and visit the Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences!



## Calendar of Events 2016

Jan. 30	Wisconsin Wetlands Program 1:00 pm. Wisconsin Maritime Museum POC: Wendy Lutzke	<b>Monthly Event Adopt-a-Park, Walk Through, POC: Connie Specht &amp; Sara Schuetze</b>
Feb. 27	The Ice Age Trail 1:00 pm Wisconsin Maritime Museum POC: Jim Kettler	
Mar. 19	Birds of the Lake MI Shoreline 1:00 pm Wisconsin Maritime Museum POC: Jim Kettler	
Apr 23	Beach Cleanup, 9:00 am POC: Kim Kettner	
Apr. 23	Earth Day at YMCA, Time – Following Beach Cleanup (Date Not Confirmed) POC: Need Volunteer/Tony Fodden	
Jun 4	River Cleanup POC: Kim Kettner Put in Schuette Park, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	
Jun 22 or 23	Grand Opening of the Kayak Launch Schuette Park POC: LNRP/Park Department/YMCA/FMRW	
Jul 9	SubFest River Paddle Put in Schuette Park, 10:45 am POC: Wendy Lutzke	
Aug 1-5	Watershed Ambassador Camp Wisconsin Maritime Museum POC: Wendy Lutzke/Titus Seilheimer	
Aug 12	Lake Michigan Day UW-Manitowoc or spend time along the lake POC: Wendy Lutzke	
Aug. 27	AIS Bridge Snapshot Day <del>(Date Not Confirmed)</del> <b>September 10</b> POC: Amy Fettes	
Sep 16	Evening Paddle (Full Moon) *Looking for fun, creative ideas example – bonfire, dance on the beach Put in Schuette Park, 6:45 pm POC: Kim Kettner/Wendy Lutzke	
Sep 17	Beach Cleanup, 9:00 am POC: Kim Kettner	





## Calendar of Events 2017

- Mar. 20      Safe Lawns and Safe Beaches  
6:00 – 8:00pm pm Wisconsin Maritime Museum  
Storm Drain Stenciling Promotion  
Well Water Testing Kit Give Away  
POC: Kim Busse, Pat Fitzgerald and Jim Kettler
- Apr 22      Beach Cleanup, 9:00 am  
POC: Kim Kettner
- Apr. 29      Rain Barrel Workshop 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Wisconsin Maritime Museum  
Jim, Jenn, Wendy and Kim
- Jul 8      SubFest River Paddle (\*River Grant)  
Put in Schuette Park  
Those using kayaks from the Marina be at Schuette Park by 10:00 am, put in at 10:15 am.  
**Those bringing their own canoes or kayaks should arrive at 10:30 am for launch by 10:45 am.**  
POC: Wendy Lutzke and Kim Kettner
- Jul. 9      Subfest Display  
Magnet Give-away  
Kim Kettner/Wendy Lutzke
- Jul 15      River Cleanup  
POC: Kim Kettner  
Put in Schuette Park, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Jul 17      Project Red Training  
Wisconsin Maritime Museum  
Amanda Perzock, Amy Fettes, Titus Seilheimer
- July 31      Watershed Ambassador Camp  
Aug 5      Wisconsin Maritime Museum  
POC: Matt/Titus Seilheimer
- Aug. 7      Moonlight Paddle (Full Moon) \*bonfire???  
Put in Schuette Park Sunset 8:11 pm  
POC: Kim Kettner/Wendy Lutzke
- Aug. 5      AIS Bridge Snapshot Day  
POC: Amy Fettes and Titus Seiheimer
- Sep 16      Beach Cleanup, 9:00 am  
POC: Kim Kettner
- Oct. 16      TMDL Seminar  
POC: Todd Brennan, Jim Kettler

In the winter of 2013, the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed (FMRW) adopted Lower Schuette Park in Manitowoc. The park is situated on 65 acres of land along the scenic Manitowoc River. Since the adoption, FMRW has worked hard to bring people back to this park, and continues to maintain, improve, and plan for future work in the park. This report is to update you as to the current state of the park.

As part of the Adopt-A-Park program, FMRW schedules monthly walk-throughs of the park. Reports are then submitted to the city to let them know about any major things that need to be addressed, but it also gives the city and FMRW gentle reminders of things that need to be done, or things that people would like to see done in the park. Those reports let us know when it is time to do some trail trimming, or if there is something obstructing a trail, if “doggy doo” bags are needed, or if vandalism has occurred. This summer was the first time there was a “Port-A-Potty” made available to the park, so our friendly walk-through volunteers kept an eye on that for us as well. Volunteers also often pick up trash while walking through the park.

In the spring of 2016, an ADA compliant kayak launch was installed in Lower Schuette Park, giving our city a place to have organized paddles and a great place to host events that bring people to the park. A bench and kayak rack have also been donated to the park by FMRW, as well as garbage and recycling receptacles. The spring of 2017 brought the addition of a boardwalk that makes for easy access to the launch from the parking lot. A railing is in the process of being added to the boardwalk. We have had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the kayak launch, and the local television show “Discover Wisconsin” came down to the park and the kayak launch this summer to film a segment about paddling opportunities in Manitowoc County.

A wish list has been made for the park, and many things have already been accomplished. The stairs within the park have been a huge concern for a long time, and this summer, there were repairs made to some of the areas that needed it most. Benches that needed painting have been painted. Potholes and ruts in the trails continue to be filled. Lighting has long been a safety issue in the parking lot, and last month, large light posts were added. FMRW has worked with the city to allocate funds for future projects, like trail mapping and informative signage for the trails. There are plans to start addressing areas of the park where invasive species are an issue with “Project Red”, which is a program that provides training to recognize and learn about invasive species that are of local concern and make plans for eradication. It is a great program that will improve the health of the park.

Overall, I think the state of the park is well on its way to great. We will continue to identify key issues and challenges facing the park and work to address them. We will also continue to provide stewardship activities and set and accomplish goals to maintain and improve the park.