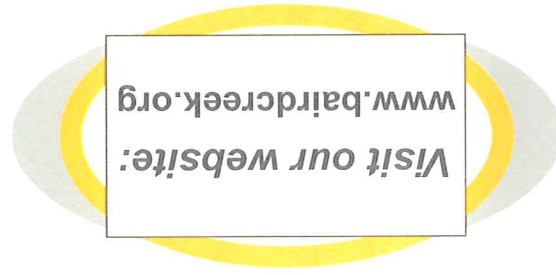


THE CREEK'S COURSE



Baird Creek Preservation Foundation

Summer 2010



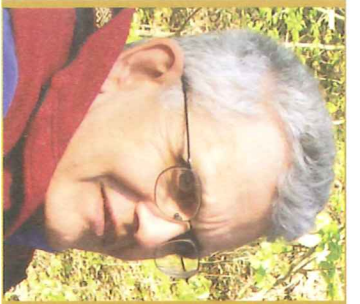
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www.bairdcreek.org

BAIRD CREEK
Preservation Foundation Inc.

P.O. Box 824
Green Bay, WI 54305-0824



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Letter from the President

In 2009 the foundation embarked on its first habitat restoration projects. There are two restoration sites and at both we are working to restore the oak savanna habitat that was there in pre settlement times. An oak savanna is largely grassland with occasional oak and in our case hickory trees. The larger of these sites is off of McKenzie Lane and its initial phase of restoration was done in conjunction with city Parks Department and Public Works department projects. In this initial phase volunteers planted more than a hundred trees and a large area was seeded in native plants.

crest of the hills will be pretty spectacular.

As we proceed with these projects, there will be numerous opportunities for volunteer participation throughout the seasons as we clear gather seed and plant. The work is great fun and a chance to make a visible difference while restoring a piece of our cultural heritage and creating wonderful habitat. Please lend your hand to the process. Contact Maureen Meinhardt to add your name to the list of volunteers.

Sincerely,

David Hemstreet

This year we will begin the gradual process of removing trees on the south facing hills to open the ground to more sunlight and allow any remnant native grassland plants to re-emerge. These hillsides already have large oak and hickory trees that matured in open environments. We will restore these to prominence. In the future, the view from north bound I-43 and the view from the

Membership Appeal

Thank you to all of our donors (masterplan.htm).

and volunteers over the last year. With your donations we have been able to eradicate thousands of invasive species plants, we are close to purchasing many acres of beautiful and strategically located land, and we have planted 120 new trees in the Parkway. But our work is not complete. The battle with invasive species will continue in 2010, and we'll need volunteers and equipment to handle it. We also need to better understand not only the extent of the water quality problems in Baird Creek, but also the source(s). The erosion problems in the Parkway will only get worse as time goes by, unless we are able to fix them. And finally, we need to provide adequate staff and support to achieve the goals laid out in our Master Plan (available online at www.bairdcreek.org/

- Anticipated activities for the next year include:
- Invasive Plant Eradication
- Prairie Restoration
- Trail Planning and Improvements
- Signage
- Erosion Control
- Waterflow Modeling
- Land Purchase

We estimate that these activities will cost \$80,000 - \$100,000 (not including the cost of any land purchased). Your generous assistance is appreciated. Please use the attached form or contact us at execdirector@bairdcreek.org or (920) 328-3505.

Please circle your desired membership level:

Friend \$10 Member \$35 Pathfinder \$100 Trailblazer \$500 Greenway Voyager \$1000

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Additional donation: _____

Total Enclosed Amount: _____

A Natural Partnership

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation teams up with YIPES!™ artist Joyce Fritz to create an exclusive jewelry design for BCPF members

It seems only natural that BCPF and Joyce Fritz should work together...we are all inspired by the beauty of nature. Joyce captures this beauty in her unique and inspiring jewelry creations, and she has agreed to create an exclusive design for BCPF members.



and members donating \$250 or more will receive the larger insect pin.

According to Joyce, a UWGB graduate, "Art, science, and humor come together in my work." This is evident in her whimsical designs. She markets her work mostly on a wholesale basis, selling to galleries, shops, and museum stores nationwide. Additional information on the artist and her work is available at www.joycefritz.com.

The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation wishes to thank Joyce wholeheartedly for her generosity. With supporters like Joyce, we become closer to reaching our goals every day!

JOIN THE BAIRD CREEK PRESERVATION FOUNDATION BY FILLING OUT THE FORM (NEXT PAGE) AND MAILING IT BACK TO:

BAIRD CREEK PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 824
GREEN BAY, WI 54305-0824

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and your donation may be tax deductible.

Summer Interns Document the Creek

Meg Harvey and Linda Filo were the 2009 summer interns with Baird Creek Preservation Foundation. Both students of UW-Green Bay, Meg graduated in 2008 with degrees in Environmental Science and Biology and Linda was a graduate student in the Environmental Policy and Planning program. Meg and Linda picked up where Kari Petrashek (our 2008 summer intern) left off last summer, and finished research and documentation for 80 of the 122 vegetation units, covering the entire 400 acre parkway. Completing the 122 vegetation units means everything from identifying trail and research needs, vandalism, and erosion issues, to identifying plant and animal species. They

then put together management recommendations for the Board's consideration. Their impact on conservation and management efforts for the Parkway is crucial because a detailed record allows for efficient and effective management decisions to be made.

Over the course of the summer Meg and Linda also worked to control invasive species such as Gypsy Moths, Buckthorn and garlic mustard, led Young Neighbors in Action to complete 240 volunteer hours of invasive species removal.

Meg and Linda were great additions to the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation last summer and they did an excellent job! Thank you Meg and Linda!

Wisconsin Species of Special Concern found in Baird Creek



In June, 2009, BCPF summer interns Meg Harvey and Linda Filo found *Ororibanche uniflora* (one-flowered broomrape), a Species of Special Concern in Wisconsin and a Brown County record. This rare plant typically grows in moist woods and streambanks, is 2" - 8" tall, and is parasitic on many types of plants. Interns found this unique species in three locations in Baird Creek parkway... just one more reason to protect the park we love!

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation Annual Banquet



Thanks to all that attended our 12th annual banquet and meeting on March 22, 2010. Over 100 people came to celebrate our successes and listen to our guest speaker, Paul Linzmyer.



We also said farewell to four of our Board members. Gary Baier, Jill Fermanich, Steve Lambert and Crystal Osman have fulfilled their terms on the Board of Directors, and we appreciate their service. They all have agreed to continue to help on an ad hoc basis, and we will take them up on their offers!

The meeting concluded with special awards given to two Eagle Scouts that completed projects in the Parkway this year, as well as Joyce Fritz, an artist that has donated some unique and beautiful jewelry to be given to those that donate to BCPF at certain levels (See pages 10 and 11 for more information).

Some additional highlights of our banquet included the results from our Board Appeal. The 17 members of our Board of Directors gave over \$7,000 to the Foundation this year, in ad-



Baird Creek Preservation Foundation received an extension to the DNR Urban Forestry Grant and were able to restore an additional site. This site is located on McKenzie Lane, just at the edge of the Parkway. In order to alleviate erosion issues plaguing the creek, a stormwater retention pond was created. Equipment necessary to construct the pond disturbed existing habitat, and BCPF used this opportunity to research the pre-settlement habitat that existed in this area hundreds of years ago. We discovered that it was likely an oak savanna, and set about finding funding, gaining permission, and organizing volunteers to restore this area as much as possible to its original state.

We are working to restore the oak savanna and have received much support from the City of Green Bay Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, and the City Forester Mark Preburg. Eagle Scout Charlie Goldhahn built educational signs in the area that tell the history of the site. Brock Robinson donated and helped plant over 100 seedlings. This restoration was also made possible by the hard work of the BCPF Land Management Committee. Many volunteers assisted us in planting the oak saplings on Earth Day in 2009.

Our interns are currently managing this site to ensure the survival of our oak seedlings by removing any gypsy moth caterpillars from the seedlings. They recently created a map and documented the status of each seedling to better monitor this site. The City of Green Bay has assisted us in the continued maintenance of this site by watering and trimming the saplings, as well as mowing the site in order to control the invasive species.

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation would like to thank everyone for their help in making the restorations possible including the DNR for providing us with the Urban Forestry Grant.

Check out our new website
@ www.bairdcreek.org

Restoration Projects at Baird Creek



In an effort to improve the quality of wildlife habitat in the area, Baird Creek Preservation Foundation has been busy working on some restoration projects.

One of the restoration sites is located near the Highway 54/57 interchange and Huron Road. This restoration site is a result of a Department of Transportation project when Highway 54/57 was redone. There is a shared responsibility for this site involving the City of Green

Bay and Brown County. Baird Creek Preservation Foundation received \$1500 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Grant in April of 2007. BCPF was responsible for an in-kind match for volunteer hours. Glacierland RC&D assisted BCPF in getting the grant. Burr Oak trees were planted at the site along with dogwood, juniper, and serviceberry. The trees were purchased from and delivered by Tillman Landscaping. The City of Green Bay dug holes for the trees, and BCPF volunteers placed the trees in the ground. Mulch was spread around the trees and collars were placed on the trees to protect them. The planting took place on Earth Day. Mayor Jim Schmitt, along with some City Council members were present on the day of the planting.

As part of the grant contract, BCPF is responsible for site maintenance for 3 years. Brown County took on the responsibility of watering the trees. Last year there was a gypsy moth infestation that was resolved by Baird Creek volunteers. We removed the caterpillars from the trees, wrapped the trees with burlap, and replaced the protective collars. Most of the trees recovered well, some died and had to be replaced. Work is still in progress by our interns who are managing this site. They continue to monitor the seedlings for infestations and clear unwanted vegetation from encroaching on the seedlings.

We can officially say that this particular site appears to be a successful restoration project

**Baird Creek is
now on
Facebook!**

Baird Creek Earthfest Leaves Park Pristine

Over 100 volunteers participated in the Earth Week cleanup Saturday April 17th at Baird Creek Park. The park was cleaned of garbage from

end to end. Our volunteers included student and church groups, scout troops, and many families helped. One team also painted over graffiti on two of the bridges in the park. The Lenss family put in a full day clearing the trails of fallen trees. The BCPF would like to thank Fleet Farm for donating garbage bags, McDonalds for orange drink, Kavarna for coffee and breakfast bars, and the Lamberts for their generous donation of bagels, cream cheese, and fruit. We would like to thank the group from Kohl's for their support of education activities at Baird Creek. And a special thank you goes out to Jodi Arendt for organizing the entire Earth Week's activities and providing publicity for all of the events.



UPCOMING HIKES



Hikes are every third Saturday at 1 p.m. from Christa McAuliffe. As always, dress for the weather! Check our calendar on www.bairdcreek.org for updates, as hike themes may change.

Sept. 18: Fish Hike, wear rubber boots or sandals if you want to get wet.

Oct. 16: Fall Colors

Nov. 20: Geology

Dec. 18: Winter Wonderland

Eagle Scout Projects at the Creek

Construction and Character...



Two Eagle Scouts completed projects in the Parkway in 2009. A high-quality boardwalk was constructed near Superior Road (just south of the railroad tracks) that will serve to alleviate erosion problems and make it easier for hikers and bikers to get through the area. This project was led by Eagle Scout Chris Harrison with guidance from Board Member Charlie Frisk and Dan Ditscheit from the Green Bay Parks and Recreation Department.



Another important Eagle Scout project in the Parkway involved construction and installation of several permanent educational signs at the site of an Oak Savannah restoration project near McKenzie Lane. Charlie Goldhahn managed this project with help from Board Member David Hensstreet and Green Bay Parks and Recreation staff members Dan Ditscheit and Molly Tomasallo.



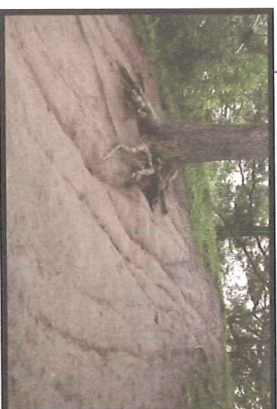
Our Executive Director has additional information on Eagle Scout project ideas that could be completed in the Baird Creek Parkway. If interested please contact Maureen Meinhardt at

328-3505.

or (920)

Baird Creek is a wonderful place!

Our goal for the Baird Creek Parkway is to preserve and restore native woodlands, wetlands and prairies. Along with restoration of the lands adjacent to the creek much work has been started to meet another goal – that of crystal clear waters. Baird Creek at spring runoff and heavy rainy periods runs brown from soil erosion. A plan is being developed to greatly decrease erosion. That plan includes buffering (with dense vegetation of grasses and wildflowers) 150 feet on each side of the stream so sediments and nutrients are caught before the runoff water enters the stream. This works well in the non-wooded upstream sites. At the same time in appropriate locations wetlands will be introduced to clean up and hold the water longer upstream, leading to more of an even flow. Closer to town many retention ponds have been built with more to come. They are set up so with a large rainfall or spring runoff they



can hold the water and with a small diameter pipe allow the water to enter the stream at a slower pace. The water comes off the top of the pond after the sediments drop to the bottom. Does all this cost money? Definitely. We are now working on some grants to help make this happen. Grants won't cover engineering studies or administrative costs to make this all happen. That is where some of you might help.

The Baird Creek Board started the work of giving money for these purposes. In 2009 the Board donated \$10,000 and in 2010, \$7700 so far. We would like to extend the opportunity to our members to help us clean up our water. Enclosed is a brochure for your gift. No amount is too small or too large.

Paul Hartman, Advancement Committee


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Preservation Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 824
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www.bairdcreek.org



**BAIRD CREEK PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
WINTER 2010**


BAIRD CREEK
Preservation Foundation

Letter From the President



Several members of our Board of Directors have received comments about the newly paved trail section that extends from Danz Ave. to the parking lot on Baird Creek Road. When people seek you out to give you comments it is usually because they are very pleased or very upset. In this case it was predominantly the latter. So I thought it would be appropriate to devote some space to talking about the trail, how it came to be, what have we have learned, and where we go from here.

A number of comments centered on the total width of the trail and the amount of vegetation impacted by its route. Several major factors influenced the trails route and construction.

One of the largest factors impacting route and construction was the source of the funding for the trail, the Department of Transportation. DOT funding brings along with it a large number of stipulations about such things as surface material, width, the minimum allowable radius of a turn, the maximum grade of a hill and the list goes on. All of these made it impossible to just surface one of the trails that already existed and resulted in some very wide and disturbed sections in the new trail.

A second major influence was the parkway itself. The creek and the wetlands in the parkway are environmentally sensitive areas and dictate places that the trail can not go. Significant portions of the original trail were created by hikers and bikers with little if any knowledge of or appreciation of these issues. Because an "official" trail requires concurrence of the City, County, and DNR and consideration of these issues, it was again not possible to just surface an existing trail.

While the trail project is even older, the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation started a dialogue with the city about the trail around four years ago. This was The Foundation's first real attempt to work with the City to influence a project. We were naive about the amount of effort that would be required to get the trail we envisioned. We envisioned a "nature" trail and one would be hard pressed to describe the new trail as a "nature" trail.

We are disappointed in several aspects of the trail but we have learned a lot about what it will take to develop a comprehensive trail system in the parkway. Future trails will require that a balance be struck between preservation of the natural areas of the park and development of the park as a public place. The more the city sees us as legitimately representing the public, the more impact we can have.

The new trail provides us with an opportunity help restore the trail edge and create sustainable points of access to the creek. If you feel strongly about the trails, consider volunteering to become part of our trails committee.

Sincerely,
David Hemstreet

Membership Appeal

Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers over the last year. With your donations, we have been able to eradicate thousands of invasive species plants, we are close to purchasing many acres of beautiful and strategically located land and we have planted 120 new trees in the Parkway. But our work is not complete. The battle with invasive species will continue in 2010, and we'll need volunteers and equipment to handle it. We also need to better understand not only the extent of the water quality problems in Baird Creek, but also the source(s). The erosion problems in the Parkway will only get worse as time goes by, unless we are able to fix them. And finally, we need to provide adequate staff and support to achieve the goals laid out in our Master Plan (available online at www.bairdcreek.org).

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- Land Purchase

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Please circle your desired membership level:

Member \$35 Pathfinder \$100 Trailblazer \$500 Greenway Voyager \$1000

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Additional donation: _____

Total enclosed amount: _____

Bird City

We are pleased to announce that Green Bay is one of Wisconsin's Bird Cities! Wisconsin communities that come together to help protect birds by choosing from an array of different bird conservation activities will receive designation and public recognition as a Wisconsin Bird City. Baird Creek Preservation Foundation in collaboration with Mike Reed, from the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Nancy Nabak, Community Volunteer, and City Alderman, Ned Dorf, took the necessary steps to establish Green Bay as a Wisconsin Bird City.

Wisconsin's Bird City is a coalition led by the Milwaukee Audubon Society, the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Their goal is to ensure that Wisconsin's city residents maintain healthy populations of birds and grow an appreciation for them. They have developed a new community recognition program called Bird City Wisconsin which is modeled on the successful nationwide program Tree City USA, a community improvement project sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, which Green Bay is already a part of.

Bird City Wisconsin participants can learn how to: protect and manage greenspace, landscape with native plants in backyards and parks, adopt architecture and lighting systems that reduce bird collisions, and make their community hospitable to breeding, wintering, and migrating birds that seek safe places to spend time and find food.

As part of becoming a Bird City, the community establishes an International Migratory Bird Day Event. Green Bay's event will be held at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in May 2011 in conjunction with their Spring Wings Event. Also watch for Baird Creek Preservation Foundation's upcoming Bird Walks. Come and join us to celebrate this new and exciting recognition of Bird City Wisconsin!

Baird Creek Riparian Protection Project



The Strum Buffer. Story County, IA. June, 2001. Photo by Tom Schultz

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation in partnership with Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department has received a \$377,354 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The project will start in 2010 and continue through 2012.

The project will focus on working with land owners to create and properly maintain buffer strips on agricultural lands along the creek and its tributaries in key sections of the Baird Creek Watershed. The goal of the project is to reduce agriculture nutrient and pesticide runoff, as well as sediment loading into Baird Creek and ultimately the Lower Fox River and the bay of Green Bay. This project will enhance and protect critical wetland habitat in one of the largest remaining blocks of wetlands in northeastern Wisconsin. Brown County and BCPF will work together to improve local and state water quality, and educate local officials and citizens regarding the importance and effectiveness of buffer strips.

This project follows recommendations identified in the Baird Creek Watershed Stewardship Assessment from 2004. One of the expected outcomes is increased protection of the Baird Creek Greenway located downstream from the rural agriculture portion of the watershed. Another goal of the project is to expand community participation activities in the Baird Creek Watershed by both community members and members of the BCPF.

Look for periodic updates on this project on our website www.bairdcreek.org.

East River Trail Information and Updates

The East River Trail Connection will bridge the gap between Joannes Park and the Fox River Trail through the historic Olde Main Street District. The first steps have already been taken. Now it's time to roll out the first draft of the plan and make the trail a reality!

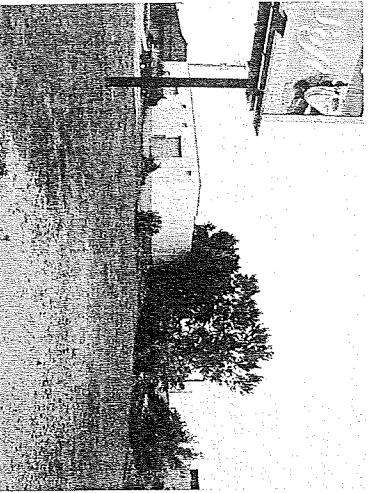
This "missing link" will connect the urban environment to the natural beauty of our City Parks and the East River. The trail will offer a safe area to enjoy recreational activities or to just get from place to place. Everyone can enjoy the trail!

Planning for the trail connection is in the early stages. Many local people are working on the project including neighborhood associations, business people, trails advocates, the City of Green Bay, and Olde Main Street Inc. The trail would eventually become part of the City of Green Bay Parks system, and funding for this project would be sought through grants and public/private partnerships. But before taking the next steps, we would like your input and support.

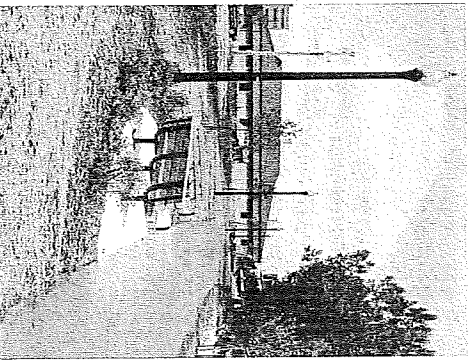
The Vision

This connection will benefit the entire regional trail system, but will especially become an asset to neighboring homes and businesses. The success of the Fox River Recreational Trail offers a shining local example of the positive impacts of new trails – enhanced property values, enhanced health and wellness opportunities, economic development, and neighborhood stabilization. But the East River corridor is unique from the Fox River in many ways, and holds the potential to enhance the vibrant urban environment of Olde Main Street and the Three Corners, Downtown, Joannes and Navarino Neighborhoods.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer or support this exciting project for our community, please feel free to contact Crystal Osman at crystal@downtowngreenbay.com or call 920.437.1824.



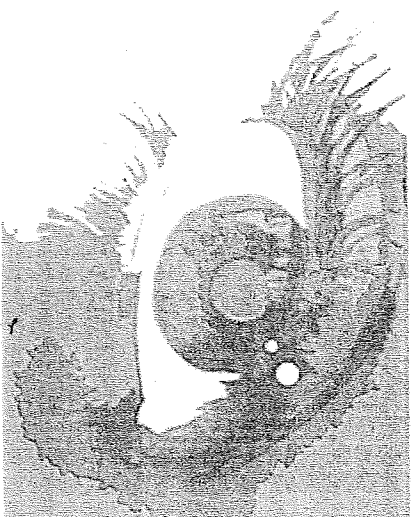
Before



After

BCPF takes part in ArtStreet Festivities

ARTSTREET 2010



AUGUST 27-28-29
1000 WATERMAN DRIVE GREEN BAY, WI

On the weekend of August 28-29th, 2010 the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation hosted an informational booth at ArtStreet in downtown Green Bay for the 12th straight year. With maps and photos of the Greenway and event information about the Parkway, our booth is always a popular destination. Our booth allows us to make connections with many residents of the area. Visitors to the booth learned about our upcoming hikes and had the opportunity to sign up to receive further information about volunteer activities in which they could participate. There were a lot of questions and some very strong opinions expressed about the trail work taking place west of I-43.

Baird Creek t-shirts and hiking sticks were also sold. The hiking sticks were made from either beaver carved sticks or invasive plants such as buckthorn or prickly ash. Participating in ArtStreet has become an annual tradition that serves to rejuvenate our Board of Directors as well as community members that visit the Parkway. Thanks to all who stopped by!